

Just for clarification: In my presentations I am using YHVH (Yahuwah) instead of LORD, which is a title and not a name and I am using Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration and really has no meaning, neither in Hebrew nor in English! YHVH (Yahuwah) and Yahusha are the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.



“How long halt ye between two opinions? If YHVH Elohim, follow him: but if Baal, [then] follow him.”

1. Kings 8:21

Most people have a terrible time to give up old habits and customs. They want Heaven, but they also want to hang on to the world, but Yahusha said very plainly in Matthew 6:24:

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve Elohim and mammon.” Matthew 6:24



What do you think of, when you hear the word “Easter?”



Even though that has absolutely nothing to do with Easter as such!

In the Western World, when someone is speaking of Easter, they are most likely referring to the events surrounding Yahushas death, burial and resurrection.

Why is it though, that thoughts of Easter eggs, chocolate bunnies, and pastel colors also run through our minds when we hear the term Easter? Are these things related to the events surrounding Yahusha's death? Absolutely not! Where did these things come from and how did they get associated with the celebration we now call Easter? The purpose of this presentation is to find answers to these questions.

As Bible believing Christians, it would make sense to start this search in Yah's (*Elohim's*) Holy Word, the Bible, Scripture.

The word "Easter" is not found at all in most English Bibles, including the NKJV, NIV, NASB, NLT, ESV, CEV, NCV, ASV, YLT, TNIV and many others. It is found quite often in the German translations, however!

However, It is found one time in the King James Version in Acts 12:4, where it states: "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions (bands) of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

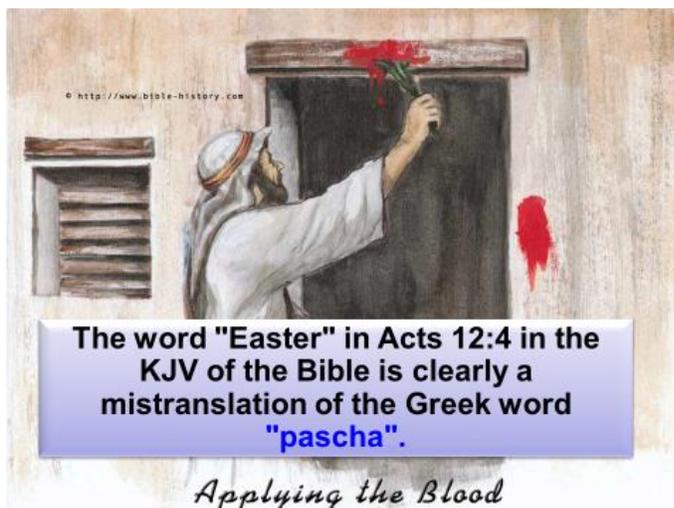
The word "Passover" occurs 77 times in the KJV of the Bible.

49 times in the Old Testament as -> Strong's #6453 – 'Pesach'

28 times in the New Testament as -> Strong's #3957 – 'Pascha'

The word "Easter" that appears in Acts 12:4 in the KJV of the Bible is also Strong's Greek word #3957 – 'Pascha', which means Passover.

The scholars that translated the KJV of the Bible, translated the word "Pascha" as Passover 28 times in the New Testament and then in Acts 12:4 they decided to translate it as "Easter."



Easter is **not** Passover!

"...intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." (Acts 12:4 **KJV**)

- "...intending to bring him before the people after **Passover**." (Acts 12:4 **NKJV**)
- "...Herod intended to bring him out for public ...

-trial after the **Passover**." (Acts 12:4 NIV)
- "...intending after the **Passover** to bring him out to the people." (Acts 12:4 **ESV**)

In Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words of 1985, page 192 it states

"Pascha ... mistranslated 'Easter' in Acts 12:4, KJV, denotes the Passover ... The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin."

Then we have a quote from Jerold Aust: **"Would Yahusha Keep Easter?"** where it states:

"As surprising as this may sound, **nowhere** in the New Testament can you find any reference to Easter. In the King James Version of the Bible (in Acts 12:4) you do find the word Easter, **but it is a blatantly erroneous mistranslation** that has been corrected in virtually every other Bible translation. The original Greek word there is Pascha, correctly translated Passover in virtually every modern version of the Bible everywhere it appears in the Scriptures."

