

The Truth about Easter

PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed.

If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham was.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

Numbers 6:24-26



Introduction

Being brought up in the protestant Church of England the Easter holiday for me was a special event which always brought me chocolate and all sorts of sweet and tasty things to enjoy, sometimes we would get together and play the special Easter games like egg painting and egg hunting where an egg would be hidden and we were given clues as to where to find the hidden egg, it was all good fun which made us children happy and excited. In school we were told that Easter had something to do with Jesus but the focus was mostly on the more secular treats than anything else.

We all used to stuff ourselves with the chocolate and sweets that we had been given and boasting about how many chocolate eggs we had received that year to our friends and we had little time to think about why we were celebrating Easter on the Sunday, we had been told that Jesus had come back to life after he had been crucified on the Friday and he appeared to his disciples on the Sunday and that was about all we were interested in. what we didn't know was the origin of this holiday and what it really meant, all we knew was that it must be ok because all the adults were celebrating the event at varying degrees of involvement and people went to church on Easter Sunday.

For Christians Easter is a time of celebration that marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is a part of a three-day celebration that commences on what Christians call Good Friday, this is when they teach that Jesus was arrested, brought to the religious leaders and accused of blasphemy, eventually Jesus was condemned to death by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who, by Roman law, held the authority to administer capital punishment. Jesus was led to Gol Gotha (the place of the skull) where sentence was carried out. Jesus' body was released to a believing Pharisaic priest named Joseph of Arimathea and his body prepared in the Jewish tradition and placed in Joseph's own tomb and the tomb was sealed.

Here Jesus' body lay for the prophesied three days and three nights and it was early on the Sunday morning that the believing women came to the tomb and found the seal broken and the tomb opened and empty.

This is such a wonderful story; it relates the prophesy of the Mashiach (Messiah or Christ) being resurrected and prophesy being fulfilled. It ignites hope in all people that Almighty God is eager to reconcile all mankind through the willing sacrifice of His own son's precious blood that was spilled for us all that we might, through his righteousness, be washed clean of our transgressions of the law, just like the annual festival of Yom Kippur (day of atonement) where animal blood sacrifices were made in order to sanctify the Israelite nation from their transgressions, restoring the nation back to favour with YeHoVaH. When Jesus gave his body, of his own free will he replaced all these atonement sacrifices once and for all time so that all nations could join in the blessing of Abraham. This is what the Christian term "Easter" should be about.

Even as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death passed to all men, inasmuch as all sinned. Romans 5:12. This "one man" Adam was a perfect human until he disobeyed Almighty God, Jesus was a perfect man, the second Adam who was sinless when he died therefor death had no hold on him and, by his death

he paid the price of mankind's freedom. If this act is not worthy of glorification and celebration, I do not know what is!

So, now we know why we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and compare it to the Easter celebrations of Christendom we can't help but notice some extra baggage that has been attached to this wonderful prophesy, things that we should be asking ourselves are things like where did the word "Easter" originate? Its certainly not mentioned anywhere in the bible, and where do rabbits and eggs fit in with this "Easter" story? In this little book we will look a little deeper into these "traditions" that have found their way into this event that has its source in the Bible.

This little book is not an in depth expose of the full story of Easter, it will however raise some issues that you, as a seeker of truth should study and question for yourselves, it is just a little guide to help you navigate through the story in order to separate Biblical truth from the traditions of men. I strongly encourage you to pray for guidance from the Ruach ha'Kodesh (holy spirit) before you start to study and keep in mind that it is God's word that is the ultimate authority, if we find that what we read in His word does not fit our concept of our belief then it is our belief that is always in error and must be adjusted to fit what Almighty God tells us.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24.

Mark Percival.



The Name of Almighty God Yehovah in Hebrew

The Truth About Easter

If Easter is not mentioned in the Bible where did the name originate?

In order to answer that question, we must go back a long way in history to the land of Mesopotamia to the time of Nimrod (who is later identified as the god Ba'al or Shamash to the Akkadians) and his wife Semiramis. We all know the story of Nimrod and the tower of Babel; the name Nimrod actually means "mighty hunter in opposition to God". He is described as the son of Cush, grandson of Ham, and great-grandson of the righteous Noah; he was described as "a mighty one in the earth" and "a mighty hunter before the Lord". This is repeated in the First Book of Chronicles 1:10, and the "Land of Nimrod" is used as a synonym for Assyria or Mesopotamia, which is mentioned in the Book of Micah 5:6.

