

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Next Book: TBD – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Acts 12:4; Judges 2:13 – The pagan history of many Easter traditions

Today’s Message:

“Easter Traditions”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued our short series on the traditions of men versus the holy Bible. We looked at the tradition of *Lent* and what the Bible says about “*holy*” days; “*Good Friday*” is impossible and a lie. This week, we are going to look at the history of Easter itself. For many, this will be a new discovery. If we are all honest, there must be a certain level of uneasiness when it comes to the seemingly _____ placement of pagan religious traditions and symbols alongside Biblical Christianity. Most people would emphatically reject the notion that we would participate in anything _____ as born-again Bible believers. So, what do you do when you find out most of what is happening all around you is a part of a systematic, devilish plan to make the world anti-Christian and to lead them all to _____?

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Acts 12:4; Judges 2:13; Jeremiah 44:17-23; Ezekiel 8:14

#1. Defining the Traditions – most Christians think _____ is a most holy day.

➤ *Easter seems to have become a melting pot of activities – some religious, some not.*

✓ **DEFINING EASTER**

- **W1828** – A festival of the Christian church observed in commemoration of our Saviour’s resurrection. It answers to the pascha or passover of the Hebrews, and most nations still give it this name, pascha, pask, paque.
- **Wikipedia** – Easter, also called Pascha (Aramaic, Greek, Latin) or Resurrection Sunday, is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox (day/night equal length). This method made official in 325AD.

✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

- “Easter” is found **1** time in the KJB. **Acts 12:4** (no other Bible uses this word!)
- “Pascha” is the word that was translated “Easter”; KJV translators were honest!
- There are feasts for 2 groups – _____ (Easter) and _____ (Unleavened Bread)

2022
Spring Equinox
Sunday, 3/20
1st Full Moon after
Saturday, 4/16
Easter
Sunday, 4/17

NOTE Romans did not start “celebrating” the Resurrection as “Easter” until after 325AD!

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Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. Proving the Traditions – “Easter” dates to Nimrod’s kingdom of _____.

➤ *The festival of “Easter” can be traced back to Babylon and its mystery religion.*

✓ THE FACTS

- “Easter” is a goddess and a _____; she is *Ishtar*, Babylonian goddess of fertility.
- **Judges 2:13** – her Hebrew name in KJB is **Ashtaroth** (Baal’s female counterpart).
- **Jeremiah 44:15-23** – she goes by another name in the Bible – _____ of heaven.
- In Babylon (2242BC), she was **Semiramis**, wife of Nimrod, mother of Tammuz/Baal.
- In English/Anglo Saxon, she is pronounced **Easter (Eostre)**; also named **Ostera, Astarte, Isis, Venus, Diana, Artemis, Gaia, Aphrodite**, and **Great Mother**.
- She is now called _____ by the Roman Church; **Rev 17:3, 18, 9, 4; 18:24; 17:6,5**
- The **Reformation view** of the RCC is the great whore; the pope is the man of sin.
- So... what was Herod the king celebrating in **Acts 12:4???** – **Gen14:1-3; Gen 11** – He was an Edomite with Babylonish roots; it was **Babylonian _____ worship!**
- **Babylonian Myth** – *When Nimrod died, he became rays of light and implanted a seed into his wife Semiramis. The child (born on Saturnalia, shortest day of the year, aka Winter Solstice December 22-25) was called Tammuz, son of the sun god. The myth continues that Semiramis died, and the gods looked favorably on her; she was sent back to earth as the Spring fertility goddess Ashtaroth/Easter, where she emerged from a giant egg that landed in the Euphrates River at sunrise on the Sunday after the full moon after the Spring equinox. By the way, Constantine (Council of Nicaea) set this as the official date for Easter in ____AD!*

Babylonian Easter Summarized
Easter, aka Ishtar, Semiramis, Ashtaroth, Queen of heaven (and many others), is a goddess worship that dates to Nimrod’s kingdom of Babel (Babylon). She is the goddess of fertility and is associated with rituals and festivals including cakes and buns, eating ham after **40 days of no meat** in memory of **Tammuz** (the sun god), **fish eating**, religious prostitution and rape, blood sacrifice of children, dyed eggs in blood of sacrifices, and rabbits (pagan symbol of fertility).

NOTE American history teaches us that *Easter* was dismissed as a pagan holiday by the nation’s founding Puritans and was not observed widely until after the Civil War.

#3. Obeying the Scriptures – God calls worship of Ashtaroth _____ in His sight.

➤ *Always be ready to _____ whatever you have been taught or you have believed when it goes contrary to the Bible. (How to Study the Bible – The Attitude Factor)*

✓ COMPARING SCRIPTURES

- **Judges 2:13; 10:6** – *And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.*
- **1Sam 7:3-4; 12:10; 31:10** – ... *put away... Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.*

NOTE After learning these enlightening details, there must be a better way to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Why not immediately put away the world’s *Easter* and return to Christ worship and weekly “*Resurrection Sundays*” according to His Book!

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. Anti-Christian traditions always turn God’s people away from wholly _____ Him.

❖ **Question:** *Do you really want to follow traditions that lead you/others away from God?*

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