- "Would Jesus Keep Easter?" by Jerold Aust
<http://www.gnmagazine.org/issues/gn75/easter.htm>

Another statement about the mistranslation of "Pascha" we find on the internet under

<http://www.biblestudy.org/question/what-does-the-word-easter-mean.html>

- How did such a large mistranslation come about?
- "The King James Version Bible was written by scholars whose orientation was toward Catholic and Anglican Church doctrines, and this caused some of the errors in translation i.e., the translation of the Greek word Pascha, which means 'Passover', as "Easter" in Acts 12:4."



**Where did "Easter" come from?
 Where did this term come from and what does it mean?
 Let's look at various dictionaries and see what they have about the term "Easter".**

Easter Definition!

Easter: *n.* festival (held on a variable Sunday in March or April) commemorating Christ's resurrection. [Old English]

- *The Oxford Dictionary of Current English, New Edition, "Easter"*

Easter is a Christian feast commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus.

[from Old English : *Eastre*]

- *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition (2000), "Easter"*

Easter: \Eas'teɹ, n. [AS. e[ʼa]ster, e[ʼa]stran, paschal feast, Easter; akin to G. *ostern*; fr. Anglo-Saxon. *E[ʼa]stre*, **a Elohimdess of light or spring, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated in April;**

- *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913), "Easter"*

"The word Easter may come from Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic Elohimdess of Spring and fertility, whose festival was celebrated at the vernal equinox."

"Easter Word Origins" from Dictionary.com

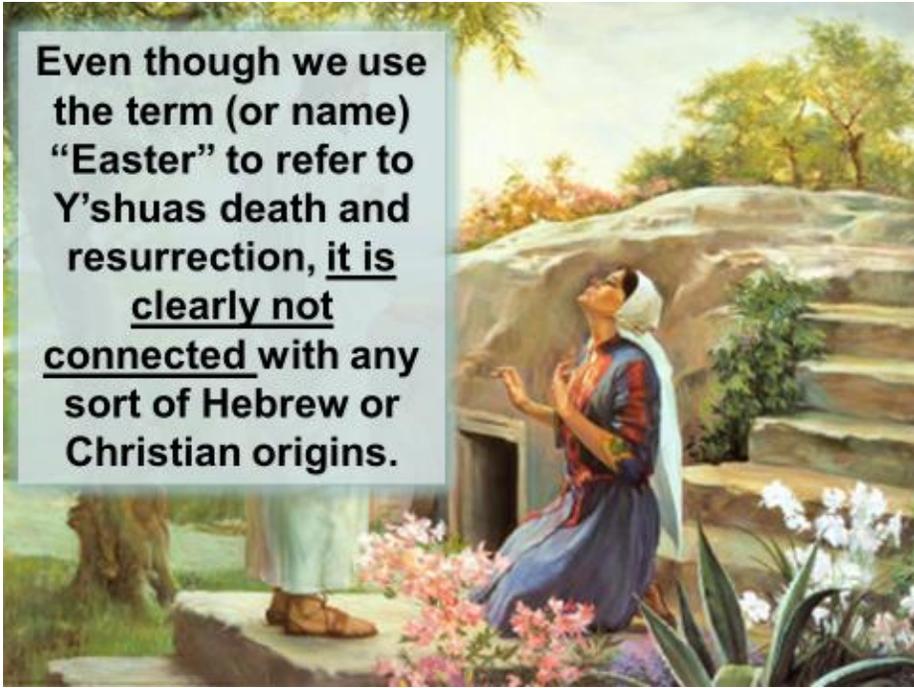
(<http://dictionary.reference.com/features/easter.html>)

"According to the eighth-century theologian the Venerable Bede (who came up with the dating system of AD and BC), Easter is named for **Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon Elohimdess of spring.** She is associated with the egg and with the hare, both symbols of procreation that have been enduringly incorporated by the church in the form of Easter eggs and the Easter bunny who brings them."

- "Easter", from Answers.com (<http://www.answers.com/topic/easter>)

"Easter, Ostara, or Ishtar was the Elohimdess of Spring in the religion of the ancient Angles and Saxons. Every April a festival was celebrated in her honor. With the beginnings of Christianity, the old Elohim were put aside. From then on the festival was celebrated in honor of the resurrection of Christ, but was still known as Easter after the old Elohimdess."