The etymology of the English word Easter indicates that it descends from the Old German—likely from root words for dawn, east, and sunrise. English is a western Germanic language named for the Angles who, along with the Saxons (another Germanic tribe), settled Britain in the 5th century. In fact, the Old German for Easter was Oster (Ostern in the modern). English and German speakers have been using variations of the term Easter for over a millennium. However, most of the countries surrounding Britain and the German principalities of Europe have long used variants of the Latin Pascha (from the Greek for Passover, a transliteration of the Hebrew Pesach) as the name of the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Today, in many non-English speaking countries, Easter is still called by a name derived from the term Pascha. A number of other languages use a term that means Resurrection Feast or Great Day. Only English and German speaking countries use the terms Easter or Ostern.

The truth is that the name "Easter" has never been associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the original Scriptures and is actually derived from the word "Ostern." Ostern was Queen Semiramis, the wife of Nimrod, Noah's evil but enterprising great grandson. (Genesis 10:6-8).

The story goes that when Queen Semiramis died, she was taken to the sun god Ba'al which happened to be her husband, Nimrod. Ba'al (Nimrod) told her that it was not her time to die and sent her back to earth in a giant egg that landed in the river Euphrates. It cracked open and out came Semiramis who miraculously changed a bird into an egg laying rabbit.

Semiramis was essentially creating a pagan religion and setting herself up as a goddess on the earth. She claimed that she came down from the moon in a giant egg that fell into the Euphrates River and that her "birth" took place at the time as the first full moon after the spring equinox. Semiramis became known as "Inanna" to the Sumerians' or "Ishtar" to the Akkadians and she became the goddess of heaven.

Ishtar soon became pregnant and claimed that it was the rays of the sun-god Ba'al that caused her to conceive and she bore a son whom she called Tammuz, and it was believed that he was especially fond of rabbits. As a result, the animal became sacred in this ancient pagan religion.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the stele of King Melishipak I (1186–1172 BC). The king introduces his daughter to the goddess Nannaya. (*Louvre Museum. Paris, France*).

The triune gods of Ba'al, Sin and Ishtar can be clearly seen and what is most surprising is that these very symbols still exist in religions of the world today. These symbols of Mesopotamian gods were introduced long before the Mashiach Yeshua came onto the scene and were assimilated into Egyptian, Greek and Roman religions as time passed.

It is not surprising to find that Ishtar became the symbol of the festival that

Christendom calls Easter. Ishtar is an ancient Mesopotamian goddess of love, war, and fertility. She is also associated with beauty, fertility, divine law, and political power.

Corresponding to her prominence in Mesopotamian culture, Ishtar had a profound influence on the religious beliefs of other ancient societies that interacted with the Mesopotamians. In Egypt she was called Nuit, Phoenicia she was called Astarte, Inanna in Sumaria, in Greece she was called Aphrodite and in Rome she was called Venus.

We can see that the worship of Ishtar is designed to celebrate the coming of spring as the early flowers start to appear and leaves start to unfold on deciduous trees and the days getting longer and warmer, all these events signify rebirth and it is easy to understand these early pagan people who had no concept of the real creator of the universe, their worship was based on events that they could see happening but could not explain so they, as the people of modern times do when they can't explain the origin of events, they make things up. Educated people now call these theories such as the "Big Bang" and Evolution by natural selection, passing these off to the populus as facts, and the people swallow their theories as if they were based on facts. We must always remember that, until proven, any scientific "theories" remain theories until they become proven by sound and indisputable facts.



Ishtar



Moon goddess Sin



Sun god (Ba'al)

Easter in Modern Times

Celebrations in the 1st Century.

Putting aside the pagan version of Easter for a moment let us look at the Biblical account of what the real purpose of this feast of remembrance is really about.

Starting with the 12 tribes of Israel (Jacob, not the modern secular state of Israel) Almighty God chose them as a people for His own possession, a chosen nation as He promised to His friend Abraham. Deuteronomy 7:6 *“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”*. 1 Peter 2:9 *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*.

We all know the story of how the house of Israel (Jacob) moved down to Goshen in Egypt and 400 years later were brought out of cruel bondage in Egypt by Almighty God YeHoVaH and led by Moshe for 40 years through the wilderness until they reached the borders of the land promised to Abraham by Almighty God.

