

## WHAT ABOUT HOT CROSS BUNS?

Notice Jeremiah 7:18: "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke me to anger." The cakes offered to the queen of heaven were these same hot cross buns that millions of children sing about today.<sup>12</sup> What seems so innocent is not innocent at all. Who is the "queen of heaven"?

## Ashtaroth—The Queen of Heaven

Astarte (Easter)-worship was always associated with the worship of Baal or sun worship. Astarte was Baal's wife. Notice that another name for Astarte was Ashtaroth. The following quote makes this point clear: "What does the term 'Easter' mean? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven...Now, the Assyrian goddess, or Astarte, is identified with Semiramis by Athenagoras,<sup>13</sup> and by Lucian...<sup>14</sup> Now, no name could more exactly picture forth the character of Semiramis, as queen of Babylon, than the name of 'Asht-tart,' for that just means 'The woman that made towers'...Ashturit, then...is obviously the same as the Hebrew 'Ashtoreth'.<sup>15</sup> Notice this conclusive quote;<sup>16</sup> "Ishtar was the Great Mother, the goddess of fertility and the queen of heaven." So, in actuality, Ashtaroth (Ishtar) was Nimrod's harlotrous, mother/wife widow, Semiramis, as many other ancient historians attest! Easter is now established as none other than the Ashtaroth of the Bible! We can now examine the scriptures that show how God views the worship of this pagan goddess—by any name!

## SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE EASTER?

Old Testament history shows us the result of Israel's sin against God by keeping Easter. Look at Judges 2:11-13 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim: And they forsook the God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, ... and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. And the anger of the Lord was **HOT** against Israel." In vs. 20-23 we see God's response to those people. In Judges 10:6-8 we see the same stubborn pattern repeated by the people and God responding in the same way. In 1 Sam. 7:3-4. We see worship of Baal and Ashtaroth again mentioned and later, in 1 Samuel 12:10-11, Samuel publicly re-counted Israel's history to them. He reminded them that they continually returned to obeying God, only to fall backwards into idolatry again and again!

The Bible states that King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. Yet, he made a mistake that God considered so great that, after his death, He punished Solomon by removing the kingdom from his son. His mistake? He married a woman who led him into the worship of Easter (Ashtaroth). Notice 1 Kings 11:4-6: "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods...For Solomon went after Ashtaroth the goddess of the Zidonians... And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went

not fully after the Lord, as did David his father." Verses 11-12 The kingdom was taken from his son because of his apostasy. The most wicked King/Queen couple in Israel's history were Ahab and Jezebel for they corrupted the people of God with the keeping of all the pagan holidays turning their hearts away from the Living God of heaven. 1 Kings 16:31-33 Elijah was grieved in his heart to see the nation keeping Easter and worshiping Baal/Ashteroth instead of Jehovah. So he stood up and did something about it, and God helped him. God's true people in these last days will "cry aloud and spare not...and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" Isaiah 58:1. See Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Matt. 15: 6,9; Acts 17:30 Rev. 14:4-10 Notice in verse 4 that the people of God are not DEFILED with "women" or corrupt churches Rev 17.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

So what about you- my dear Friend? Will you turn from this ancient heathen practice and serve the God of heaven? I can hear someone say, well, I am not a heathen; I focus on the Passover and Jesus' resurrection during this time. But a close study of the Word of God will show you that to keep the Passover this side of the cross is to say that Jesus was not the Messiah; that you look for another. Just as Stephen gave his life for not keeping the feasts and traditions of the Jewish church of his day, so all true Christians will suffer because of these pagan holidays.

1 Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how Long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him!" Joshua 24:15 "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve!" I pray that your choice will be the God of heaven, even though it will require a cross. Remember, Elijah stood alone in the church of his day, but God rewarded his wonderful courage and faithfulness and took him home without tasting of death.

- <sup>1</sup> Origin of the Easter Bunny, Francis Weiser p. 235
- <sup>2</sup> Origin of the Easter Bunny, Francis Weiser p. 236
- <sup>3</sup> John Bradner, Symbols of Church Seasons and Days, p. 52
- <sup>4</sup> Mircea Eliade, The Encyclopedia of Religion, p. 558
- <sup>5</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, 1991 ed., Vol. 4, p. 333
- <sup>6</sup> Francis X. Weiser, Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs, p. 233
- <sup>7</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, 1991 ed., Vol. 4, p. 333
- <sup>8</sup> Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought, James Bonwick, pp. 211-212
- <sup>9</sup> John M. Robertson, Christianity and Mythology, p. 395
- <sup>10</sup> A. Nock, Early Gentile Christianity and its Hellenistic Background, pp. 105-107
- <sup>11</sup> The Golden Bough, Vol. I, pp. 306-309
- <sup>12</sup> Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons, p. 107
- <sup>13</sup> Legatio, vol. ii. p. 179
- <sup>14</sup> De Dea Syria, vol iii. p. 382
- <sup>15</sup> Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons, pp. 103, 307-308
- <sup>16</sup> Microsoft Encarta Multimedia Encyclopedia

