

The Story of Easter

Foolish Fables
or
Bible Truth?

THE Bible clearly teaches that the divine purpose revolves around the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. The drama that unfolded nearly 2,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem will soon be replayed upon earth. But this time the personality will not be a "carpenter's son," a "meek and mild" teacher of Nazareth, a man prepared to suffer the ignominy of a cruel and vengeful mob. When the Saviour of mankind appears for the "second" time (cp. Hebrews 9:28), he will complete the purpose of his heavenly Father to rid this world of its evil, bloodshed and violence, and establish the glorious Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus Christ will appear as the "Lord of lords, and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14), as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (ch. 5:5), with divine authority to "execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5). *This is the second stage of God's plan of salvation, and will vitally affect the way of life of every living being.* No longer will man be allowed to exert wicked dominance over his fellows. Good and wise laws will be proclaimed throughout the earth, requiring mankind to respond to God's precepts and principles in life. *But when will Jesus Christ appear?* There is clear evidence that his return is imminent. In fact, of the many Bible prophecies concerning events preceding his second coming, it appears not one remains to be fulfilled. Certain dramatic events, which have recently occurred, show conclusively that this world is on the eve of the most dramatic moment in all history: the majestic presence of earth's greatest Monarch!

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

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DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION
OF THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.



Edited by G.E. Mansfield,
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EASTER FABLES



MORE than two thousand years ago God sent an angel to a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. The angel told Mary that by the power of God, she would conceive and bear a son. Joseph took Mary to be his wife after the angel explained to him the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy, and that the child's name is to be *Jesus* for "*he will save his people from their sins*".

Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to register for a national census, and while there, the babe was born. Jesus grew up in the village of Nazareth, and witnessed the oppressive rule of the Herod kings and Roman procurators. He also heard the wrested teachings of the Jewish scholars, the Pharisees, and at the age of thirty began his ministry. He went about travelling the countryside, teaching the people the true doctrines in discourses and parables, and gave them many miraculous signs and wonders by healing the sick and raising the dead.

Conflicts and Challenges to the Teachings of Jesus

His influence and popularity grew, and the people began to accept his teachings over the Jewish leaders, such as the Pharisees, recognizing him as their long-awaited Messiah. This incurred the hatred of the Pharisees accusing him of being blasphemous, and the Roman authorities began to suspect Jesus of being a revolutionary and troublemaker! The Jewish and Gentile powers united to put Jesus to death by crucifixion hoping to put an end to his disturbances.

But, Jesus never committed any sins, so death had no power over him, and God, his Father, raised him from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

The Important Biblical Time Periods

The biblical day was divided into two 12-hour periods, from sunset (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and from sunrise (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.), called "*the evening and the morning*" (Genesis 1:5). From 6 a.m. to noon was the morning part of the day and from noon to 6 p.m. was the evening part of the day. The term "*between the two evenings*" (Exodus 12:6 margin) commences at 3 p.m. and refers to the evening part. Counting from 6 a.m., this would be the ninth hour of the day when Jesus died (Matthew 27:46). There were two Sabbaths that year. One was the regular Sabbath that occurred on the 7th day of every week, and there was a "*high day*," or High Sabbath (John 19:31), which occurred annually. It always followed the Passover.

The Passover was a Jewish festival memorializing the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. Almighty God commanded the Jews to sacrifice a lamb

"without spot or blemish" and to paint its blood on the lintels of the doorposts of their homes to ensure the "pass-over" (the word actually means to "hover over" as a sign of divine protection) of the angel of death. Any home not covered by the sacrificial blood of the lamb suffered the death of their first-born child. While the Paschal lamb was a type of what was to come in the sacrifice of their Messiah, many during Christ's time failed to see the substance and, therefore, were

not covered by the sacrificial blood of the Lamb. The results were disastrous! More than a million Jews lost their lives, and thousands more were led away into slavery between AD70-135.

Christ is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), sacrificed on 14th Aviv/Nisan (March-April). Because of his sacrifice, we have an advocate with the Father, that through him we may



receive forgiveness for our sins.

It was after Jesus' resurrection that the Christian movement began in full force, the likes of which has never been equaled since. Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, his disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). Tacitus, the Roman historian wrote about the period of Pentecost: "The Holy City, with a population then of about six hundred thousand, exploded into between two and three million because of the pilgrims."

