

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 1

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

Holy Week, Annual Easter Traditions, Easter In The King James Bible, Passover In Old And New Testaments, Pascha Or Easter?, Origin Of The Word "Easter", Eostre - Goddess Of The Saxons, Angles Jutes & Saxons Of Germany, Conquest Of Great Britain, A Modern Roman American Empire, Freemasonry, Months Of The Year And Days Of The Week Named After Roman And Anglo-Saxon Gods And Goddesses, Corruption Of Our Faith By Early Roman Catholic Church, Planets Names After Greek And Roman Gods, Astronomy Replete With Paganism, Influences Of Ancient Rome Still Live On, Our God Is The God Of Gods

Around the world each year, many Christians observe a celebration which has become popularly known as "Holy Week". This much-anticipated occasion begins with "Palm Sunday", which commemorates Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem, and culminates seven days later with the joyous "Easter Sunday" mass, which celebrates our Lord's glorious Resurrection from the dead. In many households, Christian and non-Christian alike, this final day of celebration often includes the presentation of woven Easter baskets filled with chocolate rabbits, small toys and other assorted sweet goodies, to eager young children. The day's events may also include the traditional Easter egg hunt, during which time these same children scurry about looking for colorfully-painted chicken eggs, which have been hidden by their parents or by other family members and friends.

Year after year, parents and children perform these same rituals on "Easter Sunday", without giving the matter very much thought. Some Christian parents may even assume that these practices are based upon ancient Christian traditions; but I must ask you: Have you personally ever taken the time to investigate the actual origin of the Easter celebration, and some of the activities which have become associated with it? If you were to do this, and if you are a Christian, you would no doubt be very surprised, if not shocked, by what you would discover. Being as I am an inquisitive, analytical type of person, I have already done a lot of the work for you; and by way of this series, I would now like to share the results of my research with you. It will then be up to you to decide how you wish to proceed in coming years, each time that the Easter season arrives.

Let us begin by first examining the name of the celebration itself. Contrary to what you might expect, the actual word "Easter" is found only one time in the entire Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible; and that is in the following verses that are found in the twelfth chapter of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, where evil King Herod has just raised his hand against the Christians by killing the Apostle James, and then proceeds to throw Peter into prison as well, in order to win favor with his Jewish subjects:

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his

hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 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."
Acts 12:1-4, KJV

In verse four above, the word "Easter" is substituted for the Greek word "pascha", which itself can be traced back to a word which is of Aramaic origin, as can be verified by the following explanation provided by Thayer's Greek English Lexicon. Please notice that I used the word "substituted", as opposed to the phrase "derived from", which is what I would normally use, if this were a literal translation or transliteration, which it most certainly isn't:

----- Begin Quote -----

3957 pascha {pas'-khah}

of Aramaic origin cf 06453; TDNT - 5:896, 797; n n

AV - Passover 28, Easter 1; 29

1) the paschal sacrifice (which was accustomed to be offered for the people's deliverance of old from Egypt)

2) the paschal lamb, i.e. the lamb the Israelites were accustomed to slay and eat on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan (the first month of their year) in memory of the day on which their fathers, preparing to depart from Egypt, were bidden by God to slay and eat a lamb, and to sprinkle their door posts with its blood, that the destroying angel, seeing the blood, might pass over their dwellings; Christ crucified is likened to the slain paschal lamb

3) the paschal supper

4) the paschal feast, the feast of the Passover, extending from the 14th to the 20th day of the month Nisan

----- End Quote -----

Upon examining the Old Testament, we discover that the word "Passover" is derived from the two Hebrew words "pecach", pronounced peh'-sakh, and "pacach", pronounced paw-sakh'. Following are the actual definitions of these two words, as found in the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon:

----- Begin Quotes -----

06453 pecach {peh'-sakh}

from 06452; TWOT - 1786a; n m

AV - passover 46, passover offerings 3; 49

1) passover

1a) sacrifice of passover

1b) animal victim of the passover

1c) festival of the passover

.

06452 pacach {paw-sakh'}

a primitive root; TWOT - 1786,1787; v

AV - pass over 4, halt 1, become lame 1, leap 1; 7

- 1) to pass over, spring over
 - 1a) (Qal) to pass over
 - 1b) (Piel) to skip, pass over
- 2) to limp
 - 2a) (Qal) to limp
 - 2b) (Niphal) to be lame
- 2c) (Piel) to limp

----- End Quotes -----

As you can see, a better English translation in Acts 12:4 would have been "Passover"; which, as the lexicons clearly explain, is the meal which was eaten on the night of the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month Nisan, in commemoration of the liberation of the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. This, of course, occurred following the terrible night of the final plague upon Egypt, during which all of the firstborn of the land, both human and beast, were slain by the Destroyer. We find the Lord giving instructions to Moses and Aaron regarding the Passover feast, in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Exodus, as we see here:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. Seven days shall ye eat unleavened

bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. 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. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread."

Exodus 12:1-20, KJV

In the very next verses which follow the previous ones, we find Moses and Aaron dutifully carrying out the Lord's instructions regarding the Passover observance. Consider the following:

"Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you."

Exodus 12:21-23, KJV

The Passover feast, as well as the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, which immediately followed it, was later codified in the Levitical Law, as we see by these verses:

"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover. 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."

Leviticus 23:5-6, KJV

Based upon the previous verses, it should be clear to you then, that when Luke -- the assumed writer of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles -- wrote about the execution of James, and Peter's imprisonment by King Herod, he wanted to make sure that Theophilus -- who was the intended recipient of his report -- understood that these events occurred during the period which included the Passover feast, as well as the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. To emphasize this point, please notice that in verse three, it is also written in parentheses, "(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)". From reading Luke's writings -- the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts -- I am given the impression that he was a very meticulous, careful writer, who was concerned about details. Given the fact that he was a physician by occupation, we shouldn't be surprised that giving attention to details was one of Luke's traits.

As I mentioned earlier, out of the twenty-nine times that this Greek word "pascha" is used in the New Testament, this single occurrence in the Book of Acts is the only time that it is translated as "Easter"; or to say it more accurately, substituted with the word "Easter". The twenty-six times that "pascha" is found in the four Gospels, it is correctly translated as "Passover"; and the two times that it is found in Paul's Epistles, it is likewise correctly translated as "Passover". In the Old Testament, we also see that the two Hebrew words are always correctly translated as "Passover", and not once as "Easter". Furthermore, you must remember that the Church was founded by Jews -- or Israelites if you prefer -- who observed holy days which had Hebrew names; and they most certainly did not ever celebrate a feast called "Easter". In addition to this, if you have a sharp eye, you will have undoubtedly already noticed that the word "Easter" is nowhere to be found in the definitions provided by the Hebrew and Greek lexicons either.

So we must ask ourselves: If "Easter" was not celebrated by our First Century spiritual forefathers, and if it's nowhere to be found in the Hebrew and Greek lexicons, where in the world did this strange word come from; how did it creep into this verse found in the Book of Acts; and how did it become associated with our Lord's Resurrection? If the word did not originate with the original writers of the New Testament, in my mind, that can only mean one thing: Somewhere between the First Century, and the early Seventeenth Century when the Authorized King James Version of the Bible was first printed, someone must have inserted the word. If we consider the fact that "Easter" is an English word, that narrows down our search for the truth considerably.

As the next step in my investigation, I looked in Easton's Bible Dictionary in order to determine if there were any entries for Acts 12:4, and there was. Upon reading the following explanation, you will quickly understand why the First Century Disciples would have never referred to the day of the Lord's Resurrection as "Easter". This entry states:

----- Begin Quote -----

Originally a Saxon word (Eostre), denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honour of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover. Hence the name came to be given to the festival of the Resurrection of Christ, which occurred at the time of the Passover. In the early English versions this word was frequently used as the translation of the Greek pascha (the Passover). When the Authorized Version (1611) was formed, the word "passover" was used in all passages in which this word pascha occurred, except in Ac 12:4. In the Revised Version the proper word, "passover," is always used.

----- End Quote -----

As you can see, Eostre, or Easter, as it is spelled in the KJV, was a pagan goddess of the Saxons. Exactly who were the Saxons? Upon submitting this question to the Google search engine, I was provided with quite a few results, such as the following:

----- Begin Quotes -----

The word Saxon is used as a generic term for people from Germany. In fact, the Saxons are made up of three peoples from different parts of Germany. Saxons are people from

northwest Germany, or Old Saxony as it is sometimes known. Angles are people from the Germany/Denmark border. Jutes are believed to originate from areas of Jutland and the Frisian coast. The Saxons settled in the south and west of England. The Jutes in Kent populated the area that now encompasses Sussex and Hampshire including London. The Angles predominantly occupied the midlands and the north.

.

Following the departure of the Romans in A.D. 410, and after the sacking of Rome, Britain was left unprotected. The distant dominion's frantic call to Rome went unheard. Mutiny spread through the ranks of the British defenders remaining who were now descendants of Roman stock. Britain, in desperation, declared independence from Rome and defended itself the best way it could. Despite this sudden change in fortune for Britain, the Roman lifestyle continued, if on a downward path for the next fifty years. The departure of the Romans did not go un-noticed by the Picts, Scots, and especially the Saxons, who saw Britain as a prosperous and plunderable asset.

----- End Quotes -----

If you would like more information regarding the bloody invasion and conquest of post-Roman Great Britain by the barbaric Germanic Angles, Jutes and Saxons, you can visit such websites as the following. Please note that I cannot guarantee that they will still be in operation at the time that you choose to visit them:

battle066.com
regia.org
campus.northpark.edu
anglo-saxon.demon.co.uk

To reiterate this key point, the name which has been given to one of the holiest days in the Christian faith, that is, "Easter", is derived from the name of an Anglo-Saxon -- or Germanic -- pagan goddess to whom sacrifices were made. This popular name, which has been on the lips of many Christians, has absolutely nothing to do with Biblical Christianity, and is therefore a very inappropriate name for the celebrated day of our Lord's Resurrection.

While in this series I have thus far emphasized this one Anglo-Saxon goddess, in order to show you how perverted this Christian holy day has become, you should also be made aware of the indisputable fact that Western culture has been inescapably entwined in paganism from the Old Continent, for a very long time. Let me also add that if you are under the impression that the Roman Empire is long gone and dead, you are sorely mistaken.

As an example, consider the structure of the government of the United States of America. Just as the first Roman Senate was comprised of precisely one hundred members -- although it was expanded later -- the U.S. Senate is also maintained at the very same number. Might this possibly be one reason regarding why there is so much resistance to adding a 51st state to the Union? Is it also merely a coincidence that just as the eagle -- which is a violent bird of prey which tears apart its victims -- was boldly displayed on Roman standards -- that is, flags -- the bald eagle is also the national bird of the United States of America? If you think

that the intrusion of paganism into American government ends here, may I suggest that you also undertake a study of the rites of Freemasonry, and the design of Washington, D.C., its many statues and monuments, etc. Paganism, and according to some sources, outright satanic worship, is rampant there. Please also see my series "Gargoyles: Satan Loves Church Buildings!" for more details concerning the subject of Freemasonry.

Sadly, the infiltration of pagan beliefs and practices into so-called American Christian society does not end here. Even the names of the twelve months glorify ancient Roman gods, goddesses and some of their rulers. If you doubt my words, please carefully consider the following information:

Januarius	- month of Janus	- Roman god of gateways and doors
Februarius	- Februus	- Etruscan, (pre-Roman), god of the underworld and purification which was later adopted by the Romans.
Martius	- month of Mars	- Roman god of war.
Aprilis	- month of Venus	- Roman goddess of love and beauty equivalent to Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love. Aphro for short.
Maius	- month of Maia	- Also known as Maiesta. Roman goddess of honor and reverence. One of the seven daughters of Atlas, (the Pleiades), by whom Zeus had a son; Hermes. Also said to have been married to Vulcan.
Junius	- month of Juno	- Principle Roman goddess, wife and sister of Jupiter, patroness of marriage.
Julius	- month of Julius Caesar	
Augustus	- month of Augustus Caesar	
September	- septem	- Seventh month
October	- octo	- Eighth month
Novembris	- novem	- Ninth month
December	- decem	- Tenth month

Likewise, the days of the week are a clear reflection, as well as a continuation, of the adoration and glorification of ancient pagan gods and goddesses. Just as "Easter" was named after an Anglo-Saxon goddess, these very same people adopted the gods and goddesses of the Romans, and gave them names of their own. In an article which was published in the April 1999 edition of "History Today" magazine, researcher Robert Garland wrote the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

The days themselves were named after the seven regularly

moving celestial bodies that were visible to the ancients viz. the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn. These also happened to be the names of Roman gods, and in Britain they were replaced by the names of Anglo-Saxon gods. Thus Dies Martis, or Mars' day, became Tiw's day, Dies Mercurii, or Mercury's day, became Woden's day, and so forth. France on the other hand retained the original Roman names (mardi, mercredi, etc.)