- "Easter", from The Encyclopedia Britannica (1934)



Even though we use the term (or name) “Easter” to refer to Y’shuas death and resurrection, it is clearly not connected with any sort of Hebrew or Christian origins.

The term “Easter” is derived from the name of an ancient pagan Elohimdess (Eostre, Ostara, Ishtar) **and has no relation whatsoever to the events surrounding Yahushas death.**

100% PAGAN

How do other languages refer to the death and resurrection of Messiah?

Upon studying the terms used to refer to the events surrounding Yahushas death and resurrection in other languages, we find that they use terms that are slightly more meaningful than the term “Easter” (*pagan Elohimdess of spring*) that we use in English.

In some languages the term referring to the death and resurrection of the Messiah is **“Great Day”** or **“Great Night”**.

Examples include:

Bulgarian: Velikden

Czech: Velikonoce

Polish: Wielkanoc

Slovak: Velka Noc

Slovenian: Velika no

Ukrainian: Vjalikdzen

Other languages refer to the death and resurrection of Messiah as “Resurrection”, “Resurrection Day” or “Resurrection Festival”.

Some examples include:

Croatian: Uskrs

Chinese: Fuhuo Jie

Korean: Buhwalchol

Bosnian: Uskrs or Vaskrs

Serbian: Uskrs or Vaskrs

Vietnamese: Le Phuc Sinh

Lakota: Woekicetuanpetu

In most languages, the term used for the events surrounding Yahusha's death and resurrection is more precisely derived from "**Pesach**", the Hebrew term for **Passover**.

**Here are some examples:
Pesach / Pascha / Passover**

• Hebrew: Pesach	• Albanian: Pashket
• Greek: Pascha	• Danish: Paske
• French: Pâques	• Finnish: Paasiainen
• Italian: Pasqua	• Icelandic: Paskar
• Spanish: Pascua	• Norwegian: Paske
• Portuguese: Pascoa	• Swedish: Pask
• Romanian: Paste	• Irish: Caisc
• Russian: Paskha	• Turkish: Paskalya
• Polish: Pascha	• Indonesian: Paskah
• Japanese: Seidai Pasuha	• Persian: Pas'h

Almost every other language uses a relevant term, when it refers to the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Yahusha!

Why is it that we, English speaking Christians, still use the name of a pagan Elohimdess, the Phoenician Elohimdess of love and fertility to refer to this sacred event?

Calculating the date of Easter:

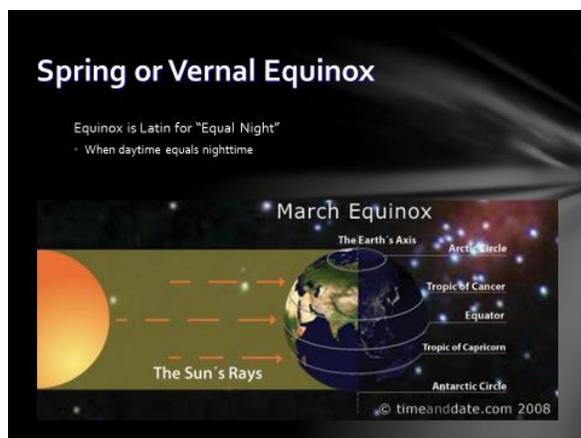
- When is Easter?
- It is on a different date each year.
- Always on a Sunday
- Always in the Spring
- Most people just check a calendar

"Easter day, on which the rest of the movable feasts depend, is always the first Sunday after the fourteenth day of the calendar moon which (fourteenth day) falls on, or next after, the 21st of March, according to the rules laid down for the construction of the calendar; so that if the fourteenth day happen on a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after."

- *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)*

"The day on which this feast is observed, the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or next after **the vernal equinox.**"

- *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2003.*



How do they calculate
the date of Easter?

On the website

[http://www.answers.com/
topic/easter](http://www.answers.com/topic/easter)

We find the following:

ANSWERS.COM!

"Though the New Testament contains no reference to an annual feast celebrating the Resurrection, the practice was well-established by the second century. Early churchmen were divided on whether to hold a feast on 14 Nisan (the date of the Biblical Pesach, which morphed into the name for Easter in many languages) or on the following Sunday; disputes and excommunications ensued in this Quartodeciman controversy until the Council of Nicea in 325 decided it must fall on a Sunday. Eventually the date was formulated roughly as "the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox." This can range between March 22 and April 25." - **Easter, from Answers.com**

(<http://www.answers.com/topic/easter>)

Here is another source that states, how the date of Easter is being calculated:

"The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal full moon, which is the full moon whose 14th day falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. We know that Easter must always occur on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. But why the 14th day of the paschal full moon? Because that was the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover."

