

The Easter Heresy



Ishtar, the goddess of sexuality and fertility. The term “Easter” is derived from her name.

by Steve Barwick

Are you aware that *not one* of the 12 apostles celebrated Easter?

Or, that Jesus Himself *never* celebrated Easter?

Or, that God *never* mandated the celebration of Easter anywhere in the Bible?

The Acts 12:4 Mistranslation

Indeed, the only place the word “Easter” is mentioned in the Bible is in Acts 12:4. And there, it’s a complete mistranslation.

In reality, the word “Easter,” nor any variation of it, can be found *anywhere* in the original Greek manuscripts the New Testament was translated from.

Do you know which phrase *does* appear in that verse, in place of “Easter,” in the original Greek manuscripts from which the New Testament was translated?

It’s the word *Pascha* (i.e., Strong’s G-3957), which simply means “the Passover.”

G3957

πάσχα

pascha

pas'-kha

Of Chaldee origin (compare [H6453]); **the Passover** (the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it): - Easter, Passover.

Total KJV occurrences: 29

Yes, that's what you'll find when you go to the original Greek manuscripts. Or, simply look up "Easter" in your *Strong's Concordance*, and you'll see the above definition.

Interestingly, the Greek word *pascha* is used some 29 times in the New Testament. But in 28 of those 29 times, it's translated *properly* as the Passover. There's only *one* verse where it's mistranslated Easter.

Yet Christians will point to that *single verse* as their unshakeable proof that celebrating Easter is Biblical, and willfully *ignore* the other 28 instances where the word Pascha was translated correctly as "the Passover."

Unfortunately, in Acts 12:4, most Bibles today still carry the mistranslation "Easter," instead of the correct translation, "the Passover."

And largely because of this singular mistranslation, each year the vast majority of Christian families end up unwittingly celebrating a pagan spring holiday having to do with fertility and sexual orgies (i.e., Easter), rather celebrating the actual holy day God Almighty *mandated*, which, of course, is the Passover.

As my wife is fond of reminding some of our church friends, "Christ became our Passover Lamb...*not* our Easter Bunny."

Syncretism

There's a word I want to introduce you to: syncretism.

Syncretism is defined as “*the amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought.*”

In other words, it’s the act of *blending together* various religions, cultures or schools of thought.

You might have heard of one attempt at syncretism in the recent past: “[Chrislam](#).” That’s the blending of Christianity with Islam, which even TV preachers like Rich Warren have been accused of promoting.

And what is the goal of those who practice syncretism?

Their *claimed* goal is to ultimately bring all the people and religions of the world together as *one*, under God, in total harmony.

And just how do they intend to do this?

They claim to seek out all of the “commonalities” between religions, and then use those commonalities to promote an all-inclusive *union of religions*, under God.

Yes, that’s the claim. But, in reality, the goal of syncretism is simple:

It’s to water down Christianity, reducing its potency and spread.

You see, in order to “seek out commonalities” between religions, you must first throw out the parts that are *not* common to each religion, before stitching the commonalities together into a patchwork quilt, so to speak.

And it’s usually *those* parts – the parts you’d need to throw out – that make the religion.

In other words, “seek out commonalities” is a buzz phrase that actually means “*eliminate all parts of your religion that are not common to all of the other religions.*”

Well, in Christianity, that would mean *eliminating Christ as the one and only path to salvation.*

After all, none of the other religions of this world believe He’s the Son of God,

Messiah, Who came to save God's children by shedding His completely innocent blood on that cross at Golgotha.

And what would Christianity be, without Christ?

Well, *nothing*. Just another social club.

And *that*, my friend, is the grand goal of syncretism. Turning the Christian religion into a great big social club, and gradually neutralizing the worship of Jesus Christ in the process.

Council of Nicaea

Now, syncretism has been around for a l-o-o-o-o-o-ng time. People have been blending religions and philosophies and even political agendas together, forever.

But I propose that one of the very first attempts at syncretism, in regards to the Christian religion, was when the Romans under Constantine – eager to have “big tent” religion for the masses – abolished the Passover at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 (under the premise of *uniting* the different factions of Christianity).

You see, at that time Christians were divided into two camps. Each camp was celebrating the Passover on different dates. And both felt they had Biblical basis for doing so.

But the members of the Council of Nicaea felt that in instituting *Easter* as the singular holiday celebrating Christ's death and resurrection, they could eliminate the argument, and unite the two opposing camps – syncretism.

But think about it: Both camps had to give up celebrating Christ's death and resurrection on the Passover which God mandated, and accept the man-made change from Passover to Easter, which God *never* mandated.