----- End Of Quote -----

So as you will see by the table below, the names of the days of the week have absolutely nothing to do with our Christian heritage; they are pagan through and through:

Sunday	- Sunne	- Day of the sun
Monday	- Mona	- Moon's day
Tuesday	- Tiu	- Anglo-Saxon god of war - Roman Mars
Wednesday	- Woden/Odin	- Chief Germanic / Norse god - Roman Mercury
Thursday	- Thor	- Norse god of thunder - Roman Jupiter
Friday	- Freya	- Norse goddess of love/beauty - Roman Venus
Saturday	- Saturn	- Roman god of agriculture

As I explain in other articles -- such as the aforementioned "Gargoyles: Satan Loves Church Buildings!" series -- this insidious corruption of our Christian faith is due in large part to the machinations of the Fourth Century founders of institutionalized Christianity, or organized and legalized religion, if you prefer. I am referring to the founders of the Roman Catholic Church, who gained control of the Holy Scriptures several hundred years after the establishment of our Church by Jesus Christ and His original followers. During the formative years of the Roman Catholic Church, its leaders seriously compromised Christian doctrines and beliefs, in order to remain friends with the pagan world, and thus spread their sphere of power and influence throughout the Roman Empire; and they have continued this practice to this very day. The "one true faith" -- as Roman Catholics like to call their religion -- is rife with pagan ideas and beliefs. Again, please see the aforementioned series for some clear examples of this.

As you will probably have noticed from the previous table, some of the scientific disciplines -- the field of astronomy in particular -- have been greatly influenced by ancient mythology. In fact, astronomy is so replete with the names of pagan gods and goddesses, that it would take me pages and pages to list them all here. But, just to give you a small example of the degree of influence that these pagan ideas have had on this particular field, please consider the following planetary chart which shows both Roman and Greek names:

Mercury	- Roman god of commerce, travel, thievery	Greek Hermes
Venus	- Roman goddess of love and beauty	Greek Aphrodite
Mars	- Roman god of war	Greek Ares
Jupiter	- Supreme Roman god	Greek Zeus

Saturn - Roman god of agriculture Greek Cronus
Uranus - Greek supreme god of the sky, followed by Cronus and Zeus
Neptune - Roman god of the sea Greek Poseidon
Pluto - Roman god of the dead and underworld Greek Hades

As you will realize, some of the names of the moons which revolve around these planets, as well as the names of many constellations, stars, star clusters, asteroids, etc., also derive their names from this very same pagan background. In fact, as you will already know, the names which are assigned to some of man's exploratory space vehicles and missions are likewise derived from the nomenclature of these same false gods and goddesses. Need I mention Mercury, Apollo, etc.? So while many people may erroneously assume that the ancient Roman Empire is long gone and buried, it seems that the truth of the matter is that it is still here in a very subtle and very powerful way, even if we don't consciously realize it. None of these things glorify the one true God of Heaven and Earth. What a far cry from the praises of King David of old who once wrote:

". . . The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
Psalms 19:1b, KJV

Through his naming scheme, sinful man has stolen the glory, honour and credit which belongs to God alone, and has given it to a pantheon of false pagan gods and goddesses. What a shame! The Bible has much to say about this topic. Please consider the following verses:

"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"
Exodus 20:2-5, KJV

"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:"
Deuteronomy 10:17, KJV

"O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever."
Psalms 136:2, KJV

"[A Psalm of Asaph.] God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods."
Psalms 82:1, KJV

"Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works."
Psalms 86:8, KJV

"For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods."
Psalms 95:3, KJV

"For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens."

Psalms 96:4-5, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
http://www.endtimeprophecy.net

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 2

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

More Scriptures Concerning Our God Being The God Of Gods, Forced To Pay Tribute To Pagan Deities In Our Modern World, Easter, Ester, Eastre, Eostre, Estrus, Oestrus, Oistros, Ostara, Eos, Easter A Sex Goddess, Easter Bunny And Colored Eggs Legend Exposed, Work Of John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, Desiderius Erasmus, Johann Gutenberg's Printing Press, Bishop Tunstal And Roman Catholic Persecution, Tyndale Burned At The Stake, Tyndale's Usage Of Ester And Easterlamb, Tyndale New Testament And King James New Testament Side-By-Side, Theories Concerning Why William Tyndale Chose To Use "Easter" Over The Correct "Passover", Other Pre-KJV Versions Of English Bible

Following are some additional verses that are found in the Old Testament which again reveal that, truly, our Christian God is the God of gods:

"Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods . . . For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods."

Psalms 97:7, 9, KJV

"For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods."

Psalms 135:5, KJV

"O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 136:2, KJV

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret."

Daniel 2:47, KJV

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Isaiah 45:22, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,"
Isaiah 46:9, KJV

So as you can see, whether we are talking about the names of the months, or the days of the week, or the names of the planets, moons and other celestial phenomena, even though we are Christians, we are forced to indirectly pay tribute to these false gods and goddesses of the past, every time we mention one of their names. It is inescapable. How could we even communicate, or make schedules and appointments without referring to the antichristian names of these deities? In a word, we can't. Thus, whether we like it or not, at least for the time being, we Christians are trapped in a pagan world with no way out. Truly, we live in worldwide spiritual Babylon; and as we continue our discussion, you will come to understand exactly how true this really is.

Returning to our main topic, I next consulted my American Heritage Desk Dictionary, in order to see what it had to say regarding the word "Easter". I was informed that "Easter" is derived from the Middle English word "ester", which in turn is derived from the Old English "eastre". From my previous research regarding ancient gods and goddesses, I strongly suspected that with some additional work, I would eventually find a sexual link to this pagan goddess of the Saxons. It was at this point that I recalled a word which I had come across before: "estrus". Derived from the Latin "oestrus" -- one meaning of which is "frenzy" -- and the Greek "oistros", the American Heritage Desk Dictionary states that "estrus" refers to "a regularly recurrent period of ovulation and sexual excitement in female mammals other than humans". In American English, we commonly refer to this as an animal being "in heat".

The next step of my investigation took me online, where I consulted the Encyclopedia Mythica. Upon putting the word "Eastre" into the search engine, it provided me with the following results which clarify the issue for us even further:

----- Begin Quote -----

Ostara

In ancient Anglo-Saxon myth, Ostara is the personification of the rising sun. In that capacity, she is associated with the spring, and is considered to be a fertility goddess. She is the friend of all children; and to amuse them, she changed her pet bird into a rabbit. This rabbit brought forth brightly colored eggs, which the goddess gave to the children as gifts. From her name and rites the festival of Easter is derived. Ostara is identical to the Greek Eos and the Roman Aurora.

----- End Quote -----

In a side column, the search engine results also informed me that alternative names for this pagan goddess are Eostre and Eastre. It is plain to see then, that just as I suspected all along, this false pagan goddess of the Anglo-Saxons is associated with sex and fertility. Ostara is a sex goddess, plain and simple. A sex goddess has been associated with the day of the Resurrection of our Lord. How does that make you feel as a Christian? Does it make you want to continue using such a word? With the above definition, we have also now

discovered the origin of the so-called "Easter Bunny", as well as the origin of the practice of presenting colorful eggs to young children. Let us take a moment now to review all of the words that we have covered. Even if you are not a master of ancient languages, it is still rather easy to see how these words are all related to each other:

Easter
Eastre
Eos
Eostre
Ester
Estrus
Oestrus
Oistros
Ostara

At this point, I could probably conclude this series; and based upon the evidence that I have now presented, some of you would be convinced that I have indeed told you the truth about "Easter", which I have. But, if I were to stop here, I would only be giving you part of the story. That is because, while the Saxons worshipped this false sex goddess "Ostara", also known as "Easter", they were by no means the first ones to do so. Allow me to draw your attention to part of the definition provided by the Encyclopedia Mythica. It stated that Ostara, or Easter, is the personification of the rising sun. This is a very important point which creates a direct link to the ancient past. You will also notice that she is the equivalent of the Roman goddess Aurora.

If there is one thing that I have learned about these false deities during the course of my studies, it is that they seem to have a tendency to pop up throughout human history. In different cultures, they may appear under different names and titles, but they are all the same deceptive demons which have been deceiving humankind for a very long time. In other words, this demonic deception can be traced back thousands of years, as you will see very shortly.

As we saw in part one, according to the explanation that is provided by Easton's Bible Dictionary, the word "Easter" was frequently used as a substitution for the Greek word "pascha" in some early versions of the Bible, before it was correctly replaced with the more accurate word, "Passover". As we also saw just a moment ago, the American Heritage Desk Dictionary informs us that the word "Easter" is derived from the Middle English word "ester". With these facts in hand, I continued my research. At this point, we are going to discuss some of the history of the English Bible, as it will help us to confirm what is stated in Easton's Bible Dictionary.

As I point out in my series "History Of The Authorized King James Bible", the AKJV was not the very first English Bible. There were in fact a number of versions which were published before it. Being as I go into considerable detail regarding this topic in the aforementioned series, I will not discuss it at length here. The first of these earlier versions of the Bible was the hand-written Wycliffe Bible. This Bible resulted from the work of noted Fourteenth Century Oxford theologian and philosopher, John Wycliffe, and his team of companions who became known as the Lollards. While I would have liked to have seen how John Wycliffe translated the Greek word "pascha" in Acts 12:4, lamentably, that isn't possible, due to the rarity of the remaining manuscripts. In fact, it is so rare, that other than an image of the first

page from the Gospel of John, I was unable to find anything on the Internet during the course of conducting my research.

Following the publication of the Wycliffe Bible, another one hundred and fifty years passed before God's Word once again became available in English, on a large scale, to the people of Great Britain. This was a result of the work of Sixteenth Century Reformer and Martyr, William Tyndale. Like Wycliffe before him, William Tyndale was a Catholic who abandoned his religion upon realizing the depth of its corruption. Tyndale was an extremely gifted man. Not only was he fluent in eight languages, but he was likewise a key driving force behind the development of our modern English language. Similar to Wycliffe, William Tyndale's lifelong desire was to see the Scriptures made available in simple English to the common man; in this particular case, the Greek New Testament.

As a result of the work of Dutch scholar and theologian Desiderius Erasmus -- also known as Erasmus of Rotterdam -- who in 1516 published the very first non-Latin Vulgate text of the Holy Bible -- later known as the "Textus Receptus", or "Received Text" -- as well as the invention of the first printing press with moveable type by German inventor, Johann Gutenberg, during the mid-fifteenth century, William Tyndale was able to fulfill his dream. However, Tyndale's dream was realized at a tremendous price; that being persecution, exile and eventually, martyrdom. In spite of serious threats from Roman Catholic inquisitors and bounty hunters alike, working along side of noted fellow Reformer, Martin Luther, in the German towns of Cologne and Worms, William Tyndale succeeded in printing the first English New Testament during 1525-26. Please note that whereas the translation work which had been performed by John Wycliffe and his colleagues, the Lollards, was handwritten, Tyndale's work was the first printed version of the New Testament.

Given the hatred and arrogance of the Roman Catholic Church leaders, it should not surprise us that the Bishop of London, Bishop Tunstal, sought to confiscate and burn all of the New Testaments which were arriving from Germany; however, despite the bishop's best efforts, the wonderful flow of God's Word into England could not be fully stopped. Naturally, Bishop Tunstal was infuriated by this. He argued that the Tyndale New Testament was full of thousands of errors, as he and his cohorts burned hundreds of them which had been confiscated by the Roman Catholic clergy.

The campaign of hatred which was launched against Tyndale was quite effective. Only two complete copies of the first printing of his New Testament are known to have survived the wrath of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. As a result of the constant persecution which William Tyndale suffered at the hands of the Roman inquisitors, he was unable to finish his translation of the Old Testament. Sadly, after eleven years of being hunted by his enemies, Tyndale was finally caught; betrayed by an Englishman whom he had befriended. Tyndale was forced to endure five hundred days of incarceration, before he was publicly strangled, and burned at the stake, in 1536. According to historical records, his last words were to the effect of "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England".

