

# Easter

The Daffodils are in bloom, the Irises are soon to follow, the grass is turning green, and cherry blossoms float on the wind. The world is waking up. Aah . . . spring is in the air. What do we think about when spring comes each year? For many Christians, the central religious holiday of the year comes each spring. There is a celebration of the greatest sacrifice ever made. Many people celebrate this great sacrifice which was made on our behalf. Many people get excited about this holiday because the sacrifice was followed by the foretold resurrection of our savior. This holiday is commonly called Easter. What do we know about this holiday? What we think we know and the truth may be two different things. Sit back and read this informative article, but be forewarned; what is written here may require a change in behavior for all who read it. Most of the world is deaf and blind to the truths revealed here. Once we understand these truths, we are no longer able to claim ignorance. There will be nothing for God to wink at. We are accountable.

*Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

Is the word Easter in our Bible? This depends on which Bible we read. It is clearly in the King James Version of the Bible.

*Act 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*

The word Easter, as used here, comes from the word Pascha which means Passover. This word appears in the bible 29 times and is always translated as Passover except for this one time. Why is it translated as Easter this one time? I believe it was correctly translated as Easter for two reasons:

1. The Bible is the perfect unerring word of God. The words of the Bible confirm this to be true.

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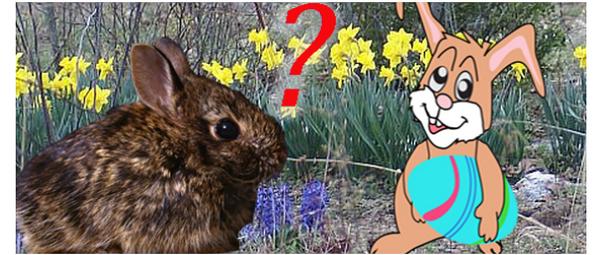
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## Is Easter a Christian Holiday?



**This informational pamphlet examines Easter to determine if it is really a Christian holiday**



*2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*Psa 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

2. The verse in question is indeed referring to the celebration of Easter, not the Passover.

Here is why I believe this. We see in Acts 12:3, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was already underway when King Herod decided to capture Peter.

*Act 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)*

The next verse tells us, after he apprehended Peter, he put him in prison until after Easter.

*Act 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*

The problem is the chronology of these verses does not make sense if the word "Easter" is translated as "Passover". The Passover comes the day before the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

*Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover. Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.*

We saw above, King Herod did not even decide to try to catch Peter until the Feast of Unleavened Bread was underway. This means the Passover had already passed before he decided to apprehend Peter. Then Herod apprehended Peter, and then he kept Peter in prison to wait for the Easter celebration to be over. The verses only make sense chronologically if the holiday Herod was waiting to pass came after the Feast of Unleavened Bread not before the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The celebration of Easter does not occur on the same day as the Passover, as many Christians believe. The Passover is always on the fourteenth

day of the first month using the Biblical calendar. The Passover can fall on any day of the week. The celebration of Easter, on the other hand, always falls on a Sunday. The current dating method for Easter is much more complicated than the dating of the Passover, and much effort has been exerted to ensure Easter does not fall on the same day as the Passover.

Naturally, King Herod would be concerned with Easter rather than the Passover. After all, King Herod was a pagan not a Jew.

Does this mean we should celebrate Easter because we find the word written in our Bible? We also find the word groves and Molech in our Bible. This does not mean we should run out and build alters to Molech. In fact, we are warned to stay away from pagan practices.

Where else can we look for support of celebrating Easter? There is no other mention of it in any Christian Bible. Jesus did not instruct us to remember him in this way. Christ Jesus gave very clear instructions on how to remember him.

*Luk 22:19 And 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. Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*

This is only one of the verses which give us instruction in how to remember Christ Jesus. The instructions left for us are the same in each verse though. None of them mention what many Christians think of as Easter.

Where do we get the idea of Easter being a Christian holiday?

To get the answer, we need to travel back to the years 672 - 735 A.D. This is when Saint Bede lived. He was a monk at the Northumbrian monastery of Saint Peter at Monkwearmouth. In 725 A.D., Bede wrote The Reckoning of Time which was the first comprehensive treatise on calculating time and calendar construction. It is considered the model

and reference for all subsequent teaching, discussion, and criticism of the Christian calendar. Chapter 15 of this work gives us the answer to our question about how Easter became known as a Christian holiday. Chapter 15 shows several important facts.

1. April is derived from the month Eosturmonath.
2. Eosturmonath was named in honor of the pagan god called Eostre.
3. The pagans honored Eostre with feasts during this month.
4. The Passover season is now referred to by her name (Eostre) by Christians. Note: We now spell the name as Easter. However, the pronunciation and meaning remain the same.
5. The new rite, Easter, is called by the time-honored name of the old pagan observance. This tells us, at the very least, the name Easter is derived from a pagan origin. We can learn more about what customs were associated with Eostre from volumes 1 and 2 of Teutonic Mythology written by Jacob Grimm. In these works, Grimm confirms a connection between Easter and Eostre. He also shows the pagan origins for many Easter traditions such as sunrise services, Easter eggs, and hot cross buns. What about the Easter Bunny? Hares are well established as a sign of fertility due to their prolific reproduction capabilities. Some say the lights of the pagan goddess Eostre were carried by hares. Eostre was the supposed god of the radiant dawn or uprising light. Who determines which days are Holy days? Is it God or is it man? God gave us Holy days to keep. Easter is not one of them.

There is much more on this subject at the website [Godmadeus.com](http://Godmadeus.com).