The Period of Easter

The date for Easter varies year to year, so the calendar needs to be checked to see which Sunday it falls on for a particular year. The reason for this confusion is that the pagans observed festivals at the vernal equinox, which was considered the first day of spring, usually around March 21 when the length of the day and night balanced out. They used the solar calendar, and not the lunar calendar, as did the Jews. In AD325, Emperor Constantine, presiding over the large church council at Nicea, set the dates for Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. It can range from March 22 to April 25. The Gregorian solar calendar is today's internationally accepted civil calendar and is also known as the "Western calendar" or "Christian calendar". It was named after the man who first introduced it in February 1582: Pope Gregory XIII and is the calendar now in use. It is but a continuation of the old pagan solar calendar implemented by Julius Caesar in BC46.

Thus, they changed the actual resurrection and ascension dates of Christ as told in the Bible!

The celebration of Easter has a long history going back to the time after the Flood in the days of Noah. His grandson Ham, had a son named Cush who married a woman named Semiramis. Cush and Semiramis had a son and named him "Nimrod." After the death of his father, Nimrod married his own mother and became a powerful king. The Bible tells of this man, Nimrod, in Genesis 10:8-10. Nimrod became a god-man to the people and Semiramis, his wife and mother, became the powerful queen-

goddess of ancient Babylon. They developed what became the mystery religion of Babylon.

Today, Easter is a curious blend of Paganism, Humanism, Judaism, and Christianity. Their legends and names vary, but their theme and persons remain the same.

The sun god in Egypt is called, **Osiris**, in Greece, **Dionysus**, in Asia Minor, **Attis**, in Syria, **Adonis**, in Italy, **Bacchus**, and **Mithras**, in ancient Persia (Iran). The Babylonian sun god was called **Tammuz**.

The moon goddess was **Ishtar**, also known as **Ashtoreth** to the Babylonians and the Jews, **Venus** to the Romans, **Astarte** to the Phoenicians and Greeks, who also referred

to her as **Aphrodite**, **Inanna** to the Sumerians, **Eostre** (Ostara) to the Anglo-Saxons, **Diana** to the Ephesians, and **Freya**, for whom Friday is named (Freya's day). Ishtar was a goddess of love, a warrior goddess, and powerful protectress. In her aspect as a warrior queen, Ishtar held a sceptre, or a staff with either one or two snakes coiled around it. The snake stood



for her ability to also take a life. She was widely worshipped as a mother goddess by the Semitic people.

Many, if not most, of the pagan religions in the Mediterranean area kept religious festivals during the Spring Equinox. Cybele, the Phrygian goddess of fertility also known as 'Magna Mater,' or the 'Great Mother,' and consort of Attis, was believed to have been born from a virgin, and after Attis' death, he resurrected each spring. In later times, the names changed to reflect the deities of the time. Cybele is also known as Ishtar, and her consort is Tammuz. The theme of a 'Great Mother' with a husband/son that died and resurrected during the spring festivals that represented fertility and rebirth of life, remained the same.

The Easter goddess comes with many names, and these unrelated legends with their varied traditions were grafted into the real death and resurrection of Christ when Catholicism

wanted to convert the pagans, making Christianity more acceptable to them.

The research historian, Will Durant, in his famous and respected work, *Story of Civilization*, volume 1, pp. 235, 244-245, writes, "Ishtar (Astarte to the Greeks, Ashtoreth to the Jews), interests us not only as 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... known to us chiefly from a famous page in Herodotus: Every native woman is obliged, once in her life, to sit in the temple of Venus (Ishtar), and have intercourse with some stranger."

Is it any wonder that the Bible speaks of the religious system that has descended from that ancient city as, "Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" (Revelation 17:5)? Mystery Babylon today is Rome!

Many of the names are interchangeable for the better-known name of Ishtar. Pagans typically used many different names for the same god or goddess. Nimrod, the Bible figure that built the city of Babylon (Genesis 10:10), is an example. He was worshipped as Saturn, Vulcan, Kronos, Baal, Tammuz, Molech and others, but he was always the same god—the fire or sun god universally worshipped in nearly every ancient culture. The goddess Ishtar was no different. She was one goddess with many names—the goddess of fertility, worshipped in spring when all life was being renewed.

In every other language, but English and German, the name Easter is derived from the Hebrew word *pesach* for "he passed over." In Spanish and Italian Easter is Pascua; in French it is Paques; in Portuguese it is Pascoa; and so on.