Before the last plague struck the Egyptian first born Almighty God instructed Moshe to tell the people of Israel to paint their doorposts and lintels with lambs blood in order that the destroyer “pass over” their houses. It is in this way that the Israelite Passover became one of the three pilgrimage feasts mentioned in the written Torah. Exodus 12:18 *“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even”*. The first month in the Hebrew calendar is Nisan and the Biblical day starts at sundown so, at sundown on 14th Nisan is the Hebrew feast of Passover which is followed directly by the 7-day festival of Unleavened Bread (Matzah). This celebrates the deliverance from Egypt and the haste that it was prepared.

Yeshua and his disciples were celebrating the Passover on the evening of the 14th day of Nisan as instructed in the torah. This is when Yeshua offered the Bracha and broke the bread and gave wine to his disciples and told them to “keep doing this in remembrance of me”.

The timing of this event shows us that, in our calendar this took place on the third day of the week which would be Tuesday evening. After this Yeshua and his disciples went out to the mount of olives as the Bible says, to pray and this is when Yeshua was arrested by the religious leaders and brought to the residence of the High Priest of the temple who was a Sadducee named Caiaphas where he was interrogated by a “kangaroo” court, found guilty of blasphemy in their eyes and taken to the Roman

Luke 22:14-20 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: ¹⁶For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ¹⁹And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

governor Pontius Pilate in order to have the death penalty placed upon his head.

This all happened on, what would be the Wednesday in our modern-day calendar and this is significant for, in accordance with the written torah this is when the Passover Lamb was to be prepared and slaughtered. As it is recorded in the Bible, Yeshua died around the 9th hour which would be 3pm on Wednesday when Yeshua died.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The next day (Thursday for us) is a High Shabbat meaning an extra Shabbat where the Israelite nation treated this day as they would a weekly Shabbat and the Torah states that no dead bodies should be left exposed on a Shabbat hence the urgency to remove Yeshua's body and place it in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea before sunset on the Wednesday in order to comply with Torah

instructions. (John 19:31). This means that Yeshua was in the tomb before sunset on the Wednesday.

When Yeshua was alive, he told the Pharisees, who wanted a sign to prove that he was the Mashiach that no sign would be given but the sign of Jonah. (Matthew 12:38-42). As we know, Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature for 3 days and 3 nights, during this time Jonah was as if he was dead, cut off from all things so it was with Yeshua for he was asleep in death in the belly of the earth 3 days and 3 nights.

In the account of Christendom tells us that Jesus was crucified on the (Good) Friday and was resurrected on Easter Sunday, this poses a numerical problem in this theory, try as we might, no measure of mathematical gymnastics can we fit 3 days and 3 nights between Friday and Sunday. This prophesy can only be proved by the Hebrew method:

Night 1	Yeshua in the tomb at Sunset Wednesday to Sunrise Thursday
Day 1	High Shabbat. Yeshua in the tomb from Sunrise Thursday to Sunset Thursday.
Night 2	Yeshua in the tomb from Sunset Thursday to Sunrise Friday.
Day 2	Yeshua in the tomb Sunrise Friday to Sunset Saturday.
Night 3	Yeshua in the tomb Sunset Saturday to Sunrise Sunday.
Day 3	Yeshua is resurrected in the early hours of the first day of the week.

This is the Bibles record of the death and resurrection of Yeshua ha'Mashiach and not some theological concoction dreamed up by those "*...that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction*". (2Peter 3:16).

All the followers of Yeshua from the time of that meeting in the upper room, when Yeshua and the Disciples observed the Passover together, Yeshua explained to them how it how it related to him concerning the bread and wine, all the true followers of Yeshua have observed what has come to be known as the "Last Supper" or the "Lords Evening Meal". This is fitting because our Master, the greater Moshe will lead his obedient

followers out of the captivity of sin and death to life in the true “Promised Land” the Kingdom of Almighty God.

It is a fact that you would not see any painted eggs, rabbits or any other pagan symbol at the Passover meal until the coming of the great apostasy from the mid-2nd century onwards.

How Pesach (Passover) became Easter.