- **How Is the Date of Easter Calculated?** By Scott P. Richert
http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/f/Calculate_Date.htm



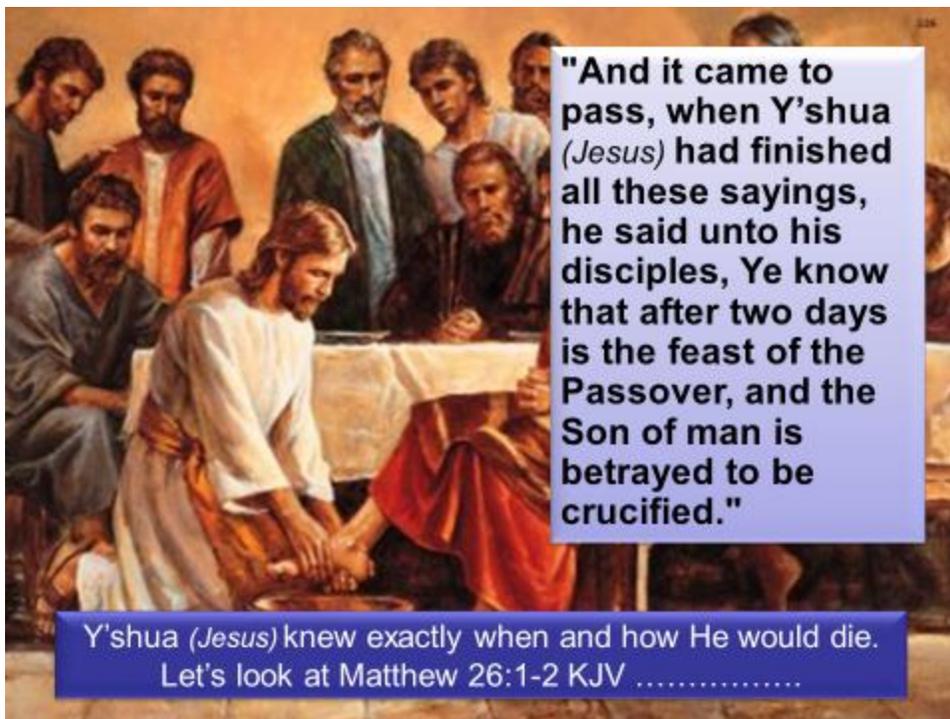
Someone might be thinking!
Why does the calculation of the date of Easter need to be so complicated?
What was the original method of calculating it and why did it change?
And what is with the constant connection with Yahushas death and the Passover?
Wasn't that a Jewish thing?

We need to ask ourselves the most important question: "What does the Bible say?"

Exodus 12:11-14 **"It is Yahuwah's Passover.** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the Elohims of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am Yahuwah. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to YHVH throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever."

"Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the **Passover lamb." (Exodus 12:21 NKJV)**

Then we read in Exodus 12:37-39 **"Then the children of Israel journeyed from Ramses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot,**



"And it came to pass, when Y'shua (Jesus) had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified."

Y'shua (Jesus) knew exactly when and how He would die. Let's look at Matthew 26:1-2 KJV

What event is this? Let's read for this Luke 22:7-12

“Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.” So they said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare?” And He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.” So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.”

Luke 22:14-20 NKJV **“When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, **“With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of Elohim.”**** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of Elohim comes.” And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:14-20 NKJV)

- **Some might be thinking: That's not Passover. That's just communion.**
- **We do that all the time**
- **You know, whenever we feel like it**
- **Some people do it daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly**
- **They think, there is no rule for that**

If we weren't taught otherwise, we would think that Yahusha was telling the apostles (and all believers) to continue observing the Passover.

