

RUSSELL SANDERS

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EASTER?? REALLY??

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel (God with us). It is by His death and resurrection that we may obtain life eternal through faith. Hallelujah! We call it Resurrection Day. The world calls it Easter. Most Christians call it Easter, a pagan name.

Pagan? Yes. The early Christians (30 A.D. to 300 A.D.) did not celebrate it like we do today. So how did the tradition start? Where did its name come from?

Roman Emperor Constantine I called a church council in 325 A.D. to codify church doctrine and traditions. Since pagans had numerous religious holidays, he wanted to establish holidays for Christians also. It was from this council that Christmas and Easter emerged. Since the church was ardently anti-Semitic, they did not want to follow the Jewish feasts, so as to distance themselves from anything that might appear somewhat Jewish.

They chose Jesus' resurrection to be a holiday. They specifically ignored the Bible in the timeline, which would tie it to the Jewish Passover, being three days after Passover. They decided to celebrate it on the first Sunday following the first full moon that comes after the Spring equinox. That was unbiblical.

Then they chose a name after a pagan sex goddess Ishtar, which comes out "Easter" in English. (Ish-tar → Eesh-tar)( Eas-ter → Ees-ter) Ishtar is the oldest recorded pagan deity dating back to over 5500 years ago in Mesopotamia, and still carried great respect into Roman times. Even pagans would not object to a Christian holiday with a name like that. She was a goddess of "love" and war. Since her concept of "love" begets new life, they tied this pagan rite of "new life" to the resurrection.

The egg (Easter egg) also represented new life and became a symbol for "Easter." Jesus' resurrection from the dead has nothing to do with an egg. The egg was a pagan symbol representing the beginning of life and was tied to the "love goddess" Ishtar (Easter).

The "Easter Bunny" origin is said to have come from a pagan festival of Eostre or Ostara, a Germanic goddess of fertility. This pagan tradition was introduced into America by German immigrants in the 1,600's. Rabbits are prolific reproducers, so it "seemed" appropriate for Easter to have them represent "new life."

Easter: a pagan goddess name, an egg, a rabbit, all with meanings that have absolutely nothing to do with Jesus' resurrection. How gullible we are to have never been taught truth, and to "buy into" such non- Christian traditions. Let us celebrate Resurrection Day three full days and nights after Passover, which is how the Bible spells it out. Church traditions and social customs are man-made. The Bible is God-made, so let us follow God instead of man.

Praise God that Jesus rose from the grave to give us life that only He can give.