Just as in many other areas of worship in what we call Christianity after the death of the Apostles the early formative years of “the Way” slowly degenerated into a mishmash of Neoplatonism that was encouraged by the Biblically illiterate so called post Apostolic church fathers. These gentile men took over the governance of the people of the gospel that Yeshua and his disciples introduced. These were certainly the “wolves in sheep’s clothing”. (Matthew 7:15). I have discussed this many times in other publications but the truth is that, between the mid-2nd century until the end of the 4th century the pagan leaven infiltrated the pure worship of the creator of the universe, just as it had done with the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel that resulted in complete divorce for the Northern ten tribe kingdom, leading them into captivity in Assyria and then the nations to this day (diaspora). The Southern kingdom of Judah and Benjamin (including the Levites) fared little better, like their brothers in the Northern kingdom they too started to worship other gods which resulted in their 70-year captivity in Babylon. Who says that history does not repeat itself!

Rather than keeping their eyes on the Master Yeshua, the so-called Christians of the mid-2nd century onwards decided to follow other gods and turned away from the healthy teachings of Yeshua and the disciples which instigated the great apostasy that is still rife today. Yeshua did not come to start a new religion, far from it, he came to bring the lost sheep of Israel back to the Father, Yeshua did not come to destroy the written Torah, he came to strengthen it and give it true power.

The quest for separation.

Although by the middle of the second century of the common era the rot had already started to set in with more and more gentile “converts” to Christianity along with other troubles and controversies that were prevalent in those early days it was not long before this new religion desired to split from the Hebrew roots that had fed it. This split was finally confirmed at the first council of Nicea in 325CE with the Roman emperor Constantine at the head. This could be accurately described as the time when Yeshua was rejected as the true Master and king of Almighty God’s kingdom and thereby rejecting the authority of the Tanakh and its Hebrew origins. They introduced this “replacement theology” and translated both Tanakh and Brit ha’Dashah in accordance with their pagan thoughts and Hellenistic philosophies that were abominations to the God of Abraham. The Brit ha’Dashah (New Testament/Covenant) did not start to appear until around the middle of the second century and the pagan (gentile) converts were taught from the Tanakh, usually in the synagogues of the day where they could hear the Torah read and

learn what was required of them, enabling them to walk in spirit and truth. The coming of the Brit ha'Dashah augmented the Tanakh so completely, this is not surprising for the writers of the Brit ha'Dashah were all former Jews that were fully conversant with the teachings of Elohim since childhood.

Contrary to popular belief, the Brit ha'Dashah compliments the Tanakh as if it existed in a symbiotic form where each part cannot exist without the other, it is a gross mistake to think that the Brit ha'Dashah is a "Christian" book, far from it, both Tanakh and the Brit ha'Dashah rightly exist in the same library together, the only real separation between them is temporal.

As the original Apostles and teachers slowly passed away and the Jewish religious leaders increased opposition to this new way of truth without the traditions of the Jewish sages of the past that had formed their traditions from the man-made oral torah, Mishnah, Gemara and Talmud(s) that Yeshua and his disciples were so vehemently opposed there was an increase in the number of leaders who had a gentile background, these were the ones supposedly taught by the original Apostles but, by their theology most if not all these "post Apostolic church fathers" were more likely to be Neoplatonists than their Torah observant teachers. As time passed it was inevitable that at some stage in time these two belief systems would separate.

The separation lasted over 100 years and is complicated with many factors that are beyond the scope of this publication but one of the most important factors of the split is attributed to the followers of Yeshua refusing to join the Shim'on Bar Kokhba rebellion of the Jews against their antagonists the Roman Empire, this refusal was fuelled by rabbi Akiva assigning the title of Mashiach to Shim'on Bar Kokhba which would obviously anger the followers of Yeshua ha'Mashiach. This is called the Bar Kokhba revolt of 132-135 C.E, the Jews were eventually defeated which led to great reprisals for the Jewish nation.

This split opened the road for these post-Apostolic fathers to add their influence to the translations of the original Hebrew and Greek meanings of the scriptures which meant that the original Hebrew roots of "the Way" gradually lost its Hebrew identity and, by the early 4th century C.E, the new Latin religion of "Christianity" was formed.

The Formation of Christianity.