The apostle Paul also indicated that we should still be keeping the feast of Passover:

Here is what he said: "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast**, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8 KJV)

Then we have his words in 1. Corinthians 11:23-29 **"For I have received of YHVH that which also I delivered unto you, that the Master Yahusha the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Masters death till he come."** KJV



Here is a statement from the late Theologian Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Elohim's Festivals in Scripture and History - Part 2 - The Fall Festivals, p.33

"The meaning of the Christian Passover is both commemorative and prefigurative, just like the Old Testament Passover. On the one hand, it commemorates the past deliverance from bondage and sin through Christ's suffering and death. On the other hand, it prefigures the future celebration of the marriage Supper of the Lamb

Christ Himself alluded to the eschatological fulfillment of Passover when He said to the disciples that He would not eat Passover again '**until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of Elohim**' (Luke 22:16)."

Theologian Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Elohim's Festivals in Scripture and History - Part 2 - The Fall Festivals, p.33

Summary of the Bible:

Easter is not found in the Bible at all

Passover is found all over the Bible

Easter was not celebrated by Yahusha

Passover was celebrated by Yahusha

Easter observance was not commanded by Yahusha or anyone else in the Bible

Passover observance was to be done in remembrance of Yahusha's sacrifice

Y'shua is our example!

We read in 1. Peter 2:21 (KJV) "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps".





Wait a second now...

If all this is true, then wouldn't the early Christians have kept the Passover?

And if so, would they have observed it on the Jewish Passover date or the date we now observe as Easter Sunday?

The Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition, Macropaedia, Vol. 4, pp. 604-605, "Church Year" says the following about the Early Christian Church:

"The earliest Christians celebrated the Lord's Passover at the same time as the Jews, during the night of the first full moon of the first month of spring (Nisan 14-15). By the middle of the 2nd century, most churches had transferred this celebration to the Sunday after the Jewish feast. But certain churches of Asia Minor clung to the older custom, for which they were denounced as 'Judaizing'. The first ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 decreed that all churches should observe the feast together on a Sunday"

The Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition, Macropaedia, Vol. 4, pp. 604-605, "Church Year".

"Some church historians assert that Easter observance began in the first century (CE), but they must admit that their first evidence for the observance comes from the second century."

BibleWorld.com (<http://www.bibleworld.com/easter.pdf>)

"By the later second century, it was accepted that the celebration of Pascha was a practice of the disciples and an undisputed tradition. The Quartodeciman controversy, the first of several Paschal/Easter controversies, then arose concerning the date on which Pascha should be celebrated. The term "Quartodeciman" refers to the practice of celebrating Pascha or Easter beginning on Nisan 14 of the Hebrew calendar, "the LORD's Passover" (Leviticus 23:5)."

Easter, from Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter>)

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS:

"There is no doubt that Apollinarius was a Quartodeciman...Those who kept Passover in the evening understood it to be a repetition of the Lord's Supper."

- Stewart-Sykes A. *Melito of Sardis On Pascha*. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood (NY), 2001, p. 81).

“In Asia Minor most people kept the fourteenth day of the moon...Moreover the Quartodecimans affirm that the observance of the fourteenth day was delivered to them by the apostle John”

Socrates Scholasticus. Ecclesiastical History, Book V, Chapter XXII. Excerpted from Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Volume 2. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. American Edition, 1890. Online Edition Copyright © 2005 by K. Knight.

“Anicetus argued for Easter while Polycarp, a student of the apostle John, defended observing ‘the Christian Passover, on the 14th of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish ecclesiastical calendar, regardless of the day of the week’ ”

". Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition, Micropaedia, Vol. 8, p. 94, "Polycarp

Again we have Samuele Bacchiocchi, Elohim's Festival in Scripture and History, 1995, pp. 101-103

“The actual introduction of Easter-Sunday appears to have occurred earlier in Palestine after Emperor Hadrian ruthlessly crushed the Barkokeba revolt (A.D. 132-135)... The fact that the Passover controversy arose when Emperor Hadrian adopted new repressive measures against Jewish religious practices suggests that such measures influenced the new Gentile hierarchy to change the date of Passover from Nisan 14 to the following Sunday (Easter-Sunday) in order to show separation and differentiation from the Jews and the Jewish Christians”

- Samuele Bacchiocchi, Elohim's Festival in Scripture and History, 1995, pp. 101-103