You see, under syncretism, God's mandate to celebrate the Passover would need to be *abolished*, in order to water down – i.e., dilute and make less potent – the fledgling Christian religion.

After all, Christ became our Passover Lamb on the Passover day. And anything that points toward Christ must be eliminated *if all religions are to become equally valid based on their “commonalities.”*

Within short time, the pagan holiday of Ishtar (nowadays Anglicized to “Easter,” meaning “hidden”), was grafted in where Passover had once been. But why did the Roman church leaders do such a thing?

That’s easy. Bigger crowds. More money.

By grafting the name of one of the most popular pagan religions of that era into Christianity, the multitudes of common folk who celebrated that pagan religion began to gravitate toward Christianity. And the church crowds grew.

So, it turns out that one of the very *first* things that happened in early Christianity was a *syncretism* between the fledgling Christian community and the pagan religion of Ishtar.

At that time, the springtime sexual fertility rites of Ishtar – who is referred to as the Queen of the Heavens, in the Bible – were made *symbolic*, so they would be palatable to Christians.

This is where the so-called Easter bunny, the colored eggs and the basket, as well as the cupcakes that are often baked on Easter, come in. They’re the sexual and religious symbols of Ishtar, this goddess of sexuality and fertility.

You see, under Ishtar, pagans would, once each year in the springtime, send their virgins out into the fields to hide in the tall grass. And then, the men of the village would go out looking for them. And they were allowed to have sex with any woman they discovered hiding in the tall grass.

In other words, they traded eggs, so to speak. Yes, it was a completely pagan springtime sexual fertility ritual, out in the tall grass. Just as parents unwittingly allow their little kiddies to do, *today*, symbolically, on Easter.

In pagan religions like Ishtar:

- the bunnies are symbolic of sex (i.e., “quick like a bunny”)
- the eggs are symbolic of the new life produced by that sex (resulting in new converts to the church)
- the basket which the eggs are collected into is symbolic of the pagan religion itself, gathering in new converts

- and just as the Bread of Life symbolizes Christ and His doctrine plus communion with Christ, the Easter cupcakes are symbolic of the pagan doctrines of Ishtar, as well as having communion with her

Yet today, just about every Christian gets enthusiastically involved in these symbols at Easter time, not knowing they've been duped into participating in a pagan sexual ritual. And, worse yet, they're training up their *little children* in this ritual, which of course, is an abomination to God.

Think about this: Christians are quite rightly aghast when it's suggested that drag queens in colorful and sexually suggestive female regalia should be able to give "story time" readings to children in local public gatherings such as libraries.

Yet they have no problem *at all* allowing their children to celebrate a "holy day" named after a goddess of sexuality and fertility – replete with symbols (i.e., bunny rabbit, eggs, basket, cupcakes) of pagan sexuality, fertility and communion with a false god.

A Quick Story

More than three decades ago, when I first began studying the Bible in earnest, I began to realize that Easter was quite pagan, and had nothing to do with the Bible, or with Jesus Christ.

At that time, I worked at a large military base on the West Coast, writing publicity about the base for the troops and their families. I also wrote a monthly newsletter that was distributed to every family on the base.

At one point, my boss told me I'd have to write an entire issue of that newsletter about Easter, and list all of the Easter celebrations that were going to be held on the military base that month.

I politely refused. And I explained that promoting Easter would be a serious violation of my religious conscience and beliefs. I asked if they could get someone else to write that one issue.

My boss then rather sternly explained to me that my refusal would be considered a serious violation of my duties, and I would no longer have a job on that base if I continued to refuse to work on the Easter newsletter.

So, once again, I politely refused.

And (drum roll, please)...I was promptly *fired*.

Back then, I was poor as a church mouse. The job at the military base only paid a paltry weekly sum. So, I had no idea how I was going to pay my rent, eat, buy gasoline for my car, or do anything that required money.

I turned to Father, and asked for His help.

And within a matter of days, He began pouring out blessings on me. First, some of the advertising clients I'd had many years earlier began calling me out of the blue, and hiring me to write advertising for their companies on a freelance basis.

Then, I met Kathy, who has now been my wife for 29 years. We quickly fell in love, and were married.

Then, God gave me a business idea, which Kathy and I worked on for several months, before launching. And almost immediately, it was a huge success, ultimately allowing us to buy a home of our own, on two-and-a-half acres, and to pay it off *completely* within eight months.

That business, plus two more businesses that we built afterward, have sustained us for the past nearly 30 years.