This newly formed religion that claimed the Latin "Jesus" as its founder made all haste to distance itself from the righteous path it had inherited from the real Mashiach Yeshua and his Disciples and the Hebrew religion that it had drawn its nourishment. In their ignorance and misconception, those Neoplatonist post Apostolic men hijacked "the Way" and turned it into a means of great wealth, power and control, dressing themselves up in their Dagon fish hats and other vestments that displayed their assumed authority over the new "laity" class.

From the time of Yeshua's ministry until the hijacking of the pure teachings of Yeshua and his disciples there were no distinctions between followers of Yeshua, The Apostles were ministers (servants) to all the people that had heard the gospel and made a

conscious and informed choice to follow Yeshua on Almighty God's terms. It is the same for us today, as followers of Yeshua it is of profound importance that, before we consider

The Pope has authority to edit the word of Almighty God

In Catholicism, the highest authority—besides perhaps God Himself—is the so-called Vicar of Christ, the Pope. Catholic belief says that when he speaks *ex cathedra*, that is, with papal authority, the Pope is infallible concerning faith or morals to be followed by the whole church. In this way, he is superior to the Bible, as he can redefine and even replace biblical doctrine through his declarations from Rome. Many popes have used this authority down through the centuries, adding and taking away from Scripture (for example, Sabbath observance, Mary worship, purgatory, holy wars, papal authority itself, etc.).

God unambiguously commands in Deuteronomy 12:32, *"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it"* (see Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19). The Pope should know this and fear to defy it, yet in his pride, he has proven once again that *"the foolishness of God is wiser than men"* (I Corinthians 1:25).

The Pope Edits Jesus

Richard T. Ritenbaugh. Forerunner, "WorldWatch," March 10, 2020

ourselves ready for baptism, that we are fully aware of why and what it means to be baptised as baptism is a solemn oath before the creator of the universe that we submit to Him in complete and unreserved obedience to His Torah. When we achieve this level of understanding we all become "ordained" ministers of the gospel and the great commission now applies to us as we too spread the gospel to others, just as it was in the first half of the first century.

When the new Latin religion of Christendom took over and assimilated themselves into the gospel message a new class emerged which is known to this

day as the "clergy" class. These men took it upon themselves to make a living out of the gospel, this is in direct contrast the original message that was delivered by Yeshua and the Apostles. Remember when the first convert from the gentiles Cornelious met the Apostle Peter, he fell on his knees before Peter, do you remember how Peter responded? Acts 10:25-26 *"And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. ²⁶But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man"*.

The Roman Catholic (universal) church regards itself as the "Mother" church of all churches, and quite rightly so, for out of this Latin church came all the churches, sects and denominations of Christendom without exception. You may like to call yourself "Protestant" in whatever the guise you wish to choose but, the irony is that whatever "Christian" church you belong to, you have your roots in the Latin church of the mid-4th century C.E, so don't think you can escape, there may be some basic doctrinal issues but, in the main you still observe most of the doctrines of the mother church.

The split between the Hebrew origins of the ecclesia (church) and this new wholly gentile religion of Christianity grew wider and wider until it became indistinguishable from many other pagan Roman



Charlamagne being crowned by the pope.

religions such as Mithras and Sun god worship. This is not surprising when you realise that the real founder of Christianity was the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great who remained a gentile until his death.

Celebrating the Festival, the Biblical Way.

It is an inescapable fact that the “Christian Easter” is of pagan origin and is steeped in ancient mythology. Some of the traditions of the Christian easter are truly abominations in the face of Almighty God. As one who desires to worship our creator the way He wants to be worshipped we must consider our actions as to how we conduct ourselves in the sight of Almighty God Y_eH^oV_aH. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: *[He will not allow Himself to be ridiculed, nor treated with contempt nor allow His precepts to be scornfully set aside]* for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7). Like many things that we do we seem to always fail to understand the true meaning of customs that seem to us in our modern times just a bit of fun but have a much more sinister origin.

For example, in Babylon the priests of the temple of Inanna (Semiramis/Ishtar) would sacrifice children on the alter and soak eggs in the blood, this has led to the tradition of painting easter eggs red, are you sure you want to support and participate in such a hideous practice? After all, it’s a symbol of paganism and has no place in the worship of Almighty God or His son.

Let’s Get It Right!

Let us now turn to God’s word the Bible to discover for ourselves what Almighty God יהוה expects us to observe and are given in the book of Leviticus.