In *The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop writes: "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 worship of Bel and Astarte was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, 'the priests of the groves'... From Bel, the 1st of May is still called, Beltane in the Almanac; and we have customs still lingering at this day among us, which prove how exactly the worship of Bel or Moloch (for both titles belong to the same god) had been observed even in the northern parts of this island. 'The late Lady Baird, of Fern Tower, in Perthshire,' says a writer in 'Notes and Queries,' thoroughly versed in British antiquities, 'told me, that every year, at Beltane (or the 1st of May), a number of men and women assemble at an ancient Druidical circle of stones on her property near Crieff. They light a fire in the centre, each person puts a bit of oat-cake in a shepherd's bonnet; they all sit down, and draw blindfold a piece from the bonnet. One piece has been previously blackened, and whoever gets that piece has to jump through the fire in the centre of the circle, and pay a forfeit. This is, in fact, a part of the ancient worship of Baal, and a person on whom the lot fell was previously burnt as a sacrifice. Now, the passing through the fire represent that, and the payment of the forfeit redeems the victim.' If Baal was thus worshipped in Britain, it will not be difficult to believe that his consort Astarte was also adored by our ancestors, and that from Astarte, whose name in Nineveh was Ishtar, the religious solemnities of April, as now practiced, are called by the name of Easter—that month, among our pagan ancestors, having been called Eastermonath. The festival, of which we read in Church history, under the name of Easter, in the third or fourth centuries, was quite a different festival from that now observed in the Romish Church, and at that time was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called Pasch or the Passover..."

From Whence Did "Easter" Arrive?

How did Passover turn into Easter, and why do so many Christians today believe that Easter is in honour of Christ's resurrection? They believe this tradition comes from the Bible as we read in Acts 12: 4, "*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." Yet, nothing could be further from the truth!

This word, *Easter*, blatantly mangles and distorts God's Word in order to support a peculiar and aberrant theological agenda. Acts 12:3 tells us that those days were the "*days of unleavened bread.*" What does the days of unleavened bread have to do with Easter? This tells us that the Feast Days as described in Leviticus 23:1-44 were still being kept. This passage in Acts 12:4 is not talking about Easter at all. It was Passover-week.

The Passover commenced on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan (known also as Abib), followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15th day. The Feast of Unleavened Bread always followed the Passover. It was on the 15th of Abib that the Israelites left Egypt and commemorated it every year (Exodus 12:16; 23:15)! It is the first Holy High day, or annual Sabbath of the seven-day festival of Unleavened Bread and begins at sunset on the 14th. Christ not only represented the slain lamb, but the unleavened bread, which represented uncommitted sins by him. His sacrifice delivers us from the bondage of sin.

Mazoth, or unleavened cakes, were the only bread allowed during that week. The idea behind it was not to commemorate the Israelites bondage in Egypt, but their deliverance from it. It was not about remembering their bondage, as it was the deliverance from that bondage. The bread, which originally had been that of affliction, became, as it were, the bread of a new and joyous life, in which they were to devote themselves to the Lord. It typified our deliverance from the bondage of sin and death; our Passover Lamb having been slain for us. Passover was a biblically sanctioned feast; Easter is not.

The word, "Easter" is mistranslated. It is the Chaldean word, *pascha*, translated everywhere in the New Testament as "passover," except here in Acts 12:4! Some speculate that since

this passage was talking about King Herod, that Herod kept Easter, but you should not translate the same word 28 times, and then suddenly switch it to something else! Instead of endorsing Easter, it proves that the Jews were still keeping the Feasts some ten years after the death of Christ! This not so subtle insert of the word Easter was in attempt to insert a pagan festival into Scripture for the purpose of authorizing it. It is not biblical.

Countless millions of people keep Easter in one form or other, according to the tradition of the pagan gods, without even knowing it. Easter has become an annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Christ. Easter Sunday is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal, or spring equinox, as calculated according to the Gregorian, or Julian calendars. This was the exact time the goddess, Ishtar's festival took place — on the first sun-day after the first full moon after the vernal equinox!

How did Easter become a Christian holiday?

