



THE TRUTH ABOUT EASTER

The "*Passover*," the commemorative feast in memory of the "*passing over*," of the Angel of Death for those whose homes had the blood on their doorposts is the oldest continually observed feast in the history of mankind. But our society has made a **grave error** in the manner in which this most precious of holy days is being celebrated. Let us go back in history and remember what actually happened that night of the *Passover*.

The Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt by heartless taskmasters. The Hebrews cried out to the LORD and HE heard them and raised up Moses to lead them out of Egypt.¹

"And you will say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But behold, you have not listened until now.'"

And after ten denials, and a series of plagues, each one more devastating than the last, the last being the most severe, the death of **all** the firstborn in Egypt, from the Pharaoh (the king or ruler) on down to the slaves. Even the cattle were not to escape this devastation.²

"For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-- I am the LORD."

The LORD then instructed Moses to inform the people that, "*this month shall be the first month of the year for you.*" The LORD then told the Hebrews that "*On the tenth month of that year, each household was to kill a one-year old, unblemished, male lamb and take the blood and put it on the doorposts and lintels, (the top doorpost), of the house in which they were to eat it.*"

The LORD then gave specific instructions on how the lamb was to be cooked and eaten. It was to be eaten with Unleavened Bread, (without yeast, being that yeast is associated with sin), and bitter herbs. (the bitter herbs represented the bitterness of their years of enslavement) They were to eat it fully dressed with their staffs in their hands, (ready for departure), and in haste.³

That night, the LORD went through the land of Egypt, and every house that the blood of the lamb was on

¹ ***THE HOLY BIBLE*** (New American Standard,) Exodus 7:16.

² ***THE HOLY BIBLE*** (New American Standard,) Exodus 12:12.

³ ***THE HOLY BIBLE*** (New American Standard,) Exodus 12:11.

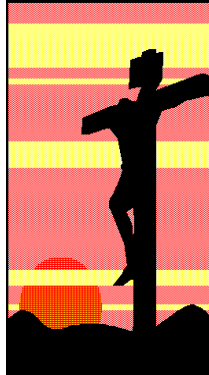
the doorposts and lintel, the LORD "**passed over,**" and did not strike down the first-born of that house. ⁴

After that the Pharaoh let the people of GOD go. Did you see a rabbit or Easter basket in any of this ?

Now lest you say, "Oh, but that was the Old Testament." Let's look at the New Testament and see what happened during the death and resurrection of Christ. In Mark 14:12 we read, "***on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed...***" did you see it ? Read the sentences again slowly, "**on . . . the . . . first . . . day . . . of . . . Unleavened . . . Bread . . . when . . . the . . . Passover . . . Lamb . . .**

was . . . being . . . sacrificed" there it is ! The **Passover Lamb**, not **rabbit**

!!!



And you know the rest of the story, Christ was betrayed, went before Pontus Pilate, was pronounced guilty was crucified on the cross and HE rose on the third day to live again ! The day HE rose is where we get our traditional "**Easter Sunday**" from.

There is much debate on what day Jesus actually rose on. In John 2:19, ***Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*** in Matt. 12:40 we read that Jesus also said, ". . . ***for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a whale, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***" Jesus said three days and three nights, that would have to mean, counting backwards from Sunday, (Sunday being the first day of the week), and remember HE was crucified **the day before** the Sabbath, for Mark 15:42 records,

"And when evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea came and asked for the body of Jesus." Would not this mean that Jesus had to have been crucified on **Thursday** ?

So, even now, in the New Testament's accounting of the death and resurrection of Christ there is no mention of an Easter bunny or an Easter basket. As a matter of fact the word **Easter**, is only mentioned once in the entire Bible, (in Acts 12:4), which is a mistranslation of the word "**pascha**" the Greek word for **Easter**.