Now, in spite of the mighty work that Tyndale did for the Lord -- and it was indeed mighty -- and the many lost souls which were undoubtedly reached as a result of his years of personal labor and sacrifice, nevertheless, I feel compelled

to take issue with his translation of the New Testament; or to be more precise, I question his translation of the Greek word "pascha". While I am not in possession of a copy of John Wycliffe's work, I do have in my possession what is claimed to be a true, unaltered copy of Tyndale's New Testament; and in it, Acts 12:4 -- the verse where we find "Easter" in the AKJV -- is translated as follows:

"And when he had caught him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four *quaternions of soldiers to be kept, intending after ester to bring him forth to the people."
Acts 12:4, Tyndale New Testament

As you can plainly see, there is that pagan goddess "ester", or "Easter" if you prefer. Was the usage of this word simply an honest mistake on Tyndale's part? Was it perhaps just a one-time slip during a moment of brief distraction? Sadly, it appears that it wasn't. In fact, I suspect -- but cannot prove -- that using "ester" may have possibly been a result of the Anglo-Saxon influence in Tyndale's life. Please don't forget that Tyndale translated the Bible into English in the German towns of Cologne and Worms, and that Germany was the home of the Angles and the Saxons, who worshipped the sex goddess "Easter", as we saw earlier. In short, Tyndale was basically in the stronghold of that pagan goddess when he translated the New Testament, as well as part of the Old Testament. While I don't know his ancestry, perhaps Tyndale was even of Anglo-Saxon descent, as are many English and American people even today. This would easily explain how the words "ester" and "easter" could become a normal part of the Old English language, and even survive, along with the pagan traditions that are associated with them, to our current day.

As I mentioned in part one, the Greek word "pascha" is used twenty-nine times in the New Testament. Only one time is it translated as "Easter" in the AKJV; all of the other times, it is translated as "Passover". On the other hand, to my dismay, and in agreement with Easton's Bible Dictionary, I discovered that Tyndale used "ester", as well as "easter", almost every time, and not just in the verse above. If we accept Tyndale's translation as being accurate, then the Jews did not observe the Passover; they observed "Easter", or "Ester"; a word which would have been totally foreign to them. Similarly, in William Tyndale's New Testament, Jesus is no longer our Passover Lamb; He is our "esterlamb", or our "easterlamb".

Following are all of the New Testament verses where Tyndale translates "pascha" in this manner. Please note that in his translation, there are no verse numbers, but only chapter headings. As I point out in "History of The Authorized King James Bible", verse numbers were not introduced until the Geneva Bible, which appeared twenty-four years after William Tyndale's death. At any rate, I have added verse references for the sake of easy comparison with the AKJV. You will also notice that some verses are followed by a commentary which has a leading asterisk next to it. It is my impression that these comments may have possibly been added by the editor of the document which I have in my possession, for the simple purpose of clarification, although I could be mistaken:

"Ye know that after two days shall be easter, and the son of man shall be delivered to be crucified."
Matthew 26:2, Tyndale New Testament

"The first day of sweet bread the disciples came to Jesus saying unto him: where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the *paschal lamb? And he said: Go into the city, unto such a man, and say to him, the master saith, my time is at hand, I will keep mine easter at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them, and made ready the easterlamb."
Matthew 26:17-19, Tyndale New Testament

* paschal lamb: the lamb sacrificed at the first passover.

"After two days followed *ester, and the days of sweet bread. And the high Priests and the Scribes sought means how they might take him by craft and put him to death. But they said: not in the feast day, least any business arise among the people."
Mark 14:1-2, Tyndale New Testament

* ester: exact spelling; may be Easter

"And the first day of sweet bread, when men offer the *paschal lamb, his disciples said unto him: where wilt thou that we go and prepare, that thou mayest eat the ester lamb? And he sent forth two of his disciples, and said unto them: Go ye into the city, and there shall a man meet you bearing a pitcher of water, follow him. And whither soever he goeth in, say ye to the good man of the house, the master asketh where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the *ester lamb with my disciples? And he will show you a great parlour, paved and prepared: there make ready for us. And his disciples went forth and came to the city and found as he had said unto them: and made ready the ester lamb."
Mark 12:12-16, Tyndale New Testament

* paschal lamb: lamb of the first passover in Egypt.
* ester is the exact spelling of Easter?

"And his father and mother went to Herusalem (Jerusalem) every year at the feast of *ester."
Luke 2:41, Tyndale New Testament

"The feast of sweet bread drew nigh which is called *ester . . . Then came the day of sweet bread, when of necessity the esterlamb must be offered. And he sent Peter and John saying: Go and prepare us the esterlamb, that we may eat . . . and say unto the good man of the house. The master sayeth unto thee: where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat mine esterlamb with my disciples? . . . And they went and found as he had said unto them: and made ready the esterlamb . . . And he said unto them: I have inwardly desired to eat this esterlamb with you before that I suffer."
Luke 22:1, 7-8, 11, 13, 15, Tyndale New Testament

"And the Jewes *ester was even at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem . . . When he was at Jerusalem at ester in the feast, many believed on his name, when they saw his miracles which he did."
John 2:13, 23 Tyndale New Testament

"And *ester, a feast of the Jewes, was nigh."
John 6:4, Tyndale New Testament

* ester: exact spelling, feast of sweet bread

"And the Jewes *ester was nigh at hand and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the *ester, to purify

themselves."

John 11:55, Tyndale New Testament

"Then Jesus six days before *ester, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, which was dead and whom Jesus raised from death."

John 12:1, Tyndale New Testament

"Before the feast of ester when Jesus knew that his hour was come, that he should depart out of this world unto the father: When he loved his which were in the world, unto the end he loved them."

John 13:1, Tyndale New Testament

"Then led they Jesus from Caiphaz into the hall of judgement. It was in the morning, and they themselves went not into the judgement hall lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the paschal lamb . . . Ye have a custom, that I should deliver you one loose at *ester. Will ye that I loose unto you the king of the Jewes?"

John 18:28, 29, Tyndale New Testament

"It was the Saboth even which falleth in the *ester feast, and about the sixth hour. And he said unto the Jewes: behold your king."

John 19:14, Tyndale New Testament

"Purge therefore the old leaven, that ye may be new dough, as ye are sweet bread. For Christ our *ester lamb is offered up for us. Therefore let us keep holy day, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of maliciousness and wickedness: but with the sweet bread of pureness and truth."

1 Corinthians 5:7-8, Tyndale New Testament

* ester lamb: exactly as it appears; this is the Hebrew feast of sweet bread, and this lamb was offered at the first passover in Egypt.

"Through faith he ordained the *ester lamb, and the effusion of blood, lest he that destroyed the first born, should touch them."

Hebrews 11:28, Tyndale New Testament

* ester lamb: this is the lamb offered at the first passover.

Here now are all of the very same verses as they are found in the Authorized King James Version of the Bible, or AKJV. As I have been saying all along, the word "Easter" was only used one time; and I suspect -- but cannot prove -- that this one occurrence may have possibly been a result of the translators accidentally missing it, and simply forgetting to remove it, as they did in all of the other places in the New Testament:

"Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified."

Matthew 26:2, KJV

"Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover."

Matthew 26:17-19, KJV

"After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death."

Mark 14:1, KJV

"And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover? . . . And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? . . . And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover."

Mark 14:12, 14, 16, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover."

Luke 22:1, KJV

"Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat . . . And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? . . . And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover . . . And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:"

Luke 22:1, 7-8, 11, 13, 15, KJV

"And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem . . . Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did."

John 2:13, 23, KJV

"And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh."

John 6:4, KJV

"And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves."

John 11:55, KJV

"Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead."

John 12:1, KJV

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."

John 13:1, KJV

"Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover."

John 18:28, KJV

"But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"

John 18:39, KJV

"And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!"
John 19:14, KJV

"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."
Acts 12:4, KJV

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"
1 Corinthians 5:7, KJV

"Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them."
Hebrews 11:28, KJV

It just doesn't make sense to me, that William Tyndale, who was a man who obviously loved the Lord; who was completely dedicated to winning souls to Christ; who was even martyred for the sake of the Gospel; and who was obviously familiar with the pagan origin of the words "ester" and "Easter"; would purposely choose to use the name of this false goddess in the previous verses; yet that seems to be precisely what he did. So the question which arises in my mind is this: Why did Tyndale do this? Is it, as I theorized earlier, a result of his possible Anglo-Saxon heritage?

We know from his life story, that Tyndale's earnest desire was to reach the common English people with the Gospel. Is it possible that he felt that they could better relate to the word "Easter", as opposed to the word "Passover"? Is it possible that he may even have had anti-Jewish sentiments, such as Martin Luther clearly had, and thus chose to use the pagan, and more familiar, "Easter", over "Passover"? It is no secret that for many years, the Catholics have had a deep animosity towards the Jews, and Luther and Tyndale were both former Catholics. While we can all speculate regarding what truly motivated William Tyndale's decision to use these words, I personally must admit that I honestly do not know the answer to this question with any degree of certainty. However, I do feel that exchanging the word "Easter" for "Passover" is a serious alteration which merits being questioned by all sincere seekers of Scriptural truth.

The only other possibility which comes to my mind -- which I confess has less merit and plausibility -- is that perhaps Tyndale really did use the correct word, "Passover" in all of the previous verses, but then someone else, either by mistake, or possibly even intentionally, exchanged it for "ester" and "Easter", in order to promote the pagan worship of the false Saxon goddess, Ostara, or "Easter". Can I prove any of this? Of course not. I am forced to admit that it is merely speculation on my part. As I already said, I honestly do not know the answer to this mystery; but regardless, this seemingly small change has affected us Christians for the past four hundred plus years, by seriously altering how the presumed day of Christ's Resurrection is celebrated amongst Western Christians.

As I mentioned earlier, there were several publications of the Holy Scriptures in the English language prior to the appearance of the 1611 Authorized King James Version. In

addition to the Wycliffe Bible and Tyndale's New Testament, there was also the Coverdale Bible, Matthew's Bible, Great Bible, Geneva Bible and Bishop's Bible. Again, I discuss these versions more at length in the series "History Of The Authorized King James Bible".

While I have not been able to examine any of these other early versions of our English Bible, other than the 1599 Geneva Bible Notes, if we take into consideration the fact that they were all a continuation of the work which had been initiated by John Wycliffe, and then by William Tyndale, and also the fact that these later versions contain up to ninety per cent of Tyndale's original work, then even without seeing them, I propose that, given the note that's found in Easton's Bible Dictionary, it is relatively safe to assume that they likewise may have possibly used "ester" and "Easter", instead of the correct word "Passover". Yet it is equally interesting to note that, while my search has not been exhaustive, I have not come across any version of the Bible which was published after the AKJV, where the word "Easter" is used in Acts 12:4; so apparently the mistake was caught, and the correction was made.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 3

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

Ostara Easter Aurora Venus Eos & Aphrodite All Equal Ishtar, More On Ashtoreth Astarte And Ishtar, Ancient Sun Gods Baal And Tammuz, Pagan Worship Of Backslidden Israelites, Groves In The Old Testament, Ishtar Asherah And Yahweh, Cut Down The Groves, Wooden Phalluses And Lewd Sexual Acts, Michal Struck Barren By God, Pregnancy Viewed As A Sign Of Divine Blessing, Various Symbols Of The Sex & Fertility Goddess Ishtar/Easter

Earlier in this series, I explained to you that these false gods and goddesses of the past appear throughout the annals of human history, under different names, and in different guises. Thus, while the English may have borrowed the Easter goddess from the Germans, the Germans were by no means the originators of the same. The northern Europeans, such as the British and the Germans -- who were an important part of the Holy Roman Empire -- merely adapted the ancient Roman gods and goddesses to their own culture, by renaming them.

In Roman culture, as noted earlier, Ostara -- or Easter -- was known as Aurora. She was the goddess of the dawn, or the sunrise if you prefer. Ostara's attributes were also closely related to Venus. Venus, of course, was the Roman goddess of love and beauty. In the Greek culture, Ostara was known as

Eos; who was likewise the goddess of the dawn; and she was also closely associated with the Greek goddess Aphrodite, who similar to the Roman Venus, was also the goddess of love and beauty. In short, it is rather plain to see that all of these false goddesses of these various cultures, that is, Ostara, Easter, Aurora, Venus, Eos and Aphrodite, were associated with love, sex, fertility, beauty and the rising of the sun. In light of this fact, doesn't it seem to strongly suggest that they may have all been one and the same deceptive demon posing as different deities down through history?

Thus far we have traced the origin of the false sex goddess "Easter" as far back as the Roman Empire, but is that truly the end of the trail? Quite frankly, no it isn't; so let us continue with this amazing, yet deceptive, story.