It all began with the Greek Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicea in AD325. Constantine, a formidable commander, marched to Rome to meet Maxentius in battle. When he reached the outskirts of the city, he had a vision of the Christian cross and heard the words, "*in hoc signo vinces*" ("by this sign shalt thou conquer"). In the book *Ecclesiastical History*, Eusebius, an early Roman historian who lived during the time of Constantine, wrote: "...while he was thus praying, a most marvellous sign appeared to him from heaven. He said that about noon he saw with his own eyes a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun..." That night Constantine reportedly had a vision of Christ instructing him to use the cross as the sign of his standard in battle. The following day, October 26th, AD312, he met his rival in battle at the Milvian Bridge, and won. Constantine had thus managed to unite the whole Western half of the empire under his own rule and became sole emperor" from AD321 until his death in AD337.

Emperor Constantine was referred to as the thirteenth apostle

by Rome because the Pope recognized his authority to have come directly from Christ! The fact is, Constantine did not particularly care about their views nor did he understand theological issues; all he cared about was unity because unity brought stability to his imperial authority. Christianity now embraced beliefs and practices of the pagans who were welcomed into the church. Constantine's view was that wiping out individual choice was good for the empire. Ironically, the Greek word for heresy is *hairesis*, or "choice" and papyri records it as its prevalent meaning. Constantine was not even "baptized" into Christianity until he requested it on his deathbed!

The Bishop of Rome, later called the "Pope," established a friendly relationship with Constantine, and after the Council of Nicea the Church and State acted in unison with each other. It was no surprise when Constantine backed the western bishops, and turned against the Jews. He said, "Let us, then, have nothing in common with the Jews, who are our adversaries... Therefore this irregularity must be corrected, in order that we may no more have anything in common with the parricides and murderers of our Lord."

Paganism Becomes Christian

The Church of Rome first addressed Lent at the Council of Nicea in AD325, when Emperor Constantine officially recognized the Roman church as the State's official religion. The "Council of Laodicea," in Phrygia, circa AD360, summoned by Constantine, involved regulating the conduct of church members and expressed its decrees in the form of written rules, or canons by which all the churches were to maintain, and excommunicated any who refused to abide by these canons. It was then that they officially commanded Lent to be observed, changing the dates so as not to have Passover coincide with their Easter. The historian, Mosheim wrote in his book *History of the Church* that the Council of Laodicea was motivated solely by "hatred of anything that savoured of the Jewish religion."

"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 skilful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity—now far sunk in idolatry—in this as in so many other things, to shake hands...'

This change of the calendar in regard to Easter was attended with momentous consequences. "It brought into the Church the grossest corruption and the rankest superstition in connection with the abstinence of Lent" (*The Two Babylons*). The Eastern Orthodox Church to this day uses the lunar calendar to calculate the Passover, and so it does not change year to year. With very few exceptions, their date does not coincide with the western Passover/Easter date that uses the solar calendar! The fact is Constantine was never anything but a pagan, regarding Christ as a god, and himself as another god!

It is an interesting anecdote that years earlier in Gaul Constantine's first vision was of Apollo, the sun-god. Constantine's belief was a mixture of Paganism and Christianity. Constantine, nevertheless, took the cross as his standard, and through the Edict of Milan (the Edict of Christian Tolerance) he granted religious freedom to all citizens, including the Christians, putting an end to their persecutions. Constantine's Edict of Milan put Christianity on an equal footing with all other religions. It did not proclaim Christianity to be the official religion of the Empire. It was after the Council of Nicea that Emperor Constantine officially recognized the church of the Roman Empire as their State religion, and any other form of Christianity that held to doctrines contrary to the Roman church was considered heretical. The Synod of bishops at this time formulated their statement of faith, The Nicene Creed.

The Catholic Statement of Faith

Today, this Creed is most widely used and accepted by Roman Catholics, East Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Calvinists, and others who are committed to the doctrines it teaches. Sadly, this marked the end of the true early Christian

teachings. Paganism, while appearing to have been vanquished, actually became the conqueror, and pagan superstitions were incorporated into the true faith and worship of Jesus Christ. The extent of Constantine's secular bequeath to the church formed much of the basis for the Pope's later claim to secular power and tyrannical rule during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

The Pagans during this time said that Christianity offered them nothing new; they had their virgin birth, miracles, gods, death and resurrections! All Christianity did was to change the names. In the ancient world, wherever you had popular resurrected god-myths, Christianity found lots of converts. The Roman Catholic Church also had a practice of incorporating pagan festivals—of pasting “Christian” names over them, making them more palatable and familiar to heathen worshippers. Seeking to “Christianize” the pagans, they gave new names and meanings to the old pagan festivals to keep their un-regenerated members happy! The Roman church replaced Passover with Easter, and “Christianized” it. *In this way, they introduced the highest corruption and superstition into the church.*

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* notes: “A great many pagan customs celebrating the return of spring gravitated to Easter”! The *Encyclopedia Britannica* states: “Christianity... incorporated in its celebrations of the great Christian feast-day many of the heathen rites and customs of the spring festival.”