Scripture	Feast
23:4, 5	Passover*.
23:6-8	Feast of Unleavened Bread.
23:9-14	First Fruits.
23:15-22	Feast of Weeks*.
23:23-25	Feats of Trumpets.
23:26-32	Day of Atonement.
23:33-43	Feast of Boothes*.

*Pilgrimage Feast.

There is also a weekly feast that we are all commanded to observe and one which is often overlooked but is one of the most important of the appointed times, that is the weekly feast of Shabbat that is celebrated from sunset on the 6th day to sunset on the 7th day. (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset in the Gregorian calendar). Leviticus 23:3 “*Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places*”.

These are the “Appointed Times” that our Master Yeshua, his Disciples and all the children of Israel (*Jacob*) were strictly obedient to. The first commanded festival, is the one that Yeshua and his Disciples were celebrating from sunset on the 14th day of Nisan, then, in the early hours, Yeshua was taken captive in the garden of Gethsemane.

Keeping in mind that Yeshua, his Disciples and most of his followers at the time were Pharisaic Jews by religion but that is only half the story, there are eleven other tribes of Israel to be taken into account, not just those from the tribe of Judah. The appointed Times were given to the children of Israel, the noun “Jewish” is applied to the religion of (rabbinic) Judaism which differs, in a doctrinal sense from the Mosaic method of worship, but that is another story.

This Is the Way of יהוה:

It is a proven historical fact that the Nation of Israel were set free from bondage in Egypt, the account is well documented in Exodus. What is less well known, for one reason or another, is that there were a multitude of people from different nations including Egyptians that had accepted the God of Abraham and had attached themselves spiritually speaking to the house of Israel. They had no doubt seen the unimaginable power and glory of Almighty God יהוה and recognised that He alone is Elohim. Although these people were not born to the natural twelve tribes, by their actions and the way they observed the ways of the Israelite nation, they became as the natural born Israelites as they obeyed the God of Abraham. We must never forget that our Father is the God of ALL nations, not just brothers and sisters of the “Jewish” religion. To be an Israelite means so much more than a label, a true Israelite is one that is an Israelite in the heart and observes the instructions of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Exodus 12:49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

Leviticus 19:34-37 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. ³⁵Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. ³⁶Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

³⁷Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD.

In the Brit ha'Dashah Sha'ul explains this so eloquently in Romans 11:11 to 24 when he talks about grafting believing “strangers” into the commonwealth of the family of Jacob (Israel).

It will probably come as a shock to you, and a matter of contention to others but the fact still remains that, if you accept Yeshua as the Mashiach and are baptised in his name you become, not a Christian but a follower of Yeshua ha'Mashiach and what does it mean to “follow”? It means that you will live your life according to his instructions and strive to emulate him at all times.

If we want to remember the death and resurrection of Yeshua ha'Mashiach we must observe it in a manner in which Almighty God YeHoVaH approves. Our Master Yeshua was observing the Torah of his Father and not some pagan deity, he was observing the feast of Pesach (Passover) at the prescribed time. Don't you think tat we should be doing the same as the our Master?

Conclusion

There is so much more to this story but I hope that this short but concise introduction into the meaning of real Easter worship and how it still influences so many people in the world today. Many of these people are unaware that, by joining themselves with this God dishonouring ritual they are, in effect worshiping the very beings that oppose Almighty God and rebelled against Him. We must realise that, if we support such rebellion in any form, no matter how slight you may consider it to be, you become part of that detestable body and a hypocrite to what you say you believe, you become part of the Satan's plan.

There is only one way to worship Almighty God, the creator of the universe and that is His way and if you don't worship Him in the way He has instructed us we are as unbelievers and gentiles. It is a fact that, if we are not obedient to the instructions of Almighty God (both the 10 moral laws and the 613 mitzvot that individually applicable) we are rebelling against His law. Like the speeding motorist that is pulled over by the police and telling them that "I don't believe in the speed laws", do you think that the motorist would be let off for this explanation? You will always be subject to laws even if you don't believe in them. If you break the law you can expect to be punished and that is called justice. The only time that a follower of Yeshua would purposefully break the secular law would be when that secular law conflicts with Almighty God's law.

If you are a Christian, you have been told that you don't have to keep the laws of Moses as these laws were abolished by being nailed to the cross by the saviour Jesus Christ and we are now under "grace". To this I offer a stern warning! Do not be deceived by this doctrine of Christendom, Jesus (Yeshua) did not abolish the law or the prophets of the TaNaKh (Old Testament) in fact, he made them even stronger like the laws on adultery and murder. Matthew 5:17 *"Think not that I am*

Fulfil. (G4137)

pleroo (play-roh'-o) v.