“A whole body of ‘Against the Jews’ literature was produced by leading Fathers who defamed the Jews as a people and emptied their religious beliefs and practices of any historical value. Two major casualties of the anti-Jewish campaign were Sabbath and Passover. The Sabbath was changed to Sunday and Passover was transferred to Easter-Sunday. Scholars usually recognize the anti-Judaic motivation for the repudiation of the Jewish reckoning of Passover and adoption of Easter-Sunday instead. Joachim Jeremias attributes such a

development to 'the inclination to break away from Judaism.' In a similar vein, J.B. Lightfoot explains that Rome and Alexandria adopted Easter-Sunday to avoid 'even the semblance of Judaism'" - *Samuele Bacchiocchi, Elohim's Festival in Scripture and History, 1995, pp. 101-103*

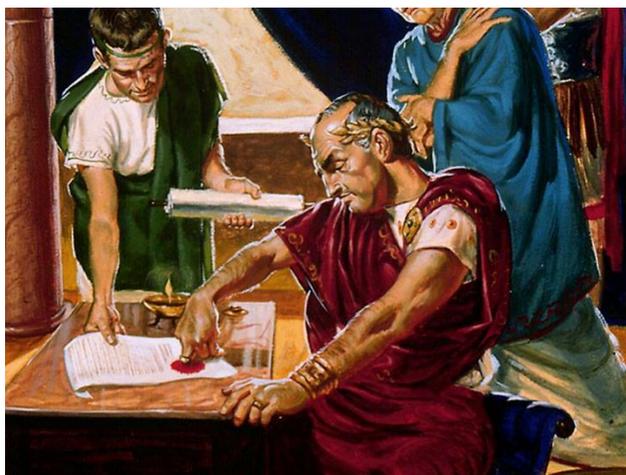
Quote from Polycrates:

"We observe the exact day; neither adding, nor taking away... Among these are Philip, one of the twelve apostles ... and, moreover, John, who was both a witness and a teacher, who reclined upon the bosom of the Lord,... And Polycarp in Smyrna, who was a bishop and martyr... All these observed the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the Gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith. And I also, Polycrates, the least of you all, do according to the tradition of my relatives... And my relatives always observed the day when the people put away the leaven... For those greater than I have said 'We ought to obey Elohim rather than man'."

- Eusebius. Church History, Book V, Chapter 24. Translated by Arthur Cushman McGiffert.

"Originally both observances [Passover and Easter] were allowed, but gradually it was felt incongruous that Christians should celebrate Easter on a Jewish feast, and unity in celebrating the principal Christian feast was called for."

The New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1967, Vol. 5, p. 8, "Easter Controversy".



Now we
come to the
The emperor
Constantine!

Here is a quote from Constantine: "The commemoration of the most sacred paschal feast being then debated, it was unanimously decided,

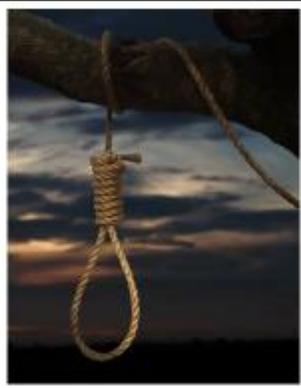
that it would be well that it should be everywhere celebrated upon the same day... It was, in the first place, declared improper to follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this holy festival, because, their hands having been stained with crime, the minds of these wretched men are necessarily blinded ... By rejecting their custom, we establish and hand down to succeeding ages one which is more reasonable... Let us, then, have nothing in common with the Jews, who are our adversaries. For we have received from our Saviour another way.”

- Theodoret of Cyrus. Ecclesiastical History (Book I), Chapter IX. Excerpted from Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Volume 3. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. American Edition, 1892. Online Edition Copyright © 2005 by K. Knight.

Reflection on that quote:

“Let us, then, have nothing in common with the Jews, who are our adversaries. For we have received from our Savior another way”
– Constantine’s quote from the previous slide

Someone should also have informed Constantine that Yahusha was Himself a Jew! Not only that, but Yahusha told the Samaritan woman “Salvation is of the Jews!” (John 4:22) The whole Bible was written by Jews. The Apostles and the disciples were Jews.

<p>“Edicts of Theodosius against the heretics, A.D. 380-394...Theodosius ...decreed that...by the death of the offender; and the same capital punishment was inflicted on the Audians, or Quartodecimans, who should dare to perpetrate the atrocious crime of celebrating <u>on an improper day the festival</u>”</p>	<p>Death Penalty...</p>  <p>Gibbon E. Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Volume III, Chapter XXVII. ca. 1776-1788 states:</p>
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R.K. Bishop Quote, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 1984, Editor: Walter Elwell, "Easter".

