

## Facts About Easter Celebrations

'Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Go out from the midst of Babylon; cleanse yourselves and be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord' (Isaiah 52:11). 'Come out from her, My people, so that you do not participate in her sins, nor share in her plagues' (Revelation 18:4).

This Bible study is to reveal to believers, there is nothing Christian about Easter, and many are combining Christianity with ancient paganism; namely Babylonianism. The general attitude is; that it is okay to do this, yet we can read in the above verses that God strongly forbids it. If we do not stop, then we open ourselves to suffer the judgement (plagues) that go with it. Easter is as pagan as any celebration can be, and believers need to stop merging Easter with Christianity. The modern Easter is a mixture of Babylonianism, paganism, idolatry and ancient Egyptian rituals, added with a few more modern traditions. Genuine Christians should be horrified at the thought, that they have been 'touching the unclean things' without realising it. There is a way we can enjoy the festivities of this season, such as the holidays, gifts and family, without resorting to the paganism of it.

The word Easter comes from the ancient Assyrian pagan name Ishtar, also called Artemis, Aphrodite, Venus or Isis. In the Bible she is called the 'queen of heaven'. She was supposed to be the goddess of fertility and as believers, we must not share in her sins, nor be associated with idol worship. When Apostle Paul tried to stop it, there was an uproar in Ephesus (Acts 19:24 to 41), just as there would be an uproar in modern churches if people were told not to partake of the Easter and Christmas traditions, many of which come from ancient evil practices. Pagan mythology teaches that Ishtar spends six months of each year in the 'underworld' and is 'resurrected' every year during Easter time. In ancient Egypt this same religion was so prolific and widespread, the Israelites became involved with it and continued with the rituals after they moved to Israel. 'The children gather wood; the fathers make fire; the women make cakes for the 'queen of heaven' and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke me to anger' (Jeremiah 7:18).

'He said to me, "Yet again you shall see greater abominations which they are committing." Then He brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the Lord's house, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz' (Ezekiel 8:13 & 14). That god Tammuz was a Babylonian god who was supposed to die every year and be raised again during Easter time along with his 'mother' Ishtar. Ishtar and Tammuz are the pagan gods now often depicted as Mary and baby Jesus. This abomination has been brought over from the Babylonian religion. The halo we often see drawn around their heads is taken from the ancient practice of sun worshipping. 'He brought me to the inner court of the Lord's house; and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the bronze altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were bowing themselves toward the east and worshipping the sun' (Ezekiel 8:16). The symbol of the sun god Sol, Baal or Tammuz, is depicted as a 'T' then on top of the 'T' a loop symbolising the goddess of the moon, Ishtar. That pagan symbol became the Egyptian ankh, so popular today and often worn by Christians. A statue of Venus holding her son Sol, was incorporated into the church and called 'Jesus and Mary' or 'Madonna and Child', so instead of destroying the pagan rituals and temples as the Lord has commanded us to do in His Word, they were simply accepted into the Christian church and masked as Christian themes. Sunday is named after the sun-god. Thursday is named after the god of thunder; Thor. The pagan sea-god Poseidon (Neptune) was renamed Saint Peter. Even the word 'East' is derived from the ancient word 'Isht' which was the direction the people were to face when worshipping their goddess Ishtar, at sunrise. Moslems face east when they bow down to worship their god. Their god is definitely not the Lord God of the Bible.

This has become such an abomination, that the Lord has reacted very strongly. 'And upon her forehead was inscribed a mysterious name; Babylon the Great, the mother (Madonna) of harlots and of the filth and abominations of the earth. And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's people, and with the blood of the martyrs who witnessed for Jesus ... The woman herself is the great city which controls the rulers of the earth' (Revelation 17:5, 6

& 18). The Lord will use the people to destroy this abomination (Revelation 17:17) and all the earth will be shocked at the massive fall of this dreadful wickedness (Revelation 18:2 to 21).