And finally, the Good Lord put me to work for Him, writing Bible studies, and helping other students understand the Bible properly. It's now 29 years later, and I still work for the Lord. And I still run those three businesses. And I *still* reap from those original blessings.

Point being, God didn't grant me those blessings until I first *proved* myself loyal to Him. He *tested* my faith to make sure it was sustainable.

I can remember the thoughts flowing through my mind back then, when I realized I was probably going to be fired for refusing to write that Easter newsletter:

“If I don't write this Easter newsletter, how am I going to get the money to eat? How am I going to pay the rent...the phone bills...the electric bill...the gas bill...the water bill?”

Then came the temptation. My inner voice, saying “*Steve, don’t worry. God won’t get too angry if you have to just hold your nose and write the darned Easter newsletter.*”

But then I remembered what God said to Jeremiah, about the fate of the disobedient Judahites who were openly worshipping the “Queen of Heaven” (i.e., Ishtar) by baking and distributing cakes, which were symbolic of taking communion with her:

Jer 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jer 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 unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.**

Jer 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to **the confusion of their own faces?**

Jer 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.**

You see, God lets us know, above, exactly how He feels about Ishtar, this “queen of heaven,” and the people who worship her. He’s not impressed.

In fact, according to the verses above, at Christ’s Second Advent our heavenly Father plans on pouring out His fury on the worshipers of Ishtar and other false gods, as well as on all of their lands and possessions. It’s called the wrath of God.

And in thinking about those verses, I realized that the Easter controversy is no paltry matter with the Lord. Writing that newsletter promoting Easter was not something God was going to wink at. Father takes it *very* seriously when His children begin to promote pagan deities.

So, I stood my ground, and put my trust and faith in the Lord. And He’s blessed me immensely, ever since.

Folks, it’s true that you can’t out-give God. If you do right by Him, and He’ll *always* do right by you.

But never forget:

He hates false worship. He hates idolatry. And, truth be told, He hates *syncretism*, and it's diluting effects on Christianity.

And He's going to destroy it *all*, at Christ's Second Coming.

Why? Because with syncretism, Christians gradually become estranged from their heavenly Father, and His Son. After all, He sees them adding abominations such as Easter (Ishtar) to their worship practices, and He simply *quits blessing them, or listening to their prayers.*

And that's largely because of their eager willingness to disobey His Word and celebrate "Easter" instead of celebrating **the Passover** our heavenly Father mandated. And why do Christians so blithely disobey Him on this matter? Because Easter is so "fun."

I submit that this is *exactly* why the powers-that-be made the change from the Passover to Easter, back in the early days of Christianity.

They knew it would have to be "fun," in order to make the change stick. And they were right. Today, when I talk to Christian families about Easter, all they can think of is how deprived of "fun" their children will be, if they suddenly have to celebrate the Passover holy day God's way.

Still Not Convinced?

Look, I understand if you're still not convinced about Easter. It's a tough one. And that's because Easter has become so deeply ingrained within the Christian religion, that it seems "normal."

Fortunately, it's not my job to convince you. It's *only* my job to tell you the truth, and to document it thoroughly from God's Word, and then let you do what you want with it.

So, below you'll find three additional Bible studies about Easter that you might want to consider taking a good, hard look at.

The Biblical documentation is in them. So read them. Learn why the Bible says it's

Passover – not Easter – on which we’re supposed to celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection.

If you’re an Easter-celebrator, and you become convinced that including the goddess Ishtar in your celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection is wrong, then try doing it Father’s way. **Instead of celebrating Easter each year, try celebrating the Christian Passover, as the Scriptures ordain.**

See if Father won’t pour you out a blessing, for the same reason He poured one out on me when He saw my willingness to serve Him in truth and in spirit, even though it would cost me my job at the time, and put me in serious risk of losing what little I had back then.

These three short studies have the documentation you need in order to decide how *you* stand on this matter.

Indeed, if you read them all, you’ll discover that *one of them* even explains the simple calculation you can do on a calendar each year, that allows you to determine exactly when the Christian Passover is going to take place, so you can celebrate Passover as instructed by God, rather than angering Him by celebrating syncretic Easter.

Here are the studies:

- [Easter or Passover: Which Should Christians Celebrate?](#)
- [Easter: The Day Hundreds of Millions of Christians Thumb Their Collective Noses at God and His Word](#)
- [Christians Who Don’t Keep Easter \(More Than You Might Think\)](#)

Remember, we don’t get to decide how to worship God. At least, not if we want His blessings.

Only God decides *how* and *when* and even *why* we worship Him. That’s why His Holy days are clearly spelled out in the Bible.

And sorry, folks, but Easter just isn’t there.

– End –

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