

WOULD JESUS CELEBRATE EASTER?

Yahshua's (Jesus') death and resurrection took place during Passover. That which the Christian church calls "The Last Supper", was a Passover Seder meal. Passover is one of Yahweh's (God's) ordained Holy Feast day or Moadim (appointed times).

Yahweh defines His Holy Days, not man. In Leviticus 23:4 we read "*These are the appointed times of Yahweh, set apart gatherings which you are to proclaim at their appointed times.*"¹

Passover is defined in Leviticus 23:5 – 8. In verse 5 we read "*In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the evenings, is the Passover to Yahweh.*"

This is Yahweh's calendar. Easter, on the other hand is not a part of Yahweh's calendar.

The Christian might notice that Easter does not always occur on the same day and seems to vary from year to year. The setting of different dates for Easter from year to year is explained thus, in Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia Of Religious Knowledge, Vol. 2, p. 682:

The present variable time was appointed by early Romanism in amalgamation with the very ancient pagan spring festival to the goddess of the spring. It was fixed on the Sunday immediately following the 14th day of the paschal moon which happened on or first after the vernal equinox.

RULINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF NICAIA ON THE DATE OF "EASTER"²

Constantine I, Roman emperor and founder of what we now call the Roman Catholic Church, convoked the Council of Nicaea in 325. The council unanimously ruled that the "Easter festival" rather than the Biblical Passover should be celebrated throughout the Christian world on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. If the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on the Sunday following. Coincidence of the feast of Easter and Passover was thus avoided.

¹ All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from *The Scriptures*, Institute of Scripture Research, Ltd., Northriding, south Africa. A copy is available through our ministry.

² We have posted on our web site a copy of this letter.

WHERE DOES "EASTER" COME FROM?

If the earnest Christian researcher were to examine a copy of Vine's "Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words" under "Easter" (Vol. II, page 14) referring to the mistranslated use of the word in the KJV at Acts 12:4, they would find the following:

"The term Easter is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess, the queen of heaven. The festival of Pasch (sic) beald by Christians in post apostolic times was a continuation of the Jewish feast, but was not instituted by Christ, nor was it connected with Lent. From this Pasch the pagan festival of Easter was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity."

The Babylonian "queen of heaven" Semeramis, the wife of Nimrod, was the original impersonation of the heathen goddesses, Astarte and Venus of the Greeks, Juno of the Latins, Ashtoreth of the Zidonians, Ishtar of the Babylonians, and Eostre, the goddess of spring, of the early Anglo-Saxons. The Druids held religious festivals in her honor and the sun-god in April, calling it Easter Month. This Ishtar, or Eostre, was worshipped as the goddess of love and fertility, and as the life of nature.

In Babylonian mythology this "queen of heaven" was worshipped as the goddess of the sexual impulse. A springtime feast was celebrated with great sexual license.

This is the vile phallic worship referred to in Isaiah 57:5-8 and Ezekiel 16:17. These are the "groves" connected with high places that Israel so frequently abandoned Yahweh for (see Psalm 106:28-39, Isaiah 66:3,17 and many more). The English word "groves" (which is found forty times in the KJV English Bible), comes from the Hebrew word *asherah* and is always associated with the worship of Ashtoreth, alias Ishtar, Eostre, the goddess of spring. This is where "Easter" has its roots.

The so-called "Lenten Season" is of purely Babylonian origin. The word "Lent" came from the Saxon word "Lenct", meaning spring. Pagan Mexicans also celebrated forty days in April. Forty days in the vernal equinox in April was celebrated by the devil worshippers of Koordistan in honor of the sun-god. These are all ancient belief systems brought over time

from Babylon and have no place with Yahweh's people.

YAHWEH DOES NOT PERMIT HIS PEOPLE TO MIX HIS THINGS WITH PAGAN THINGS

There is no place in Torah (the "law") or anywhere else where Yahweh allows MIXING pagan days with His commanded days. NOWHERE in the Brit Hadashah (Renewed Covenant or "New Testament") do we see the followers of Yahshua MIXING pagan days or pagan practices with Yahweh's ordained Moadim and practices.

YAHSHUA CELEBRATES PASSOVER

In Luke 22 we see a description of the Passover Seder with Yahshua and His Talmidim. This whole chapter is pregnant with deep meanings.

Notice in Luke 22:15-16: "*And He said to them, 'with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before my suffering, of I say to you, I shall certainly not eat of it again until it is filled in the reign of Elohim'*".

Yahshua is stating His desire to celebrate Pesach with His Talmidim (disciples). If He was going to do away with Torah (the "LAW"), then why would He celebrate Pesach? If He instituted Easter, then why did He not say something about it here or anywhere else? If He DESIRED to celebrate Pesach with His talmidim do you suppose that He wants us to follow His example???

Notice also in verse 16 that the complete fulfillment of Pesach is still in the future. This is an event that we are looking forward to – or is it?

If we are celebrating something other than Yahweh's commanded feast – Passover – then how can we look forward to the day when we will all eat the Passover Seder with Yahshua IN THE KINGDOM OF YAHWEH??????

We have no business SUBSTITUTING a pagan thing for a Commandment of Yahweh.

Yahshua says in Luke 16:15 "*...what is highly thought of among men is an abomination in the sight of Elohim.*"

Ephesians 5:11 says "*Have no fellowship with the fruitless works of darkness, but rather reprove them*".

Romans 12:2 says "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you will*

prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim."

And in the Torah at Exodus 23:2 we read "*Do not follow a crowd to do evil...*"

WOULD YAHSHUA CELEBRATE EASTER?

The answer is NO! Yahshua is our perfect sacrifice and He obeyed Yahweh's Torah. He taught that His followers were to obey Torah (Matthew 5:19) and He taught that the Torah would NEVER pass away (Matthew 5:18). He NEVER taught anyone to disobey Yahweh's Torah and even stressed that those that disobey will be one of the least in the Kingdom of Yahweh (Matthew 5:19). Yahshua would have celebrated Passover and will celebrate Passover when He returns. The Christian must understand that Yahweh's Feast Days in Leviticus chapter 23 are signs of Messiah and as we honor Yahweh and celebrate these Feast Days (especially the Seventh Day Sabbath), we remember our Messiah, Yahshua.

BARUCH HASHEM YAHWEH!

BLESSED IS THE NAME OF YAHWEH!

This paper is produced and distributed by Restoration Ministries

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