We've just seen that the Anglo-Saxons of Germany adopted the fertility goddess Ostara, or "Easter", from the Roman and Greek cultures, and that these Germanic peoples viewed her as the personification of the rising sun. As I mentioned earlier, this is a rather significant point. If we travel back hundreds of years in time before the Greeks, we make a very startling discovery. Within the pantheon of Babylonian false gods and goddesses, there was a chief goddess who was known as Ishtar. Who exactly was this Ishtar? To answer this question, let us consider some excerpts from a few reputable sources. Under the heading "Gods, Pagan", the 1986 edition of Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary has the following to say regarding Ishtar. Please notice that just as the Germanic, Roman and Greek deity was viewed as a goddess of love and fertility, and was closely associated with the sun, so likewise was the Assyrian/Babylonian goddess Ishtar:

----- Begin Quote -----

The ancient Babylonian and Assyrian goddess Ishtar symbolized Mother Earth in the natural cycles of fertility on earth. Many myths grew up around this female deity. She was the goddess of love, so the practice of ritual prostitution became widespread in the fertility cult dedicated to her name. Temples to Ishtar had many priestesses, or sacred prostitutes, who symbolically acted out the fertility rites of the cycle of nature. Ishtar has been identified with the Phoenician Astarte, the Semitic Ashtoreth, and the Sumerian Inanna. Strong similarities also exist between Ishtar and the Egyptian Isis, the Greek Aphrodite, and the Roman Venus.

Associated with Ishtar was the young god Tammuz, considered both divine and mortal [Ezek. 8:14]. In Babylonian mythology Tammuz died annually and was reborn year after year, representing the yearly cycle of the seasons and the crops. This pagan belief later was identified with the pagan gods Baal and Anat in Canaan.

----- End Quote -----

The Encarta Encyclopedia likewise has this to say regarding the sex and fertility goddess, Ishtar, who was associated with the sun god, Tammuz:

----- Begin Quote -----

Ishtar, chief goddess of the Babylonians and the Assyrians and the counterpart of Astarte, a Phoenician goddess. The name appeared in different forms in every part of the ancient Semitic world; thus it was Athtar in Arabia, Astar

in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), and Ashtart in Canaan and Israel. The sex of the divinity also varied: Athtar and Astar were male deities. Ishtar of Erech (in Babylonia) was a goddess worshiped in connection with the evening star, but Ishtar of Akkad (also in Babylonia) was a god identified with the morning star. As a goddess, Ishtar was the Great Mother, the goddess of fertility and the queen of heaven.

----- End Quote -----

As we observed in the explanation provided by the Encarta Encyclopedia, Ishtar was known by different, yet very similar names amongst the various cultures which inhabited the lands of the Middle East in ancient times. The 1988 edition of the New Unger's Bible Dictionary, provides us with the following additional information regarding Astarte -- the Phoenician version of Ishtar -- under the heading "Gods, False". As a side note, the land occupied by Phoenicia is currently a part of modern Lebanon. The Biblical Sidon and Tyre were located there; and as I explain in other articles, it was from King Hiram of Tyre, that King David obtained timber for his house. King Solomon -- who was David's son -- likewise obtained cedar trees, and an experienced work force, for the construction of the first Temple in Jerusalem from Hiram:

----- Begin Quote -----

Ash'toreth (ash'to-reth). Astarte, a Canaanite goddess. In S Arabia the name is found as 'Athtar (apparently from `athara, "to be fertile, to irrigate"), a god identified with the planet Venus. The name is cognate with Babylonian Ishtar, the goddess of sensual love, maternity, and fertility. Licentious worship was conducted in honor of her. As Asherah and Anat of Ras Shamra, she was the patroness of war as well as sex and is sometimes identified with these goddesses. The Amarna Letters present Ashtoreth as Ashtartu. In the Ras Shamra Tablets are found both the masculine form 'Athtar and the feminine 'Athtart. Ashtoreth worship was entrenched early at Sidon [1 Kin. 11:5,33; 2 Kin. 23:13]. Her cult even presented a danger of pollution to early Israel [Judg. 2:13; 10:6]; Solomon succumbed to her voluptuous worship [1 Kin. 11:5; 2 Kin. 23:13]. The peculiar vocalization Ashtoreth, instead of the more primitive Ashtaroth, is evidently a deliberate alteration by the Hebrews to express their abhorrence for her cult by giving her the vowels of their word for "shame" (boshet). See also Anat; Ashera; Diana. (m.f.u.)

----- End Quote -----

Returning to the 1986 edition of Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, we also find the following explanation regarding "Ashtoreth", or in the plural form, "Ashtaroth". Please note that the Assyrian/Babylonian god Tammuz later became known as the supreme Sun god Baal who was worshiped by the various cultures which inhabited the ancient land of Canaan -- such as the Philistines -- and that Ishtar, or Ashorteth, became his -- meaning Baal's -- consort, companion, and wife, thus once again confirming this false goddess's association with the Sun. In other words, from the Germanic Ostara/Easter to the Middle Eastern Ishtar/Astarte/Ashtoreth, this goddess is associated with love, sex, beauty, fertility and the Sun:

----- Begin Quote -----

[ASH tah rahth] (wives)-- the plural form of Ashtoreth, a pagan goddess. [1 Samuel 31:10] connects her with the

Philistines, and [1 Kings 11:5] connects her with the Sidonians. She was often considered the companion or partner of the male god BAAL [Judg. 2:13].

Apparently the worship of these goddesses was practiced by the Israelites from time to time. Solomon compromised his faith by worshiping at the altar of Ashtaroth [1 Kin. 11:5,33]. Along with the Baalim (the plural of Baal), the Ashtaroth were thought by the Philistines to be responsible for fertility and the growth of crops and herds.

The Ashtaroth were worshiped by other peoples under such names as Astarte (Phoenicians and Canaanites), Inanna (Sumerians), Ishtar (Babylonians), Aphrodite (Greeks), and Venus (Romans). All these were goddesses of sensual love and fertility.

----- End Quote -----

Consider now what the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon states regarding the names Ashtoreth, Tammuz and Baal:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Ashtoreth {ash-to'reth}

Ashtoreth = "star"

- 1) the principal female deity of the Phoenicians worshipped in war and fertility
- 1a) also 'Ishtar' of Assyria and 'Astarte' by the Greeks and Romans

.

Tammuz {tam-mooz'}

Tammuz = "sprout of life"

- 1) a Sumerian deity of food or vegetation

.

Ba`al {bah'-al}

Baal = "lord" n pr m

- 1) supreme male divinity of the Phoenicians or Canaanites

----- End Quotes -----

The Encyclopedia Mythica also has this to say regarding the false god and goddess team of Ishtar/Ashtoreth/Astarte and Tammuz:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Ishtar

Ishtar was the ancient Sumero-Babylonian goddess of love and fertility. She is often described as the daughter of Anu, the god of the air. In most of the myths concerning her, she is described as an evil, heartless, women who destroyed her mates and lovers. Her greatest lover was the farm god Tammuz, who is similar to the Greek Adonis . . .

.

Ashtoreth

Also Astarte or Ashtar. The supreme female divinity of the Phoenician nations, the goddess of love and fruitfulness. She symbolized the female principle, as Baal symbolized maleness. The Babylonian and Assyrian counterpart of Ashtoreth was Ishtar.

.

Astarte

The Phoenician goddess of fertility and reproduction and the principal deity of the port city of Sidon. As Astarte she was worshipped as far west as Carthage, Sicily, Sardinia and Cyprus. She was also the sister and co-consort of Baal, sharing this role with their sister Anath. Astarte is also known as Istar in Akkadian and Athtar in Sabaeen.

.

Tammuz

The Akkadian vegetation-god, counterpart of the Sumerian Damuzi and the symbol of death and rebirth in nature. He is the son of Ea and husband of Ishtar. Each year he dies in the hot summer (in the month tammuz, June/July) and his soul is taken by the Gallu demons to the underworld. Woe and desolation fall upon the earth, and Ishtar leads the world in lamentation. She then descends to the nether world, ruled by Ereshkigal, and after many trials succeeds in bringing him back, as a result of which fertility and joy return to the earth. In Syria he was identified with Adonis.

----- End Quotes -----

Easton's Bible Dictionary also provides us with the following information regarding the false Sumerian/Assyrian/Babylonian god Tammuz, who later became known as Baal the Sun god to the Canaanites:

----- Begin Quote -----

A corruption of Dumuzi, the Accadian sun-god (the Adonis of the Greeks), the husband of the goddess Ishtar. In the Chaldean calendar there was a month set apart in honour of this god, the month of June to July, the beginning of the summer solstice. At this festival, which lasted six days, the worshippers, with loud lamentations, bewailed the funeral of the god, they sat "weeping for Tammuz" Eze 8:14. The name, also borrowed from Chaldea, of one of the months of the Hebrew calendar.

----- End Quote -----

Sadly, as is revealed by the previous excerpts, and as I also clearly explain in such articles as the seven-part series "The Fruits Of Disobedience", the ancient Israelites did not remain immune to the worship of the false god and goddess team of Baal and Ashtoreth, or Tammuz and Ishtar if you prefer. The Bible plainly informs us that it was as a result of their blatant worship of these false deities, in defiance of the one true God of Heaven, that time and time again, they found themselves in serious trouble with the Lord. Even King Solomon, in all of his greatness, could not resist the temptations of this very sensual god and goddess

team. It was when Solomon married pagan women who worshiped Baal and Ashtoreth, that he was led astray from the Lord in his old age, and his kingdom was eventually divided during the reign of his foolish son, Rehoboam. Please consider the following verses where some of this pagan worship by the backslidden Israelites is mentioned:

"And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth."
Judges 2:13, KJV

"For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites . . . Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father."

1 Kings 11:5, 33, KJV

"Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 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. Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?"
Jeremiah 7:17-19, KJV

"He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. 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."

Ezekiel 8:13-16, KJV

Allow me to call your attention to the last group of verses, as it clearly describes to what degree the Israelites had turned against the Lord, in favor of the false gods of the Babylonians and their ancestors. Not only were these women at the North Gate observing the festival dedicated to Tammuz by weeping for him, but we are also told that in the inner court of Solomon's Temple, these men were turned AWAY from the Temple of the Lord, and they were facing east. Just as Muslims located at points west of Mecca will turn east in order to pray, these backslidden Israelites were facing east and worshipping the false Sun god!

Please take note of the fact that Tammuz wasn't only the god of food and agriculture; he was likewise the Sun god, which is why it was obviously so easy for him to evolve into Baal, just as Ishtar later evolved into Ashorteth. As a side note, it may also interest you to know that a number of years ago, the Palestinian National Authority published a new postage stamp which bears the image of the false god Baal, or Tammuz. Does this fact offer us a subtle hint regarding who Allah may really be?

To gain an even better understanding of Israel's backslidden

state, I again encourage you to read my in-depth series "The Fruits Of Disobedience", as it mentions many other false gods and goddesses which were worshiped by the ancient Israelites, and clearly reveals the dire consequences of abandoning the one true God of Heaven. In addition to reading this series, allow me to also encourage you to undertake an in-depth study of the word "groves" as it is found in the pages of the Old Testament, from the Book of Exodus, to the Book of Micah. You will find this word mentioned in such verses as the following:

"For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger. And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."
I King 14:15-16, KJV

Exactly what where these "groves"? To say the least, it has a very negative meaning. The Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon informs us that these groves were places of worship which were established on the high hills of Israel, in order to honor the false goddess of sex and fertility -- that is, Baal's wife -- who as we have now established is likewise known as Ashtoreth, Ishtar, Astarte, Ostara and Easter. Furthermore, you will also notice from the following excerpt that she was sometimes equated with the false goddess Asherah, who was also a mother goddess in a variety of the ancient cultures of the Middle East. Some scholars believe that Ishtar and Asherah originally may not have been exactly the same goddess, but that with time, this subtle distinction may have become blurred:

----- Begin Quote -----

0842 'asherah {ash-ay-raw'} or 'asheyrah {ash-ay-raw'}

from 0833; TWOT - 183h; n pr f

AV - grove 40; 40

Ashera(h) = "groves (for idol worship)"

1) a Babylonian (Astarte)-Canaanite goddess (of fortune and happiness), the supposed consort of Baal, her images

- 1a) the goddess, goddesses
- 1b) her images
- 1c) sacred trees or poles set up near an altar

----- End Quote -----

There are a number of other shocking facts which are related to the goddess Asherah. Some sources suggest that Asherah may have possibly been the wife -- or consort -- of the Hebrew God Yahweh. For example, the Wikipedia website notes the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

Figurines identified with Asherah are strikingly common in the archaeological record, indicating the popularity of her cult from the earliest times to the Babylonian exile. More rarely, inscriptions linking Yahweh and Asherah have been discovered: an 8th century BCE ostrakon inscribed "Berakhti etkhem l,ÄöYHVH Shomron ul,ÄöAsherato" (Hebrew: $\text{בְּרַכְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לַיהוָה שֹׁמְרוֹן וְלַאֲשֵׁרָה}$) was discovered by Israeli archeologists at

Kuntillet Ajrud (Hebrew "Horvat Teman") in the course of excavations in the Sinai desert in 1975. This translates as: "I have blessed you by YHVH of Samaria and His Asherah" (or perhaps ". . . by YHVH our guardian and His Asherah", if "Shomron" is to be read "shomrenu"). Another inscription, from Khirbet el-Kom near Hebron, reads: "Blessed be Uriyahu by Yahweh and by his Asherah; from his enemies he saved him!". Tilde Binger notes in her study, *Asherah: Goddesses in Ugarit, Israel and the Old Testament* (1997, p. 141), that there is warrant for seeing an Asherah as, variously, "a wooden-aniconic-stela or column of some kind; a living tree; or a more regular statue." A rudely carved wooden statue planted on the ground of the house was Asherah's symbol, and sometimes a clay statue without legs. Her cult images -- "idols" -- were found also in forests, carved on living trees, or in the form of poles beside altars that were placed at the side of some roads. Asherah poles are mentioned in the books of Exodus, Deuteronomy, Judges, the Books of Kings, the second Book of Chronicles, and the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah. The term often appears as merely אֲשֵׁרָה, Asherah; this is translated as "groves" in the King James Version and "poles" in the New Revised Standard Version, although there is disagreement about the translation of the ancient Hebrew as "poles."