“The early development of the celebration of Easter and the attendant calendar disputes were largely a result of Christianity's attempt to emancipate itself from Judaism. Sunday had already replaced the Jewish Sabbath early in the second century, and despite efforts in Asia Minor to maintain the Jewish Passover date of 14 Nisan for Easter [or, rather, the true Passover] (hence the name Quartodecimans [meaning ‘Fourteeners’]), the Council of Nicaea adopted the annual Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21)”
R.K. Bishop quote, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 1984, Editor: Walter Elwell, "Easter".



Easter Customs!

We see that the Bible has no record of Yahusha or the apostles observing an Easter Sunday service, dyeing Easter eggs or going on an Easter egg hunt.

The early Christians originally observed the Passover as a memorial of Yahusha's sacrifice! Constantine and the church at Rome decided to change the Passover to Easter Sunday! But where did the Easter bunny, Easter egg and other Easter customs come from? Again, the Bible has no record of Yahusha or the apostles observing an Easter Sunday service, dyeing Easter eggs or going on an Easter egg hunt!

Let's look what the book "The Traditions of Easter" by Jerry Wilson has to say:

“As with almost all ‘Christian’ holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication. Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.”
(<http://wilstar.com/holidays/easter.htm>)

*This statement is from the Catholic Life for the Nineties!
(copyright 1988 by John J. Dietzen, M.A., S.T.L., ISBN 0-940518-01-5*

(paperback), published by Guildhall Publishers, Peoria Illinois, 61651., page 554.)

“The reasons for celebrating our major feasts when we do are many and varied. In general, however, it is true that many of them have at least an indirect connection with the pre-Christian [pagan] feasts celebrated about the same time of year — feasts centering around the harvest, the rebirth of the sun at the winter solstice (now Dec. 21, but Dec. 25 in the old Julian calendar), the renewal of nature in spring, and so on.”

History of Christian Holidays

<http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/holidays/history.htm>

“The early church fathers were also careful to emphasize that Christian holidays should be very unlike pagan holidays. They were to be characterized by solemnity and decorum, in sharp contrast to the riotousness of pagan celebrations... Even more important to these early writers was that Christians stay away from pagan celebrations themselves, disobedience of which seems to have been a rather common occurrence. Despite this early concern about paganism infiltrating Christianity, it seems that Christians began to develop a different perspective on the matter of pagan holidays. Rather than seen as a threat to Christianity, pagan holidays and customs came to be viewed as a way to encourage and ease conversion to Christianity.”

The Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. 9, p. 309.

“The egg was a sacred symbol among the Babylonians. They believed an old fable about an egg of wondrous size which was supposed to have fallen from heaven into the Euphrates River. From this marvelous egg - according to the ancient story - the Elohimdess Ishtar (Semiramis), was hatched. And so the egg came to symbolize the Elohimdess Easter”

“As Romans became familiar with the Greek myths of Aphrodite, they increasingly identified Venus with that Elohimdess. They also linked Venus with other foreign Elohimdresses, such as the Babylonian Ishtar. One result of this connection was the naming of the planet Venus, which Babylonian astronomers had earlier associated with Ishtar.”

Encyclopedia of Myths (Venus)

<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Tr-Wa/Venus.html>

“The egg has become a popular Easter symbol. Creation myths of many ancient peoples center in a cosmogenic egg from which the universe is born. In ancient Egypt and Persia friends exchanged decorated eggs at the spring equinox, the beginning of their New Year. These eggs were a symbol of fertility for them because the coming forth of a live creature from an egg was so surprising to people of ancient times. Christians of the Near East adopted this tradition, and the Easter egg became a religious symbol. It represented the tomb from which Jesus came forth to new life”

Greg Dues, Catholic Customs and Traditions, 1992, p. 101

“As at Christmas, so also at Easter, popular customs reflect many ancient pagan survivals—in this instance, connected with spring fertility rites, such as the symbols of the Easter egg and the Easter hare or rabbit”

- The Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition, Macropaedia, Vol. 4, p. 605, "Church Year".

