

## Easter

### ➤ Intro:

- It must be said at the beginning that Easter celebration with present day symbols is not supported by the Bible.
- It must also be said that most preachers are afraid to approach the subject and especially take a Biblical stand against this unscriptural tradition.
- "Easter" appears once in the Bible. *New Translation have "Passover" but "KJV is right" "Easter"*
  - In Acts 12:4 "Pascha" is translated "Easter".
  - However, Herod was not waiting until after the Passover to bring Peter before the people.
  - V3 gives the time frame: *"then were the days of unleavened bread."*
  - The days of unleavened bread followed the Passover!
    - (Mk. 14:12; Lu. 22:7; 1 Cor. 5:7-8;)
    - Numbers 28:16-17 says, "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten."
- Herod put Peter in prison after the Passover during the days of unleavened bread.
  - So, what Easter was he waiting on?
  - He evidently was waiting on the annual festival commemorating the death and resurrection of Tammuz which was celebrated at about the same time.
  - Now watch this: Eostra, goddess of the spring, was celebrated at the time of the Vernal Equinox. Easter, (Astarte, Ishtar) was brought into Christianity by way of the Catholic Church.

- The New Catholic Encyclopedia says: "Most Easter traditions originate from ancient rites connected with the spring and summer fertility."
  - It also refers to our common Easter customs as "relics of the pagan past:' (1977 Ed.Vol.7 p.2053
- There is an obvious absence in Church History of an annual observance of the resurrection of Christ until the 3rd. Century.
  - The truth is, True Believers celebrate His resurrection every Lord's Day!
- The present day symbols used in Easter celebrations are all connected to pagan celebrations.
  - The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia, 1964 Ed. pg.209 states about Easter in part, the annual observance of Easter is a convergence of three traditions:
    - The Hebrew Passover...
    - The Christian commemoration of the Crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus which took place at the feast of the Passover
    - The Norse OSTRER or EOSTER (FROM WHICH EASTER IS DERIVED) . A PAGAN FESTIVAL OF SPRING WHICH FELL AT THE VERNAL EQUINOX, MARCH 21. PROMINENT SYMBOLS IN THIS CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF NATURE AFTER THE WINTER WERE, RABBITS, SIGNIFYING <sup>Fertility</sup> ~~FECUNDITY~~, AND EGGS, COLORED LIKE THE RAYS OF THE RETURNING SUN AND THE NORTHERN LIGHTS, OR AURORA BOREALIS."

- There are at least 5 reasons Christians should not celebrate Easter with the Pagan symbols:
  - 1) Easter celebration is thoroughly idolatrous in origin.
  - 2) The word "Easter" is actually the proper name of a pagan god.
  - 3) The popular Easter customs are occult in nature.
  - 4) The rites of Easter are borrowed from paganism.
  - 5) It is an unscriptural addition to the Church and Bible truth.
  
- Britannia says, "*The Puritans, who abhorred the Catholic ritual and the excesses which often accompanied the observance of the Church festival, refused to celebrate Easter.*" 1968 Ed. Vol. 7 pg.859