In the Old King James version of the Bible, the word Easter is used only once (Acts 12:4). In some versions of the Bible, it is called Pesach (the Hebrew word for Passover), although most other versions have written Passover. In every other place in the Bible, the gathering is called Passover as it should be. Passover is holy; Easter is pagan and it was called Easter (Ishtar) 2,000 years ago. Easter is complete counterfeit for the holy celebration of Passover the Lord God instigated. It is supposed, that the word Easter appears here in this one verse, because Herod had James the Disciple murdered and had intended to murder Peter on the day of that important pagan festival of Ishtar, but the church prayed fervently for Peter, and the Lord sent an angel to rescue him (Acts 12:1 to 19).

As we read earlier, Ishtar was supposed to be ‘resurrected’ to new life every year during the Easter week. Our Lord Jesus did not rise from the dead on Easter Sunday; He rose from the dead on the day after the Sabbath, a few days after He had shared Passover with the disciples (Luke 22:15; Matthew 28:1). It is a terrible thing for the church to insist that Jesus rose from the dead at the same time as the orgy-driven sex goddess of Babylon, Ishtar. Blending the pornographic pagan celebration of fertility, with the wonderful celebration of the true resurrection of the Son of God, is an insult to our Lord and Saviour, and the Lord God our Father. What an affront!! How disgustingly obscene!! Imagine the judgement upon those people who have degraded the Lord Jesus in this way.

In the above verse (Jeremiah 7:18) we read how the women made cakes to offer to the gods. Those spicy, fruity little cakes called ‘buons’ were made specifically to offer to their idols, and are the origin of our hot cross buns. The ‘hot’ is a modern invention. They were simply ‘cross buns’ with the sign of the Egyptian ankh – the so-called cross. There is nothing Christian about hot cross buns.

The fertility symbols of bunnies and eggs are no different to the obscene obelisks depicting genitalia. They are all phallic symbols. They started in Babylon and spread worldwide to pollute the whole earth. Truly, the ‘mother of heaven’, also called ‘mother earth’, the woman named as Babylon the Great has indeed influenced the rulers of the earth even to this day.

The ancient drink offerings that Jeremiah 7:18 mentioned, were the raw blood of animals or the ibis bird which they worshipped, mixed sometimes with human blood and water, which was poured into a goblet and sipped by everyone present, then the remainder was poured out to the gods as a kind of blood covenant. Many churches today follow the exact same procedure on Good Friday, except today, they use wine instead of fresh blood; once again mixing the pagan counterfeit with Christianity. That ritual has nothing whatsoever to do with the bread and wine symbolising the shed body and blood of Jesus (Matthew 26:26 to 29). Early Gentile Christians celebrated the Passover week which includes the feast of Passover complete with the lamb that represents the true Lamb of God Who shed His blood for us. They had the unleavened bread, representing the Bread of Life. They had the wine, representing the blood of Jesus. They had the feast of the firstfruits, representing the new life that began the day after the Sabbath, after Passover when Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is the Firstfruits of the resurrection and creation (1 Corinthians 15:20; James 1:18).

Easter is not a Christian celebration, any more than Christmas is a Christian celebration. Both are wickedly pagan with pagan forms of idolatry. This paganism embraced by the church, is in reality completely opposite to what God wants and should not be part of the true church; the Bride of our Messiah made up of the followers of the Son of the Living God. We believers must do what we can to educate those who are unaware of the paganism involved in Easter, until all paganism is removed from the church forever. If we do not remove the paganism and idolatry from the church, then we will be forced to participate in the judgement. This paganism is definitely the beast’s system and the scriptures exhort us to come out from it; stop being involved with the ancient symbols. We need to do away with the paganism and embrace the holy celebrations ordained by God. We need to have the attitude Joshua had. ‘Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the (Nile) River in Egypt, and serve the Lord ... If it seems evil to

you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:14 & 15).

We, the committed followers of Jesus our Messiah, must choose whom we will serve. Will we continue with the goddess Ishtar and Easter, and the other symbols of idolatry – or will we embrace the Passover instigated by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus? If we want Him to be our God, then we must come out from among the paganism, stop using the pagan symbols and stop celebrating Easter as a Christian event. There is nothing Christian about Easter. We can have a family feast; we can give gifts; we can enjoy the holiday period with family and friends, but we must do away with the merged paganism with Christianity. Christians need to avoid all these symbolic forms of idolatry and stop sharing in her sins – or we will share in the judgment. We have been warned!

Amen and God bless you.

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