----- End Quote -----

Of course, not all Bible scholars and archaeologists agree with the view that Asherah was actually the wife or consort of Yahweh. Some believe that the Hebrew word "asherah" -- as is noted in the lexicon -- simply refers to wooden poles or sculpted trees which were used during these pagan worship ceremonies by the Israelites. If we examine a number of the specific verses that are found in the Old Testament, they do indicate that these "asherah" -- or groves -- were chopped down or burned down, which suggests that they were made out of wood. Consider these example verses:

"But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:"
Exodus 34:13, KJV

"But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire."
Deuteronomy 7:5, KJV

"And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place."
Deuteronomy 12:3, KJV

"He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan."
2 Kings 18:4, KJV

"And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men."
2 Kings 23:14, KJV

Regardless of whether "asherah" was actually a female goddess who was worshiped by the Israelites, or simply wooden objects of worship, that still isn't the end of the "asherah" story.

While this may shock some of you, there are some writers who have suggested that the wooden poles which were erected at these abominable pagan worship sites were carved in the shape of the human phallus -- that is, in the form of the male sexual organ -- and that prostitution and other lewd sexual acts were performed in honor of this pagan sex goddess, in order to receive her blessings. Of course, the greatest of these blessings would obviously be the ability to bear many children. The notion that such acts were performed would be in perfect agreement with some of the previous information that we have already examined.

As you may know, during ancient times, women who were barren were scorned, and were often viewed as being cursed. We find a clear example of this in the Second Book of Samuel where the Lord cursed Michal -- the daughter of King Saul -- after she had berated King David -- who was her husband at the time -- because he chose to dance somewhat naked before the women of Israel, as the Ark of the Covenant was being returned to Jerusalem. Consider the following verses:

"And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

2 Samuel 6:16-23, KJV

So let's not forget that Ashtoreth/Ishtar/Easter was in fact worshipped as the supreme goddess of love, fruitfulness and fertility. Petitions were made to her in order that women might become pregnant -- which would ultimately contribute to the size, strength and army of a nation -- and also to ensure that the spring cultivation would later result in the Earth yielding her crops during the summer months, right before Tammuz -- the vegetation god and Sun god -- supposedly died. Of course, it was also at this time that livestock would reproduce as well.

As we saw earlier, Ishtar, who was represented by the moon, supposedly brought Tammuz, the Sun god, back to life during the Spring season following his long winter death; just as Easter -- that is, the Feast of Ishtar -- is now celebrated each year shortly after the vernal equinox on or about March 21st, when the Spring growth season officially begins. So if

we pause to consider the various symbols which have become associated with this pagan goddess -- that is, Easter eggs, the Easter Bunny, the human phallus, the blossoming of new life at springtime, etc. -- it is easy to determine that the central theme is clearly sex and fertility. I've discovered that even in ancient Egyptian drawings, the egg is often used as a sacred symbol of fertility. So it is evident that belief in a sexy fertility goddess was widespread throughout the lands of the Middle East, the Mediterranean region, and North Africa.

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 4

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

Star Gods And The Host Of Heaven, Moses Warns The Israelites, Danger Of Worshipping The Creation More Than God The Creator, Apostle Paul's Warning To Roman Brethren, Israelites Ignore The Warnings Of Moses And Joshua And Backslide, King Josiah, Egyptian Osiris And Isis The Cow Goddess, Isis & Solar Disk, Ancestry Of Abraham, Abraham's Pagan Origin, God's Promise To Abraham, Difficulty Of Forsaking Family Religious Tradition, Abraham's Example Of Faith And Obedience, Parental Concerns, Isaac And Rebekah, Jacob's Doubts About The God Of Abraham, Rachel's Stolen Idols, Laban's Wrath And Rachel's Deception

You may have noticed from the previous definitions that I shared with you, that the name "Ashtoreth" -- or "Ishtar" -- actually means "star". In a similar sense, our English words star, aster, asterisk and asteroid are also derived from the Latin and Greek words "aster", "asteriscus" and "asteriskos" which likewise mean star, or star-like. However, what I find most significant about this relationship between Ishtar and the word "star", is the fact that it points us to a glaring truth which is found in various places in the Bible.

As we saw in part one of this series, that truth is that the ancient peoples of the various cultures which we've examined actually worshipped the heavenly bodies. Thus, it should come as no surprise to us that Tammuz/Baal was the Sun god, and Ishtar/Ashtoreth was the Moon goddess who reflected the glory of her husband/consort. Just as the Sun and the Moon are the most prominent companion bodies in the day and night skies, these entities, whether they were real or imagined, or based on distorted accounts of long-forgotten real events, were highly significant to the ancient cultures of the Middle East, and later even in Europe. For a more detailed look at one possible origin of the ancient gods and goddesses, please consider reading the in-depth series "Nephilim: The Giants Of Genesis."

The problem, as we have already seen, is that God strictly forbid -- and still forbids -- His people from worshipping these false "star gods". In the Bible these celestial bodies which roam the heavens on their courses as assigned by God the Creator are referred to as the "host of heaven", and in one verse -- that is, Amos 5:26 -- a distinct connection is made between assigning stars as the physical representations of the false gods, as we see here:

"But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves."

Amos 5:26, KJV

In the opening chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, where we find Moses exhorting the Israelites to remain faithful to the Lord, among other things, he reminds them that they saw no figure when God spoke to them from Mount Horeb; and he then warns them to not worship the Sun, the Moon, or the planets, and to not make images of them, as we see here:

"Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven."
Deuteronomy 4:15-19, KJV

Thirteen chapters later we learn that the penalty for doing such a thing, is that one must be stoned to death. Such was the seriousness of worshipping the Creation more than God the actual Creator. Consider the following verses:

"If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die."
Deuteronomy 17:2-5, KJV

The Apostle Paul likewise warned the followers of Christ of the danger of worshipping the creature -- or creation -- more than God the Creator when he wrote his Epistle to the Roman brethren, as we see here:

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

Sadly, in spite of these harsh warnings from the Lord through Moses, Joshua and other leaders of that generation, it wasn't before long -- barely had Joshua and Caleb's generation died off -- that this is precisely what the ancient Israelites were doing; and as I have already pointed out, they suffered severely -- and unnecessarily -- for it. Here again are some verses for your consideration:

"Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."
2 Kings 17:14-16, KJV

"And he [Manasseh] did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD."
2 Kings 21:2-5, KJV

"At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves: And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth. And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts."
Jeremiah 8:1-3, KJV

". . . Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury. Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet: And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods."
Jeremiah 19:11-13, KJV

Thankfully, the Scriptures inform us that there were a few Jewish kings who truly feared the Lord, and who thus put an end -- at least temporarily -- to the blatant worship of the

heavenly bodies -- or host of heaven -- and the false gods which they represented, as we see here with the example of King Josiah:

"And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven."

2 Kings 23:4-5, KJV

Thus far we have traced the long trail of the false Easter goddess as far back as the ancient Sumerian, Assyrian, and Babylonian cultures, which all shared some of the very same cultural and religious beliefs and practices, and which were all centered in the area which today constitutes modern-day Iraq, and perhaps small portions of Iran, and Kuwait as well. But is this truly the end of the trail of this devious, deceptive demoness? The answer seems to be a resounding "no".

There is clear evidence that this Sun god/Moon goddess pair which the Shemite cultures worshipped was also known to the Egyptians. Baal and Ashtoreth -- a.k.a. Tammuz and Ishtar -- find their counterparts in the Egyptian pair of Osiris and Isis. Just as Ashtoreth/Astarte was the sister, consort and wife of the Sun god Baal, Isis -- who was likewise a Moon goddess, as well as the goddess of fertility -- was also the sister and wife of Osiris.

Similar to Tammuz, among other things, Osiris was the god of vegetation, and the god of the dead. In fact, just as Ishtar went to the netherworld and rescued Tammuz from the dead and brought him back to life each year, so that vegetation would grow again and people and animals would reproduce, Isis also went to the underworld and rescued Osiris from the dead as well. Likewise, both Ishtar and Isis were referred to, among other names, as the "Queen of Heaven". The Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary states the following regarding this Egyptian pair:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Isis:

Egyptian Relig. A goddess of fertility, the sister and wife of Osiris and mother of Horus, and usually represented as a woman with a cow's horns with the solar disk between them: later worshiped in the Greek and Roman empires.

Osiris:

Egyptian Relig. The king and judge of the dead, the husband and brother of Isis, and father (or brother) of Horus, killed by Set but later resurrected (after Horus killed Set): usually depicted as a man, partly wrapped as a mummy, having a beard and wearing the atef-crown.

----- End Quotes -----

The Encyclopedia Mythica also states the following regarding the Egyptian pair Osiris and Isis:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Isis:

One of the most popular goddesses in Egypt. Isis belongs to the Ennead of Heliopolis, and according to the Heliopolitan genealogy is a daughter of Seb and Nut, sister and wife of Osiris. Possibly she was originally the personification of the throne (her name is written with the hieroglyph for throne), and as such she was an important source of the pharaoh's power. In the Hellenistic time Isis was the protectress of sailors.

In the Osiris myths she searched for her husband's body, who was killed by her brother Seth. She retrieved and reassembled the body, and in this connection she took on the role of a goddess of the dead and of the funeral rights. Isis impregnated herself from Osiris' body and gave birth to Horus in the swamps of Khemnis in the Nile Delta. Here she raised her son in secret and kept him far away from Seth. Horus later defeated Seth and became the first ruler of a united Egypt. Isis, as mother of Horus, was by extension regarded as the mother and protectress of the pharaohs. She was worshipped as the divine mother-goddess, faithful consort of Osiris, and dedicated mother of Horus.

Isis was depicted as a woman with the solar disk between the cow horns on her head (an analogy with the goddess Hathor) or crowned with a thrown, but also with the child Horus sitting on her lap. A vulture was sometimes seen incorporated in her crown. Also she was sometimes depicted as a kite above the mummified body of Osiris. Isis' popularity lasted far into the Roman era. She had her own priests and many temples were erected in her honor. On the island of Philae in the Nile delta her largest temple was situated (it was transferred to the island Agilkia in 1975-1980).

.

Osiris:

Osiris was the Egyptian god of the underworld, although he was also worshipped as a fertility, resurrection, and vegetation god. He was married to Isis, a sky goddess. He was father to Horus, the god of sky, and protector of the dead.

Osiris was killed by his brother Seth, who shut his body in a chest and threw it into the Nile, where it washed up onto the shore and was trapped in a huge tree. The King Byblos turned it into a pillar in his palace. Isis (who had been searching for her husband) discovered the trunk, and retrieved the trunk and the body. While Isis was away, Seth found the body, and chopped it up into many pieces, and scattered them throughout Egypt. Isis and her sister, Nephthys, found the pieces and made wax models of them to give to priests to be worshipped. When they found all of his pieces, they were so sad they wailed loudly enough for Re, the father god, to have pity on them. He sent Anubis and Thoth to help. They mummified Osiris, and put his body in a lion headed pier. Isis changed into a kite and fanned breath into Osiris.