Another Gospel That Cannot Save!

We can now better understand why the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians to beware of the subtle deceit of “*another Jesus whom we have not preached.*” He said, “*I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which you have not accepted...*” (See 2Corinthians 11:3-4).

People today can think that they are worshipping the true Saviour when they are really worshipping a false saviour—another Jesus! The entirety of traditional Christianity is actually worshipping Baal, the pagan mediator and sun-god, and named after his “wife” Ishtar (who was actually his mother Semiramis, the mother of God!)—and given the title of the “*Queen of Heaven*” (Jeremiah 7:18) because it was believed she only was capable of interceding to God on behalf of mankind!

A pagan intercessory prayer addressed to Ishtar went like this: “To the Lady of Heaven and Earth, who receives prayers, who harkens to the petitions, who accepts beseechings; To the merciful goddess who loves righteousness; Look upon me O Lady, so that through thy turning toward me the heart of thy servant may become strong.” Today, Rome calls her ‘Mary,’ and their intercessory prayer to her goes like this: “...holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death, Amen”!

A Matter of Apostasy

It is no “light thing” to God that many millions celebrate Easter! It may seem “beautiful,” “religious,” and “deeply moving” to those participating in it, but God has forbidden His true people to devise their own religious customs and ideas. It is not about what we think or feel is right, but about what He thinks and knows to be right! As far as God is concerned, ancient sun-worship, dressed up in Easter finery, is just modern packaging of a very old, idolatrous pagan custom. It is evil in the sight of God (Judges 2:11, 13; 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 12:10-11).

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* writes: “Devotions of ancient date deeply rooted in the heart of the peasantry cannot be swept away without some measure of scandal and popular disturbance. To create this sensation seems unwise.”

Pope Gregory wrote to Augustine in AD597: “Do not destroy the temples of the English gods; change them to Christian churches. Do not forbid the harmless customs which have been associated with the old religions; consecrate them to Christian

uses.”

Edward Gibbon wrote in his book, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: “The most respectable bishops had persuaded themselves that the ignorant rustics would more cheerfully renounce the superstitions of Paganism, if they found some resemblance, some compensation, in the bosom of Christianity. The religion of Constantine achieved, in less than a century, the final conquest of the Roman Empire: but the victors themselves were insensibly subdued by the arts of their vanquished rivals.”

Christianity has pilfered virtually every pagan festival and incorporated it into their belief system. At one time, the Church of Rome ruled the world, and like all good politicians they gave what the people wanted, but not enough to give them any control. They hand-picked their council or czars that oversee their affairs, and make sure the officials are running everything according to their plans and that the people are reasonably appeased so they do not rebel against authority! This is what happened with Christianity, which really is no longer fit to be called by that name.

The Warnings from the Past Appropriate for Today

Yahweh God commanded: “*Learn not the way of the heathen... For the customs of the people are vain*” (Jeremiah 10:2-3). “*God is spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24).

Jesus cited the words of God through the prophet Isaiah, “*This people honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*” (Mark 7: 6-7).

The Jewish *Tanakh* has: “*Do not learn to go the way of the nations... For the laws of the nations are delusions.*”

The Moffat translation has: “*Never learn to live like pagans... their rites are inane.*”

The *Amplified Bible* says: “*Learn not the way of the heathen [nations]... For the customs and ordinances of the peoples are*

false, empty and futile."

God knew Israel would try to use false customs to honour Him, and for this reason He gave them explicit instructions not to do so. God requires that He be worshipped exactly as He instructed, and so did the Lord Jesus Christ!

God's command to His people has and is: "*After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do...*" (Leviticus 18:3). It was King Josiah from Judah who ultimately destroyed all the altars they built to Baal, Molech, Chemosh, Milcom, and Astarte (2Kings 23:1-15). But because Israel ignored their responsibilities, God reduced the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for their idolatry.