“Motives of the same sort may have led the ecclesiastical authorities to assimilate the Easter festival of the death and resurrection of their Lord to the festival of the death and resurrection of another Asiatic Elohim which fell at the same season. Now the Easter rites still observed in Greece, Sicily and southern Italy bear in some respects a striking resemblance to the rites of Adonis, and I have suggested that the Church may have consciously adapted the new festival to its heathen predecessor for the sake of winning souls to Christ”

“When we reflect how often the Church has skillfully contrived to plant the seeds of the new faith on the old stock of paganism, we may surmise that the Easter celebration of the dead and risen Christ was grafted upon a similar celebration of the dead and risen Adonis [the Greek name for Tammuz], which ... was celebrated in Syria at the same season.”

The Golden Bough, the Study in Magic and Religion – Part 1, Vol 1

"Easter is different. The very name comes from the Babylonian fertility Elohimdess Ishtar, and the main attractions are eggs and rabbits, symbols of fertility. There's a tradition that colored eggs originated in the dyeing of eggs with the blood of newly sacrificed children, whose lives were given in the hope of a plentiful harvest. I can't think of anything more repulsive to Elohim. The date of Resurrection Morning

is well known. It's the Jewish Feast of Firstfruits. It's by far the most important event in human history and deserves our full attention in a heart felt expression of praise and thanksgiving."

"We might be able to convince Elohim that we didn't know the date of His birth, but we have no such excuse with His resurrection. Various pagan groups have made headlines lately accusing Christians of hijacking their holidays. Sometimes I think that the only way to re-focus our attention on the reason for their celebration is to give them back and to the best of our ability memorialize the days on which the events we revere actually took place."

The Pagan Origin of Christian Holidays

<http://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/the-pagan-origin-of-christian-holidays/>



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

Without a doubt, the worship of Easter is of pagan origin and there are still people today, even in modern cities, that observe the purely pagan worship of the Elohimdess of spring.

However, most people still observe Easter, not as a pagan celebration, but in remembrance of the death and resurrection of the Christian Jesus **even though there is no biblical command to do so.**

They also use the date that Constantine and the church at Rome declared for this celebration at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. **They also often use symbols and activities that are directly taken from pagan worship and then use them to worship the true Elohim.**

Some may say: Who cares? What's the big deal anyway?

Does it really matter how and when we worship this sacred event?

We know that we are worshipping Yahushas death and resurrection and that's all that matters, right?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Regarding Worship!

“Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their Elohim, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their Elohim? I also will do likewise.’ You shall not worship YHVH your Elohim in that way” (Deuteronomy 12:30-31 NKJV)

The next verse says: **“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”**
(Deuteronomy 12:32 NKJV)

"Thus saith YHVH, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain"
(Jeremiah 10:2-3 KJV)



Clearly, not all forms of worship are acceptable to our Heavenly Father. Here are some examples:

Cain and Abel! Did Yahuwah accept Cain’s sacrifice? Why not? Did he know what was required? Was it rebellion?



Yahuwah said to Moses in Exodus 32:9-10
“I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff necked people: Now therefore let me alone.”

“That My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them.”
(Exodus 32:10 NKJV)

Simply claiming that something is honoring Yahuwah doesn't make it acceptable to HIM!

Easter doesn't represent a resurrected Yahusha. Rather difficult as it may be to admit it, merely continues the practices pagans followed thousands of years ago to honor their nonexistent Elohim. If we are to escape the calamities prophesied to come on those, who place the ways of this world ahead of the Creator, then we must repent of following traditions **that dishonor HIM!** (Revelation 18:1-5).

Our Father would much rather have us honor and obey HIM according to His instructions in HIS Word!

Then He can use us to represent HIS holy Son, our Savior Yahusha Ha Mashiach, the Messiah, who will return to earth. No greater calling can be extended to human beings.

The question that Elijah asked YHVH's professed people on Mt. Sinai is still being asked today!

“How long will you falter between two opinions? If YHVH is Elohim, follow Him” *1. Kings 18:21 NKJV*

What is the Basis of Authority in Spiritual Matters? “How long will you falter between two opinions? If YHVH is Elohim, follow Him”

Who is YOUR Master? Yahusha or Church Leaders?

What is YOUR guide, the Bible or Tradition?

Joshua 24:15 “...Choose for yourselves this day, whom ye will servebut as for me and my house, we will serve YAHUWAH!”



Most information was taken from Eastertruth.com

THE END!



**Supreme Provider
Y'shua Ha Mashiach
(aka Jesus the Christ)**

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