He was not allowed to stay in the land of the living, and was sent to the underworld to serve as king, and to judge the souls of the dead.

----- End Quotes -----

One important point from the previous quotes which I wish to call to your attention, is the fact that Isis was depicted as a woman upon whose head was a pair of cow horns, between which was situated a solar disk. There is a picture of this ancient Egyptian goddess of sex and fertility in my Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. Why is this point so important? Because once again there is a direct link to the sad backslidden condition of the ancient Israelites, a long time before the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions would occur.

The Bible informs us that during the hundreds of years that the children of Israel were enslaved in the land of Egypt, they backslid from the faith which they had inherited from their physical and spiritual fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Undoubtedly, due to the very harsh conditions under which they were forced to live, many of the Israelites must have felt as if the God of Abraham had abandoned them. Thus, it seems quite plausible that they may have found comfort in something which seemed vaguely familiar to them: Osiris and Isis, the Sun god and Moon goddess of their Egyptian masters.

Why might Osiris and Isis seem familiar to the Israelites; and why did they seem to have a weakness and a propensity for repeatedly turning to the gods and goddesses of these other cultures? To answer these questions for you, allow me to draw upon some information which I first included in an article which I wrote over thirteen years ago entitled "The Children Of God And Politics".

In a word, Abraham and his family were heathen. They were Babylonian pagans. According to the eleventh chapter of the Book of Genesis, Abraham, his father Terah, and their family, were all natives of the city of Ur, which was located in the land of the Chaldees, or the Chaldeans if you prefer. Who exactly were the Chaldeans? They were the rulers of ancient Babylonia. Even though Abraham and his family were descended from the line of righteous Noah, nevertheless, initially, before Abraham was called by the one true God, he worshipped the pagan gods of his own country. This is clarified for us by the words of Joshua, the son of Nun, in the following verses:

"And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and THEY SERVED OTHER GODS. And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac."

Joshua 24:2-3, KJV

The fact that Abraham's family were pagans from Babylonia is also confirmed for us in various of the apocryphal works as well. In essence, the Lord told Abraham, who was then called Abram, to forsake his own country, to forsake his father's family, and to even forsake his old religion. As a reward, if Abram would do this, God promised him that He would mightily bless him, as we see here:

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
Genesis 12:1-3, KJV

However, as some of you will already know through your own personal experiences, forsaking long-held family religious traditions is not always an easy task, no matter how wrong or distorted those traditions may be.

For example, try convincing a Roman Catholic to forsake the Pope and the so-called "Holy Mother Church". I assure you, it won't be that easy. Or try convincing a Jehovah's Witness to stop being a member of that organization. Just attempting to get one to listen to you is next to impossible, because they always seem to want to do all of the talking. Or see if you can convince a Southern Baptist to abandon what has been a family tradition for perhaps hundreds of years. Even more difficult, try convincing an Orthodox Jew to embrace Yeshua as the Messiah of the Jews. Trying to convince a dedicated Mormon to forsake the doctrines of Joseph Smith will likewise prove to be quite a challenge, as would trying to convince a Muslim to forsake Muhammad and the Qur'an.

As I explain in the article "Are You Just A Baby Huey?", you will encounter a lot of resistance, because most people are not easily persuaded to abandon a set of religious beliefs with which they have been comfortable, and which has been a central part of their family for many years.

Dear Abraham must have met equal, if not greater resistance, from some of his family members; because not only did he ask them to abandon their religion, but he asked them to leave the comfort of Padan-Aram, and to travel to a land which was totally foreign to them, which was inhabited by Canaanites. In fact, we are told that Abram did not leave his father's family in Haran until after his father had died; and there are indications that those who remained in Haran never did adopt the new God of Abraham, as we will see in a moment. In a word, Abraham truly was stepping out by faith; and this is why God honored him, because Abraham was a man of faith and obedience. As the Apostles James and Paul would later write:

"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works . . . For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
James 2:18, 26, KJV

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him . . . By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:"
Hebrews 11:6, 8-9, KJV

While Abraham made the break with his family, as well as with his old religion, in his wisdom, he must have realized

that his son might not share his same religious convictions; and that in a moment of weakness, Isaac might even fall back into the pagan worship of the past.

How typical this is of even Christian parents today. We want so much for our own children to follow in our footsteps. We want them to love and obey the Lord as much as we try to do. Sadly, to our disappointment, things don't always turn out as we expect them to. In fact, this is something which has presented great challenges for me in my personal family in recent months. As Christian parents, we all must recognize that the enticements and false promises of the world are indeed strong; and we must fervently pray for our children, and ask the Lord to give them the strength to resist such things; even at the cost of losing worldly friendships.

In the case of Abraham, his concern was that his promised son, Isaac, might marry a pagan woman of Canaan, the land wherein he and his family now dwelt. Just as King Solomon would backslide from the Lord many years later as a result of marrying pagan women, Isaac might also fall back into worshipping the pagan gods, if he were to marry a Canaanite woman. At the same time, neither did Abraham want Isaac to return to the land of his own nativity -- that is, to the city of Ur in the land of the Chaldees -- because the Lord had promised to give Abraham the country of Canaan, and to multiply his seed there as the stars of the heavens. And again, the temptation to desert the one true God may have been too strong for his son to resist, were he to go to his father's birthplace in Ur, in order to find himself a bride.

Thus, as we read in the Book of Genesis, Abraham sent one of his servants to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor -- which was apparently named after Abraham's brother -- in order to find a wife for Isaac his son. The Bible informs us that it is there in Nahor -- which was situated in Padanaram -- that the Lord does a miracle, and wisely provides Rebekah -- the granddaughter of Nahor -- to be Isaac's wife. According to what we read in the twenty-fifth chapter of Genesis, Rebekah and her brother Laban are both referred to as Syrians. As you may know, Syria was the northwestern-most part of Mesopotamia in those days. In fact, much of that area -- which was known as the Fertile Crescent -- came under Babylonian jurisdiction following the eventual absorption of the Assyrian empire by the Babylonian empire. Consider these verses:

"And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian."
Genesis 25:19-20, KJV

A number of years later, we find Isaac, who is now a father himself, and Rebekah, his wife, sending their son Jacob to Laban, Rebekah's brother, who still lives in Haran. You will recall that this is the place where Terah had first taken Abraham, Sarah and their nephew Lot after leaving Ur in the land of the Chaldees, as we see in Genesis 27:30-45. Just as Abraham did not want his son Isaac to marry a pagan woman of Canaan, so too, Isaac shared the same concerns with Jacob.

As I mentioned a moment ago, changing a family's religious beliefs is not an easy task. This is particularly revealed when we consider Jacob's feelings concerning the God of his father Isaac, as well as of his grandfather, Abraham. In spite of Isaac's concerns regarding his two sons, Jacob and

Esau, we know from the Scriptures that Esau displeased his parents by marrying a woman of the Hittites. Considering all of this, as well as Jacob's nature for being somewhat of a "wheeler-dealer", it should come as no surprise to us that Jacob appears to have had doubts about the God of his father and of his grandfather. As we see by the following verses, even before he arrived at Laban's house, Jacob's belief in the God of gods was conditional. He needed to be convinced that this was the one true God whom he should worship:

"And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:"
Genesis 28:20-21, KJV

In other words, these verses appear to be telling us that in essence, Jacob set a test before the Lord. Jacob said that he would accept the God of Abraham and Isaac, if He would prove Himself, by bestowing His blessings upon Jacob. As we know from the Biblical narrative, the Lord did exactly that; and twenty years later, we find Jacob with two wives, quite a few children, huge numbers of flocks, and many servants. God had kept His part of the bargain, and now Jacob was willing to admit that his blessings were in fact due to the God which had been embraced by his father and grandfather. Not only that, but Jacob realized that God had protected him from Laban's evil intentions.

At this point in our story, we come upon yet another clue which reveals how difficult it must have been for Abraham's heirs to forsake the pagan gods of Babylonia.

In Genesis chapter thirty-one, we are told that Jacob makes haste, obeys the Lord, and departs from Laban's house in secret. However, what isn't known to Jacob at the time, is that his wife Rachel has stolen the images of the gods of her father Laban. The "images" which are mentioned in the following verses were pagan idols which were kept in a type of family shrine. When Laban finally catches up with Jacob and his caravan, notice what he says to Jacob:

"And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's . . . And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?"
Genesis 31:19, 30, KJV

Why would Rachel intentionally steal her father Laban's false gods? Obviously, while Abraham had placed his faith in the new God who had directed him to travel to the land of Canaan, the rest of Abraham's family, which had stayed behind in the land of Padan-Aram, apparently remained faithful to the false gods which they had worshipped in Ur; and that included both Rachel and Leah, who were Jacob's wives-to-be. Please notice too that it is at a time of stress and danger, that we find Rachel placing her faith in the gods of her fathers. Why? I would venture to suggest that it was probably a matter of tradition, and also because she felt comfortable with them.

Although Laban searched high and low in Jacob's property, he wasn't able to find the idols because Rachel had hidden them in a chest of sorts and sat upon it, pretending that she was having her menstrual cycle, as we see by these verses:

"With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live:

before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched, but found not the images."

Genesis 31:32-35, KJV

Please go to part five for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 5

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

The Israelites' Connection To The False Gods Of Babylonia, Slavery In Egypt And The Seemingly Silent God Of Abraham, The Time In Egypt Reveals God's Hidden Wisdom And Foresight, The Israelites And Gradual Process Of Cultural Assimilation, Isis/Ishtar And Israelites' Golden Calf, Egypt Was Still In Their Hearts, Repeating The Sins Of The Past, Accusing God, False Prophets And Evil Men And Seducers, Test The Spirits, The Internet Is A Web Of Darkness, Deception, Wickedness, Spiritual Pollution, Carnality & Confusion, Online Babylon, Social Networking, Online Pornography, Devil's Propaganda Is Everywhere, Satan: The False God Of This World, American Public School System Has Been Infiltrated By Liberal Agenda, America's Wayward Generation, Admonition Regarding Worldly Enticements, We Haven't Learned From Mistakes Of The Past, Answers For God's Critics, It Is Foolish To Criticize God, Historical Recap Of The Easter Goddess, Greek God Dionysus, Tammuz Baal Osiris And Dionysus Usurp Jesus's Position As The Firstfruits Of The Resurrection Of The Dead And The Only Author Of Eternal Life, An Unholy Holiday, Christians Who Compromise, Easter Eggs & Hunting Nails, Wearing A Crucifix

While at first glance the previous information may seem off-topic from our main discussion concerning the origin of the word "Easter" and the "Easter Sunday" observance, I have included it here not only because it contains very important lessons for us today, but also because I believe that it will help you to understand why the ancient Israelites repeatedly fell back into worshipping the false gods and goddesses of the nations around them. In a sense, whether they realized it or not, their backslidden condition was a regression to their own religious roots of the past which began in Babylonia; and perhaps subconsciously, they derived some level of comfort from it. Rachel most certainly knew what she was doing; and

even hundreds of years later, the Israelites were still very much aware of their distant connection to the false gods of Babylonia; because as we saw earlier, Joshua reminded them of it.

This explanation does not by any means excuse their blatant sins, but it may simply help to explain why they did some of the things that they did, which got them into so much trouble with the Lord.

We must remember that in ancient times, most beliefs and traditions were passed along orally; and I suspect that in spite of the endeavors made by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to eradicate such beliefs from their midst, talk of the past, and of the ancient gods, may have occasionally still floated in the air. When the Israelites found themselves under the bondage of the Egyptian whip, as I said earlier, it must have been a very stressful situation. Many undoubtedly felt that the God of their forefathers must have abandoned them. After all, they must have thought, where was He in the midst of all of their suffering and hardships? Why didn't He hear their prayers and groanings? Why didn't He deliver them from such cruel Egyptian bondage? Why was the God of Abraham so silent?

The truth of the matter, as I explain in such articles as "Beholding The Evil And The Good", is that God never really abandoned the Israelites. Like any wise parent, He merely turned a deaf ear to their cries until they learned some of the important lessons that He was trying to teach them. Not only that, but despite the oppression that they suffered under the Egyptian whip, the Israelites slowly grew into a great nation of at least one million strong; a fact which would later be to their advantage once they began their conquest of the land of Canaan. So in actuality, the time spent in Egypt reveals God's hidden Wisdom and Foresight.