**NOTE:** For more information on the Passover and the Jewish Feasts please request by writing or emailing.

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Freely ye have received, freely give.  
Mat 10:8



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## SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



# Easter

**Where did Easter come from?** Does it have anything to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? Does the following sound familiar?—Spring is in the air! Flowers and bunnies decorate the home. Father helps the children paint beautiful designs on eggs dyed in various colors. These eggs, which will later be hidden and searched for, are placed into lovely, seasonal baskets. The wonderful aroma of the hot cross buns mother is baking in the oven waft through the house. Forty days of abstaining from special foods will finally end the next day. The whole family picks out their Sunday best to wear to the next morning's sunrise worship service to celebrate their savior's resurrection and the renewal of life. Everyone looks forward to a succulent ham with all the trimmings. It will be a thrilling day. After all, it is one of the most important religious holidays of the year.

A Christian family celebrating Easter, right? No! This is a description of an ancient Babylonian family—2,000 years before Christ—honoring the resurrection of their god, **Tammuz**, who was brought back from the underworld by his mother/wife, **Ishtar** (after whom the festival was named). As **Ishtar was actually pronounced "Easter"** in most Semitic dialects, it could be said that the event portrayed here is, in a sense, Easter. Of course, the occasion could easily have been a Phrygian family honoring Attis and Cybele, or perhaps a Phoenician family worshipping Adonis and Astarte. **Also fitting the description well would be a heretic Israelite family honoring the Canaanite Baal and Ashtoreth.** Or this depiction could just as easily represent any number of other immoral, pagan fertility celebrations of death and resurrection—including the modern Easter celebration as it has come to us through the Anglo-Saxon fertility rites of the goddess Eostre or Ostara. These are all the same festivals, separated only by time and culture, and Christianized by Rome.

## WHAT ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY?

Here are two quotes from Francis Weiser about the origin of the "Easter bunny": "In Germany and Austria little nests containing eggs, pastry and candy are placed in hidden spots, and the children believe that the Easter bunny, so popular in this country, too, had laid the eggs and brought the candy"<sup>1</sup> and "The Easter bunny had its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore... The Easter bunny has never had religious

symbolism bestowed on its festive usage... However, the bunny has acquired a cherished role in the celebration of Easter as the legendary producer of Easter eggs for children in many countries".<sup>2</sup> Here is further proof of the origin of Easter rabbits. It demonstrates how no one has ever been able to connect the Easter bunny to anything Christian, let alone to the Bible: "The Easter bunny is not a true Christian symbol",<sup>3</sup> and "Although adopted in a number of Christian cultures, the Easter bunny has never received any specific Christian interpretation".<sup>4</sup> Consider this quote: "The hare, the symbol of fertility in ancient Egypt, a symbol that was kept later in Europe...Its place has been taken by the Easter rabbit".<sup>5</sup> Even in modern times, rabbits have remained common symbols of fertility. While their rapid rate of reproduction is well known, another problem arises with rabbits—they do not lay eggs! While both are clearly fertility symbols, there is no logical way to connect them. In a world filled with pagan tradition, truth and logic can be lost. **Merging these symbols with Christianity makes an already idolatrous practice worse.** There is nothing Christian about any of these symbols. The true history of these fertility symbols, rabbits and eggs, is completely unknown to all the unsuspecting children who have been led by adults to think them so special. The entire concept that these are Christian is a lie foisted on innocent children who will believe whatever their parents and teachers tell them.

### WHAT ABOUT EGGS AND EGG HUNTS?

Eggs have always been associated with the Easter celebration. Nearly every culture in the modern world has a long tradition of coloring eggs in beautiful and different ways. Notice the following: "The origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races...The egg to them was a symbol of spring...In Christian times the egg had bestowed upon it a religious interpretation, becoming a symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of His resurrection".<sup>6</sup> This is a direct example of exactly how pagan symbols and customs are "Christianized," i.e., Christian-sounding names are superimposed over pagan customs. This is done to deceive—as well as make people feel better about why they are following a custom that is not sanctioned in the Bible.

Notice: "Around the Christian observance of Easter...folk customs have collected, many of which have been handed down from the ancient ceremonial...symbolism of European and Middle Eastern **pagan spring festivals**... for example, eggs... have been very prominent as symbols of new life and resurrection".<sup>7</sup> Finally, the following,<sup>8</sup> "Eggs were hung up in the Egyptian temples. Bunsen calls attention to the mundane egg, the emblem of generative life, proceeding from the mouth of the great god of Egypt. The mystic egg of Babylon, hatching the Venus Ishtar, fell from heaven to the Euphrates. Dyed eggs were sacred Easter offerings in Egypt, as they are still in China and Europe. Easter, or spring, was the season of birth, terrestrial and celestial." Highly creative human reasoning has never been able to successfully connect the next Easter symbol to anything Christian! It is pagan through and through! I know these are shocking facts, but they are true nonetheless.