1. to fully, completely fill
2. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow)
3. (figuratively) to fully supply, satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.

*come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to **fulfil**".* The word "fulfil" in this verse has been so misunderstood for millennia, the meaning in context is formed from the Greek word πλήρω (play-roh'-o) and is the opposite of what we have been told by the religion of Christianity.

Like the example of the speeding motorist mentioned earlier, if we told the officer who pulled us over that we believed that, since a friend had made the same trip and kept to all the driving laws, we don't have to anymore because he had fulfilled the driving laws for us. You can imagine what the reply would be.

Whilst it is true that the early followers of "the Way" began to be identified as "Christians" by those who rejected Yeshua as ha'Mashiach (the noun Christian was used as a derogatory identification) the fact is that none of the Apostles in the Brit ha'Dashah identify themselves as Χριστιανός (Christian) shows us that, in the years from the resurrection of Yeshua until the mid-4th century C.E. there were no followers of Yeshua that called themselves "Christians". As discussed earlier, the teachings of Yeshua were hijacked by Emperor Constantine the Great and the self-appointed gentile Neoplatonist church fathers. For more on the subject of the formation of Christianity I suggest you take

a look at the “The Homilies of John Chrysostom”, a man that can be credited with the doctrine of replacement theology.

Believe it or not, Christianity as we know it bares little resemblance to the original teachings of Yeshua ha’Mashiach. It can be said that the most serious of all atrocities against mankind have been instigated under the commands of the Christian church and in the name of Jesus Christ. There is every reason for non-Christians to hate Christendom. History identifies the fruit that Christendom has produced over the centuries from its beginnings in the mid-4th century. Do not ask a tree what fruit it bears, wait for its season and it will show you.

I am just a man, a sinner like all mankind, I struggle with the same carnal desires as we all do but I, like all of us, have been blessed with a wonderful free gift, that gift is called “free will” which means that I can choose my destiny and we all have just two options, one option leads to life and the other to death, it is up to the individual to make the decision which way he or she will go and it is my desire that all should chose life by being obedient to our loving creator who gave us everything, even His own flesh and blood that we may attain to the promise the He gave to Abraham and a time when there will be no religion, no Jew and no Greek for all will be one in Yeshua ha’Mashiach.

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

No matter how we view it, the pagan ceremony of Easter is an abomination to Almighty God as, like many other pagan ceremonies that have found their way into the false church by synchronism in those early years. True followers of Yeshua keep the commandments and ordnances of the God that gave us life and that means keeping set apart from this world.

My advice to you is to ditch the doctrines and traditions of men and follow Yeshua the true Mashiach and you shall never be found wanting when you are called to account for what you did in this life. Remember, YeHoVaH our Father is loving, compassionate and is quick to forgive but, there is another side to Him and that is His PERFECT Justice, He cannot be bribed! Yeshua will return, no longer as the suffering servant but as Yeshua ben David, the one who will execute his Fathers judgement on all the lawless ones with a flaming sword and a whirlwind at his feet and there will be no refuge for the lawless ones.



Galatians 3:15-29 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. ¹⁶Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. ¹⁷And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. ¹⁸For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. ¹⁹Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. ²¹Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. ²²But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. ²³But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. ²⁴Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

GLOSSARY

YHVH [יהוה]	The personal Name of Almighty God. YeHoVaH.
Yehoshua (Yeshua)	The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Latin: Jesus).
Ruach Ha'Kodesh	Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
Kohen Gadol	High Priest.
Shaúl	Saul (Paul).
Israel	The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
Gentile	Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
Tanakh	The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
B'rit HaDashah	The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
Torah	The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
Oral Torah	The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah and other Jewish religious books.
Gospel	Good News.
Christendom	All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
Apostolic Fathers	The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.
Eisegesis	Reading into scripture something that is out of context with the true meaning in order to fit a particular theory or doctrine.
Exegesis	Reading out of the scripture to arrive at the true meaning
Israelite	A person or persons from the tribe of Jacob (Yaakov, James). The name bares no reference to the state of Israel. Jacob was renamed Israel by Almighty God. (Genesis 32:28).