To some of the Israelites, perhaps it seemed as if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had failed them; and thus they chose to turn to what they may have assumed to be the more powerful gods and goddesses of Egypt. In certain regards, the transition to the worship of the new Egyptian pantheon of gods may have been easy. After all, the characteristics which were attributed to Tammuz and Ishtar of Babylonia, were very much the same as those attributed to Osiris and Isis. They simply had different names. In thinking about this, I must now wonder if the purpose of the plagues upon Egypt wasn't just to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians so that they would finally release the Israelites, but also to convince and remind the backslidden Israelites that Jehovah was still the God of gods, and the mightiest of them all; and truly "El Shaddai"; that is, the Almighty God.

If there is one thing that we can learn from the study of ancient history, it is that as one world empire increases in strength, size and influence, while another decreases in the same, there is an ongoing gradual process of assimilation as the politics, economics, religious beliefs and traditions and customs of the victor are absorbed by the subjugated people. After four hundred years of serving the Egyptians, this most certainly had to be the case with the Israelites. In similar fashion, there is clear Biblical and archaeological evidence that supports the view that this same process of assimilation occurred to varying degrees during the Assyrian invasions, the Babylonian invasions and exile, the Grecian period, the Roman occupation, etc.

In short, each time that the Israelites were subjugated by one of these powers, they absorbed certain aspects of those cultures; and this clearly included the religious beliefs of their pagan conquerors. Thus, it should come as no surprise to us that there were a lot of Hellenistic Jews during the time of Christ and the Apostles who read, spoke and wrote Greek, while at the same time, the Jews of Judah loathed the Jews of Samaria and viewed them as being unclean, and Saul of Tarsus -- a.k.a. the Apostle Paul -- was a Roman citizen. Each of these examples demonstrates cultural assimilation.

Sadly, in spite of God's mighty deliverance of His children from Pharaoh's oppressive grasp, as I point out in other articles, the Israelites continued to complain; and some of them longed to return to their former lives in Egypt, rather than face the harshness of the wilderness, and an uncertain future. Many of them surely lacked the faith and vision of their father Abraham. In fact, as we know from the Biblical account, the minute that they were given an opportunity, and the minute that it appeared as if the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had abandoned them, that is, when Moses was delayed on the summit of Mount Horeb -- or Sinai -- during the forty days that the Lord gave him the Commandments written on the two tablets of stone, the faithless, double-minded children of Israel renewed their loyalty to the Egyptian gods.

In particular, based upon the description that we are given of Isis, I would dare say that the creation of the golden calf in the Book of Exodus, may have been a tribute to none other than Isis the Egyptian cow goddess herself, or Ishtar if you prefer. If we take into consideration the fact that the Israelites were wandering shepherds by occupation, their attraction to Isis seems to make perfect sense. When I saw the picture of Isis in my Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, it immediately reminded me of one of the videos we have which portrays the life of Moses, and the flight to the Promised Land. In this movie, the golden calf is in fact shown with the solar disk of Isis between its horns.

So it seems that while the Israelites may have physically left Egypt, Egypt -- or a love for Egypt -- was still very much in some of their hearts. As a result, due to their constant murmuring, their desire to return to Egypt, and their lack of faith, God allowed that older generation to slowly die off during the forty years that they wandered in the wilderness, before He allowed the younger generation to actually enter and conquer the Promised Land.

Ironically, while we have discussed Biblical events of the distant past in order to help us to understand the awful truth behind the contemporary "Easter" celebration, I can't help but believe that in our modern day, particularly in the United States of America, which continues to boast of being the most Christian nation in the world, just as Israel made the claim -- and continues to claim -- to be a nation chosen by God, we are currently witnessing a repetition of some of the very same sins of the ancient Israelites in every regard; from rampant sexual promiscuity, to the worship of heathen gods, to the murderous abortion of millions of unborn babies -- or modern child sacrifice -- and much more.

While I have mentioned this same point in other articles, allow me to add a new angle to it. Just as the Israelites chose to abandon the one true God of Heaven time and time again whenever they found themselves under duress, such as

through war, captivity, famine, drought, etc., today, many Americans, particularly young Americans, are abandoning the God of their fathers -- meaning us, their parents -- by the droves. If you doubt that this is happening, then you must not be paying attention. While the American Christian Right likes to promote the belief that a Christian revival has taken hold in America, personally, I seriously doubt that it is nearly as strong as they propose, if it is really happening at all to any significant degree.

Just as the ancient Israelites asked "Where is God in all of our suffering?", many people today are also asking similar questions such as "If God is real, then why is there so much suffering in the world today? Why do we witness so much evil occurring? Why are there so many wars? Why is there so much famine and poverty? Why is there AIDS? Why is there so much political corruption and inequity between the rich and the poor? If your Christian God is the true God, why doesn't He just do something about it by stopping all of these things and proving Himself once and for all? Where is He?"; and on and on they rant with their accusatory remarks.

Sadly, just as the ancient Israelites were asking the wrong questions during the times of their sufferings, the people who are making these accusations against God are asking the wrong questions today as well. And just as the children of Israel chose to embrace the false gods and goddesses of the heathen nations around them, and abandoned the true God of Heaven when He didn't answer them as quickly, and in the way in which they desired, many people today, both young and old, are doing the very same thing. Like the Israelites of old, they are basically saying "If your God won't answer us, and prove Himself to us, then we will just find ourselves some new gods to worship"; and that is precisely what many of them have done; but in their folly, they have failed to realize that these other voices are deceptive spirits, of which the Apostles John and Paul wrote the following:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

Clearly, these "evil men and seducers" have "waxed worse and worse" in our current time, and false prophets indeed abound. If you are a God-fearing, Bible-believing Christian who has spent any amount of time surfing the Internet, like myself, I don't doubt that you have been very alarmed by the number of sites which are dedicated to the forces of darkness, such as RPG's -- or role-playing games -- which involve heavy use of fantasy and sorcery; sites which glorify the false gods and goddesses of the past; websites which revolve around the Wiccan nature religion and other flavors of witchcraft and modern magick, sites which blatantly promote devil worship and explain satanic practices such as how to cast spells and call upon and supposedly control demons, etc.

Then, of course, there are a multitude of websites which are dedicated to the subtle lies of the New Age thought movement, the alien and UFO phenomenon, channeling and other forms of spiritism, tarot card reading and palm reading, etc. Between widespread online commercialism and the spiritual junk which

is propagated by the aforementioned sites, the Internet has truly become a type of modern spiritual Babylon which is full of confusion and deception at every turn; which is why one must be extremely careful when navigating the World Wide Web, because it truly is a satanic snare which attempts to trap you in its web of lies.

For many disillusioned young people in particular who have become disappointed with the plastic world which has been created by their parents, these are the things to do, and the places to go; and the vast array of social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Blogger, Tumblr, Twitter, WordPress, etc., makes it possible for them to easily share their misguided ideas and beliefs with their friends. Then, of course, there is texting which has developed a whole set of problems of its own. I am not saying that these services are evil in themselves, as even I now make use of them in order to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ online; however, such sites also serve as conduits for easily sharing all of this other nonsense as well, and there is literally no end to it.

Furthermore, the heightened sexuality and liberal spirit that is associated with many of these sites is also very appealing to young people. In their desire to be freed from what they view as the restrictive beliefs of their God-fearing parents and grandparents, many of these young people have gone to the opposite extreme. Is it any wonder then that pornography has become so rampant on the Internet and elsewhere? This is not to say that many adults don't visit these sites as well, as many of them obviously do, but the way that our young people are being exploited at an ever-increasing rate is alarming.

Of course, these activities are obviously not restricted to the Internet alone. We also find them on the television set; we hear them continuously on the radio -- satanic music full of rebellious lyrics and carnality is everywhere -- we see the Devil's propaganda in books and magazines, as well as in video games which are full of wickedness and violence; and Satan's lies are likewise being popularized and promoted in a plethora of big-budget movies. Truly, that devious Demon of Darkness is the false god of this world, exactly as the Apostle Paul wrote in the following verse:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

As I have been warning for years now, perhaps most alarming of all is the fact that the liberal agenda has also invaded the public school system. I am not simply referring to the modern lie of evolution which has taken hold of the minds of so many of our young people; I am also referring to the gay and lesbian agenda which has now infiltrated public school libraries, and is subtly being taught and promoted by an increasing number of liberal teachers who apparently find nothing wrong with defying God's Laws regarding appropriate human sexual conduct.

In a word, our children -- including very young elementary school-aged children -- are continuously being enveloped in a dangerous environment of deception, worldliness, carnality and satanic wickedness at many levels; and quite often, we parents are powerless to do anything about it, or at least very little. By comparison, pagan myths such as the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus are minor issues, and merely the tip of the greater ice berg of deception; but even they should and must be addressed, as I am doing in this current series.

Meanwhile, believing in God, and trusting in His Word -- the Bible -- is increasingly being viewed by many young people as something old-fashioned and out-of-sync with the times. Mom and Dad just don't get it, they say. We are now living in the 21st Century, and it is time to abandon that "book of myths" and to begin living in the modern world, some of them claim. Well, as far as the world and its ways are concerned, and regarding our changing times, the Apostles John and James, and the Prophet Malachi wrote the following so long ago:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Malachi 3:6, KJV

So the point I wish to emphasize here, is that the sins of the past are being repeated today, and possibly to a much greater extent than ever before. Modern child sacrifice -- that is, abortion -- certainly outpaces the gross sins of the ancient Israelites. Contrary to the Apostle Paul's sober admonition, many people have not learned from the mistakes of the past; and if we have not learned from the past, not only are we bound to repeat those same mistakes, but we will eventually also reap the same reward in the form of God's Wrath and Righteous Judgments. Consider what Paul wrote in his first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth:

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:11, KJV

While I could easily address all of the "why" questions which I posed above -- and they do merit responses -- being as I have already amply addressed them in other articles, such as in "What's Wrong With Modern America?", "The Public School System And School Prayer", "Beholding The Evil And The Good", "The Fruits Of Disobedience" and "Are Personal Tragedies Due To Sin?", I will refrain from doing so in this current series. For now, suffice it to say that the question shouldn't be "God, why don't you stop all of these things; what's wrong with You?", but rather it should be "Heavenly

Father, why are you allowing these things to happen to us; how have we displeased You?". If there is one thing of which I am absolutely certain, it is that God is not the source of the problem; unbelieving, unrepentant, rebellious people are . . . and that is the simple answer for those of you who can receive it. For us mere humans to question and criticize the Almighty God is foolhardy, as we see by the following verses:

"Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?"

Job 40:1-8, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

Romans 9:20, KJV

At this point, we have now traced the trail of the Easter goddess from the earliest of known civilizations. We have seen that the Easter observance is historically based, not upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as organized religion would have us to believe, but rather upon a celebration that honors the ancient pagan goddess of love, sex and fertility. We have seen that down through history, she has been known by many different names; including Ashtoreth, Astarte, Eos, Isis, Ishtar and Ostara. "Easter" is simply the most modern form of her name; and the similarity in spelling, as well as in pronunciation with the other names, is hard to dismiss as merely being a coincidence. Consider once again some of the words and names which we have discussed throughout this series:

Ashtoreth
Astarte
Easter
Eastre
Eos
Eostre
Ester
Estrus
Oestrus
Oistros
Ostara

The above list does not even include the names of the other ancient goddesses who were probably personifications of the very same deity; that is, Aphrodite, Artemis, Asherah, Venus and Diana; and even these are not all of them.

Almost every single major culture of Europe and the Middle East has paid homage in one form or another to this "star goddess", who was the goddess of the Moon, and the lover and wife of the Sun god Tammuz/Baal, as well as the lover and wife of Osiris, the Egyptian god of the underworld, and the protector of the dead. This includes the Phoenicians, the Canaanites, the Hebrews, the Egyptians, the Sumerians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, and the Romans; and the Germans, the Anglo-Saxons of Britain, and their modern

ancestors have all continued the practice through the Easter observance. How dare they take one of the most sacred of Christian holy days, and defile it by giving it the name of a pagan goddess which was honored with ritual prostitution and other lewd sexual acts!

At this point, allow me to interject another important fact which will further fill in the historical picture for us. We have now seen how these chief gods and goddesses tend to be worshipped in pairs. In other words, Ishtar was associated with Tammuz; Isis was associated with Osiris; and Ashtoreth was associated with Baal. But what about the Greek goddess Eos? Is there a male god in the Greek pantheon of deities who was the companion of Eos? As it turns out, there is; and his name is "Dionysus". From the following description which is extracted from "The NEED Project" website, we can see that Dionysus had some of the very same attributes as Tammuz, Baal and Osiris. This includes the fact that he was raised from the dead each Spring, and was viewed as being responsible for the growth of crops. Consider the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

Dionysus was one of the most important Greek gods. He was good and gentle to those who honored him, but he brought madness and destruction upon those who did not. According to tradition, Dionysus died each winter and was reborn in the spring. To his followers, this cyclical revival, accompanied by the seasonal renewal of the fruits of the earth, embodied the promise of the resurrection of the dead.