The Bible plainly details how we are to worship God. God warned His people to strictly reject the pagan religious customs of the surrounding nations. He does not, nor ever will, accept just any kind of worship, even if it is done to Him. God demands perfect obedience, and expects us to come out from involvement with today's society and be separated unto Him (see Deuteronomy 5:32; 12:1-4, 29-32; 2Corinthians 6:14-18; Revelation 18).

Easter is an old pagan feast celebrated today in the spirit of a new solemnity! It was the result of compromise with Scripture and paganism, combined with the fear of men. The early Christians, who felt they ought to obey the God of the Bible, and not men, did not observe Easter. The arrival of the northern spring was celebrated all over the world long before any religious meaning became associated with Easter. As Christianity spread through the world, they adopted and modified the existing non-Christian festivals and assimilated them into Christian theology. The false Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ fit well with these themes.

The mother church of Roman Catholicism is the Babylonian mystery religion masquerading as Christianity, deceiving the nations and making them drunk with their wine of false doctrines, while bragging they are the true church! Her daughters are all

those denominations that have embraced their pagan doctrines and practices. They committed spiritual fornication with the kings and nations of the earth, but the true saints of God have always existed outside of these brothels of spiritual fornication. Scripture identifies the one true religious community (ecclesia) built by Christ as his virgin bride. They forsake all involvements with the pagan traditions of the world in order to remain the pure bride that he will select for himself when he returns. This remnant continues to *“keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”* (Revelation 14:12).

The apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians that, *“the mystery of iniquity doth already work”* (2Thessalonians 2:7). This mystery was exerting its influence within the true ecclesia just some twenty years after Christ established it! He was referring to the Chaldean Mystery that embodied Easter and Christmas, its two greatest festivals!

We believe in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but remember it not by yearly Easter celebrations, but by daily obeying and preaching the Gospel, which is a record of his death, burial and resurrection.

Some may say, “Easter might come from paganism, but I am not a pagan. I celebrate it in honour of Christ, remembering what he did for us through his death and resurrection.” The mixing of pagan mythical and heathen customs with all its trappings is not about the resurrection of Christ!

Easter, along with all the other holidays celebrated by mainstream worldly wise, but spiritually stagnant Christians, are not commanded in the Scriptures. In fact, it is to the contrary. History proves that this so-called Christian holiday of Easter is of pagan origin! We deceive ourselves if we believe we may honour God and Christ by claiming that we worship the true God. This is fleshly rationalization! What God hated in ancient biblical times, He hates today. He says, *“I am the LORD, I change not”* (Malachi 3:6). Likewise, the New Testament declares: *“Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8). The apostle Paul wrote: *“I say, that the things*

which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils [idols whether physical icons, or spiritual falsehoods]: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table and of the table of devils" (idols — 1 Corinthians 8:4; 10:20-22).

Israel lost her theocratic government when she sought to be like her heathen neighbours and judgment fell on her. Saul, the first king of Israel, lost his power and kingdom after he resorted to the heathen witch at Endor. Solomon's spiritual decline occurred after he married heathen wives who turned his heart from God to their gods. It has been truly said that **"the only thing man has learned from history is that no one learns from history."** George Santayana took it a bit further, saying, **"Those who do not learn the lesson of history are doomed to repeat it."** What seems so innocent and harmless to us is not so innocent and harmless after all!

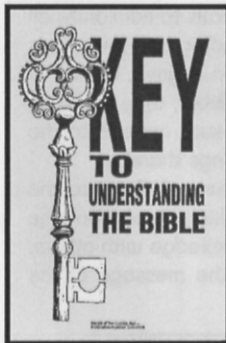
Our God is a jealous God, and He will not give His glory to any other. **"I am the LORD: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images [idols]"** (Isaiah 42:8). No matter how we want to "christianize" Easter, it is still pagan and an abomination to God. God seeks only those who seek and are willing to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We invite the readers to consider these matters, and to open their Bibles more than ever before. Become enthralled by the wonderful message of a change of religion that will occur at the return of the Lord Jesus, for he is about to re-appear on earth as the angels declared when he ascended to heaven 2,000 years ago: **"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"** (Acts 1:11). These are clear, unequivocal words, not to be disputed. And with this in mind seek to learn the truth of the Bible while opportunity remains. Apply for further free literature to this end. — *V. Mellor*



Correspondence Course

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