So where did **Easter** come from ? GOD told the Hebrews the **Passover** was to be celebrated "***in the first month of the year...***" and remember they were now in Canaan, and the first month of the year, which was called **Abib** by the Canaanites, and this fell in the Springtime on the Canaanite lunar calendar. The Hebrews celebrated the "**Passover lamb**" not a **rabbit** ! **Easter** rose in the midst of the Church, the lamb disappeared and in its place we got a "**supernatural rabbit**" that laid **eggs**! **Chocolate** and **candy** ones at that ! **HOW ? ?**

⁴ **THE HOLY BIBLE** (New American Standard,) Exodus 12:27-29.



GOD told the Hebrews that they were to celebrate the "Passover" in "*the first month of the year...*" (Exo. 12:2), which by the Cannanite calendar fell in the Springtime; (the Cannanite calendar called it *Abib*, which means ear, -because the grain was in the ear) it later came to be called Nisan. Now, remember, the Hebrews were in the land of Canaan at this time, and these pagans for many centuries believed in celebrating new life, fertility, and the return of growing things.⁵ Their Springtime activities of paganism began to attach themselves to the annual time of the "Passover," and slowly the concept of "Easter" infiltrated the early Church, and became an annual celebration of the Resurrection !

The name **Easter**, derived, according to the New Encyclopedia Britannica, from the pagan goddess Ishtar or Istar, sometimes spelled Estre (notice the similarity between **Ishtar** and **Easter**?) This pagan goddess with her rites of Asheroth, was very similar to Baal, the Babylonian god of the Old Testament,⁶ whom the Hebrews began to worship once they entered the land of Canaan. She was the goddess of Spring, sex, and new life. Her rites of worship included murder, cannibalism, homosexual activities, and many other deviant acts of licentiousness.⁷



Since ancient times, pagans have worshipped rabbits as sex and fertility gods, and have looked upon them as symbols of lust, sexual vigor, and reproduction. In traditions of Egypt and Persia, there are rabbit gods and they are highly honored at Springtime.⁸ Eggs have always been an important feature in pagan Springtime celebrations of new life. One

⁵ Tom C. McKenney, Holidays and Holy Days (Marion, Kentucky 42064: Words For Living Ministries, Inc., 1987) 28.

⁶ Funk & Wagnalls Corporation, Microsoft Encarta (Redmond VA 98052-6399: Microsoft Corporation, 1994) Pages.

⁷ Lewis Spence, Encyclopedia of Occultism (New Hyde Park, New York: University Books, 1960) 446-502.

⁸ Tom C. McKenney, Holidays and Holy Days (Marion, Kentucky 42064: Words For Living Ministries, Inc., 1987) 27.

legend, (the Orphic), has the earth being hatched out of an enormous egg. In a broad range of pagan societies, from Egypt to Mesopotamia, to the British Isle, brightly colored eggs are presented as gifts and charms to supernaturally bring fertility, and sexual success each Spring.

In another pagan tradition there was a great bird who intensely wanted to be a rabbit. The goddess of Spring, Oestre (pronounced Estre) graciously turned the bird into a rabbit, and in gratitude, **the rabbit** (who still remembered **how to lay bird eggs**) came each Spring ,and laid beautiful eggs for the goddess.⁹ That is how we got a *supernatural, egg laying, rabbit god* in our "Passover" tradition.

In the book of James we are told;

" Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." (James 4:17 NASB)
Now that **you** know the truth about the "Passover" would you please consider removing this paganistic tradition out of your life ? It is wrong to **lie** to our children and to keep deceiving them with this false doctrine. Also, it takes away from the true meaning of the **Passover** , a loving GOD who loves us so much, that **HE** gave **HIS** only **SON** to **die** for our sins on the Cross at Calvary, and rose to live again. And Satan just loves that !! Please consider the words of Joshua 24:15,

"And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."



⁹ Tom C. McKenney, Holidays and Holy Days (Marion, Kentucky 42064: Words For Living Ministries, Inc., 1987) 29.

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