### A Counterfeit Savior?

One of the central themes of the New Testament is that Jesus Christ came to die for mankind's sins and offer redemption to a world cut off from God. The master counterfeiter (Satan the devil, called the "god of this world" in II Cor. 4:4) seeks to counterfeit **EVERY** aspect of God's plan. He "deceives the whole world" Rev. 12:9. As the arch-deceiver, he would not be content to counterfeit all other aspects of Christianity but not the identity and worship of the true Saviour! Who is the real "savior" central to the "Easter Sunday" tradition? Is it the Jesus Christ of the Bible? If you say "yes," are you sure? History answers this question plainly, with this: First notice that "...the conception of a Saviour-God was quite normal in the ancient pagan world...a conception of salvation underlies the notion of such gods as Osiris, Attis, and Adonis..."<sup>9</sup> And then this: "It has often been urged that this belief in the Resurrection of Jesus is due to ideas of divine resurrection current in the contemporary world...stories of Attis, Adonis, and Osiris...In the pagan stories the rising again is a joyous reversal of defeat; in the Christian story it is the complement of victorious death. It may be said that Attis and Osiris saved by rising again, Jesus by dying...the Easter observance did not arise at once out of belief in the Resurrection, but developed later by gradual stages out of the Jewish Pasch. The notion implied in the Easter greeting Christ is risen is a secondary development; the idea comes from this festival and from its occurrence in spring; ... The idea of Christ's resurrection was injected into the old practice of Easter observance and not the other way around".<sup>10</sup> And, finally, the powerful theme of this oft-repeated counterfeit is made most clear by the famous historian, James George Frazer: "Now the death and resurrection of Attis were officially celebrated at Rome on the 24th and 25th of March, the latter being regarded as the spring equinox, and...according to an ancient and widespread tradition Christ suffered on the 25th of March...the tradition which placed the death of Christ on the 25th of March...is all the more remarkable because astronomical considerations prove that it can have had **no historical foundation**... Nativity of Christ himself was assigned to the winter solstice in December because that day was deemed the Nativity of the Sun; we can hardly be thought to be rash or unreasonable in conjecturing that the other cardinal festival of the Christian church—the solemnization of Easter—may have been in like manner, and from like motives of edification, adapted to a similar celebration of the Phrygian god Attis at the vernal equinox...**It is a remarkable coincidence**... that the Christian and the heathen festivals of the divine death and resurrection should have been solemnized at the same season... **It is difficult to regard the coincidence as purely accidental**".<sup>11</sup> We can summarize the above source. The Roman Catholic Church had a practice of incorporating pagan festivals—of pasting "Christian" names over them and calling them "Christian." This was done to make "Christianity" more palatable and familiar to heathen worshippers, whom the Church was trying to attract. How did such a state of affairs develop? It can now be better understood why the apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians to beware of the subtle deceit of "**another Jesus** whom we have not preached." He said, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty,

so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive **another spirit**, which you have not received, or **another gospel**, which you have not accepted..." II Cor. 11:3-4. People today can think that they are worshipping the true Savior when they are really **worshipping a false savior**—another Jesus! The entirety of traditional Christianity is actually **worshipping Baal, the mediator and sun god, who was named after his "wife" Ishtar** (who was actually his mother Semiramis)—**who we will later see is the one the Bible calls the "Queen of Heaven."**

### WHAT ABOUT SUNRISE SERVICES?

Sunrise services are mentioned in the Bible. But what God says about this custom is not what you expect. Notice these astonishing verses. The prophet Ezekiel was being shown, in vision, an important prophecy concerning the sins of God's people in our time. The entire context of these verses needs to be examined carefully to understand the heightening condemnation toward which God builds in His conclusion: "...Turn you yet again, and you shall see greater abominations that they do...and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz... And He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces **toward the east**; and they worshipped the **sun toward the east**. Then He said unto me, Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing...that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they...have returned to provoke Me to anger... Therefore will I also deal in fury: Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them." Ezek. 8:13-18.

**Observing sunrise services is serious to God!** He so hates this vile practice that **He will ultimately destroy all** who persist in it Ezek. 9! It is no "light thing" to God that many millions do this every Easter! It may seem "beautiful," "religious," and "deeply moving" to those participating in it, but God has forbidden His true people to devise their own religious customs and ideas. **He is not interested in what people may personally feel or think is right.** He is interested in those who care about what **He thinks!** As far as God is concerned, ancient sun worship, dressed up in Easter finery and bonnets, is just modern packaging of a very old, very idolatrous pagan custom. Consider God's own words in Deuteronomy 12:28-32 NKJ: "Observe and obey all these words which I command you...When...you...dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them...and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods...Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it." God tells Christians to never mix what is godly with what is pagan—or the true with the false! Do not let men tell you that what God says makes no difference. It does!