----- End Quote -----

The blasphemy here is quite apparent for any Bible-believing Christian who understands the full mission of Jesus Christ. In other words, in essence, Tammuz, Baal, Osiris and Dionysus usurped the Power and Authority which belongs to Jesus Christ alone, by assuming His role, and claiming -- at least so say their followers -- to have been raised from the land of the dead and brought back to life, thus offering that same hope of resurrection to their followers. The Bible informs us that Jesus is the true Son of God, and that He alone has the power over death and hell; because He, and only He, paid the price for our Salvation by shedding His own Blood upon the Cross. The Bible also tells us that He alone is the Firstfruits of the Resurrection. Please consider the following verses:

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."
John 17:1-2, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
John 10:28, KJV

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."
Revelation 1:18, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
Romans 8:29, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1 Corinthians 15:19-23, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:12-15, 18, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

Sadly, despite the fact that they are obviously aware of the pagan origin of the Easter observance, there are still many Christians who compromise our faith by choosing to celebrate this national holiday. While it may be a recognized holiday, in my view, it is most certainly not a holy day; because by assigning this day the name of a heathen sex and fertility goddess, there is certainly nothing holy about it!

Exactly how do some Christians resist the conviction of God's Spirit? What I heard on the radio some time ago offers us a clear example. A certain woman was suggesting that instead of hiding Easter eggs on Easter morning, parents could replace the eggs with nails. Yes, you read correctly. I said nails! This woman then went on to say that when the children found the nails, it would help them to remember Christ's suffering on the Cross. I couldn't believe it! I was aghast! The truth of the matter is that even many adults cringe when they come to fully understand how much Jesus physically suffered for our sakes. Now, try to explain that to a small child whose understanding of such matters is extremely limited. Doing so could easily traumatize them.

In my view, replacing Easter eggs with nails is as bad as wearing a gloomy crucifix. I haven't worn a crucifix since I abandoned Roman Catholicism forty years ago. Many Christians claim that wearing a crucifix is a testimony of their faith, but I hold to a different view. To me, it is like the Devil boasting and saying publicly "Look what I did to your Jesus!" The Roman cross was a gruesome torture device which resulted in its victims agonizing in excruciating pain for many hours -- if not longer -- before they finally died. Rather than display a dying Christ on a crucifix, we Christians ought to emphasize the Risen Christ, because that is the Accomplished Act and the Real Miracle of the Bible. That is what gives us hope, and that is ultimately what the Apostles emphasized as well. Please re-read the previous verses if you doubt this point.

Some of you may not agree with me, but that is just how I see it. To me, a crucifix is simply ungodly and antichrist. It is what was used to murder Christ. I don't need to wear a crucifix in order to be reminded of what Jesus did for me. I already know it in my heart and I remember it each and every day, because His Law is written upon the table of my heart. How about you?

So, as we have seen, instead of totally forsaking Easter and Ishtar as they know they should do, these weak Christians compromise our faith, and try to make the festival appear a little more Christian by replacing Ishtar's eggs with nails. All I can say is "May God help them!". If they don't possess the conviction to forsake an ungodly holiday which is based upon ancient heathen traditions, then how in the world can they expect their children to be strong in the faith? They need to provide a powerful, visible Christian example to their children, but celebrating Easter with the so-called Easter Bunny and Easter eggs, simply doesn't cut it.

Please go to part six for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 6

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

Our Jealous God, New Life And The Sun Or Resurrection And The True Son, Colored Eggs And Rabbits, Roman Goddess Aurora And Her Son Lucifer, Satan's Fall From Grace, Deceptive Myths And Distorted Half-Truths, Satan The False Light-Bearer, Venus Is The Morning Star In An Astronomical Sense, Jesus Is The True Light Of The World And Real Morning Star, God The Father Is Symbolized By The Sun, Father Of Lights, Glory Of The Father, Jesus Reflects His Father's Light And Glory, Mysterious Woman Of Revelation 12, One Central Myth But With Minor Variations?, Was A Human-Driven Mechanism Responsible For Popularizing The Easter Observance To Our Current Day?, William Tyndale's And Martin Luther's Links To Roman Catholic Church, Enticed By Empire-Building, Constantine And The 313 AD Edict Of Milan, Biblical View Regarding Materialism And Worldliness, Roman Catholic Church Foolishly Accepted Satan's Devilish Offer

Another common argument which certain Christians will use in their endeavors to justify celebrating Easter is to say that what really matters is that we are worshipping and honoring the Lord in our hearts. Even though the Easter observance is of pagan origin, and even though young children may become distracted by the Easter Bunny, the Easter egg hunt and the chocolate candy, nevertheless, Easter can still be used to remember Jesus's Sufferings and His Resurrection; at least so they argue.

While on the surface this kind of logical human reasoning may satisfy one's personal conscience -- that is to say, excusing oneself as Paul referred to it in Romans 2:15 -- the fact of the matter remains that the Scriptures make it rather clear that our God is a very jealous God, and He refuses to take second place, or to share His Glory with a false goddess such as Ishtar, or with a silly Easter Bunny which symbolically is representative of human sexuality and fertility. The Lord did not tolerate it thousands of years ago, and He won't tolerate it today either. Please consider the following verses:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me . . . For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"
Exodus 20:3, 34:14, KJV

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."
Isaiah 45:22, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,"
Isaiah 46:9, KJV

Considering all of the historical and Biblical material that we have now examined, I hope that you can now see -- unless, of course, you simply prefer to continue living under strong delusion -- how Easter, or more appropriately, the Feast of Ishtar, is based upon ancient pagan rites, which among other things, celebrated human sexuality and fertility.

While the Feast of Ishtar does celebrate new life, it is by no means the New Life -- or Eternal Life -- which has been promised to us by our Heavenly Father, through our faith in the Sacrifice of His dear Son, Jesus Christ. In a historical sense, the Festival of Easter -- or Ishtar -- celebrates the rebirth or return of the Sun from the South -- not the actual Resurrection of the true Son -- each year, and was symbolized by the alleged resurrection of Tammuz, or Baal or Osiris in the various cultures of the Middle East, and nothing more. This festival was to thank the gods for the growth of crops, and for the fertility of women and beasts, which occurred during the warm Spring season.

As we have also seen, the practice of associating rabbits and colored eggs with this heathen festival -- both of which are symbols of fertility -- can be traced back to the Germans and their version of Ishtar, who they referred to as Ostara. If we consider that the Anglo-Saxons appear to have adopted some of their gods from the Romans -- don't forget that they were an important part of the Holy Roman Empire -- then I wouldn't be the least bit surprised to discover that somewhere in the past, rabbits and eggs could be tied into the Roman celebrations as well. Please note, however, that I have not taken the time to verify this point yet. I do recall, however, that the Romans used the entrails of animals to predict the future.

This brings us to another important point I wish to discuss in this series. You will recall that in part two, I stated that the Roman version of Ishtar/Ostara was known as Aurora. While her name is spelled quite differently from the others, nevertheless, her function in Roman mythology was the same as that found in the other pagan belief systems. Aurora was a companion of the Sun god, and was likewise associated with the dawn. The online Encyclopedia Mythica states in part:

----- Begin Quote -----

Aurora is the Roman personification of the dawn. She is also the Roman equivalent of the Greek goddess Eos. Aurora is seen as a lovely woman who flies across the sky announcing the arrival of the sun.

----- End Quote -----

The Perseus search engine also states the following under the Greek name "Eos", who, as I have stated earlier, was the equivalent of the Roman Aurora:

----- Begin Quote -----

The Greek name of Aurora (q.v.), the goddess of morning, whence the epithet Eous is applied to all the eastern parts of the world (Ovid, Fast.iii. 406). She was the daughter of Hyperion and Thia or Euryphassa. At the close of each night she arose from the couch of her consort Tithonus and, drawn on a chariot by the steeds Lampus and Pha^v'ton, ascended to heaven from the river Oceanus to announce the coming of the sun to gods and mortals. In Homer she accompanies the sun on his course, and in the tragic poets is identified with Hemera or the Day.

----- End Quote -----

As an interesting side note, the Encyclopedia Mythica also states that one of Aurora's sons was Lucifer. However, many Christians know from the Scriptures that the Romans were by no means the very first culture to honour this fiend. This demon of darkness is first mentioned in the Bible way back during the time of the Babylonian Empire. Ironically, he is referred to as the Light-Bearer, which is a term that finds its origin in the Hebrew words "heylel" and "halal", which mean to shine, to boast, or to be praised, Thus, he is also known as the "shining one" or the "morning star". In fact, as I mention in the article "Satan: Origin, Purpose And Future", in Isaiah chapter fourteen, the king of Babylon is compared to Lucifer; who, because of his pride, fell from Grace, as we see by the following verses:

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."
Isaiah 14:12-15, KJV

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."
Luke 10:18, KJV

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."
Revelation 12:9, KJV

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the

Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Revelation 20:1-3, KJV

"Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished . . . Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:5, 18, KJV

One thing which becomes rather obvious, is the fact that some of these ancient myths contain a number of elements which are also common to our Christian faith. However, the problem is that in these heathen myths, the truth is totally distorted, perverted, and in fact oft times reversed from reality. This is in fact what makes them so dangerously deceptive. Allow me to give you a clear-cut example. According to the Roman myth, Lucifer, who was supposedly the son of Aurora, is represented by the planet Venus. As some of you astronomy buffs will no doubt already know, the planet Venus is often referred to as the "Morning Star", due to the fact that this is the time of day when it is quite often seen in all its splendor in the sky. As I said, this exposes the terrible deception which not only permeates the ancient myths, but which is also a core belief of modern Luciferian doctrine.

In other words, for those of you who may not be aware of it, according to modern Luciferians and Satanists, Lucifer is actually the true "Light-Bearer", as well as the "Morning Star", while they claim that Jesus Christ is the impostor. These devil worshippers are so deceived, that they believe that Jesus has usurped the position and power which truly belongs to Lucifer. However, allow me to remind you of what the Scriptures really have to say concerning this terrible deception:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:14, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

". . . He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44b, KJV

So just like all of the other false gods and goddesses we have discussed in this series, Satan, or Lucifer, is a liar and a deceiver. As Jesus says in the above verse, there is absolutely no truth in Satan's claims. He is not the true "Light-Bearer", and is not the true "Morning Star"; Jesus Christ is; as we can plainly determine by the following verses:

"Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:"
Psalms 104:2, KJV

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."
Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;"
Isaiah 10:17, KJV

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."
John 1:4-9, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
John 9:5, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth . . . I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."
John 12:35, 46, KJV

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."
Isaiah 60:19-20, KJV

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."
Revelation 21:23-25, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."
Revelation 22:16, KJV

It stands to reason then, that if Satan is a liar and a deceiver, then his mythological mother, Aurora, must be one as well, when she claims that she heralded the return of the Sun god each morning. The same thing can be said of Eos who

was associated with the dawn by the Greeks, of Ostara who was associated with the dawn by the Germans, of Ashtoreth who was the wife and companion of the Sun god Baal, of Ishtar who was the wife and companion of the Sun god Tammuz, and of Isis who was the sky goddess who supposedly brought Osiris, the god of the dead, back to life. All of these ancient myths are based upon nothing but lies, and are oft times twisted versions of Scriptural truth. We have already seen that Jesus is the true Light of the world, and the Morning Star. What you may not know, is that the Bible also compares God the Father to the Sun, as we see by the following verse:

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Psalms 84:11, KJV

So if anyone has a right to be symbolically compared to the physical Sun, it is our Heavenly Father; because as I point out in such articles as "The Children Of Light: Are You One Of Us?", He is in fact referred to by the Apostle James as the "Father of Lights". He is the brightest that there is. He is the most glorious of them all, as we see here:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17, KJV

At this point, you may possibly be wondering to yourself, "Well, if God the Father is compared to the Sun, and is also called the 'Father of Lights' by the Apostle James, how then can Jesus be the Light of the world?" Don't worry. There is actually a very straightforward and Scripture-based answer to this seeming dilemma. Just as the Moon reflects the light of the Sun due to its highly-reflective surface, in the Bible, Jesus also informs us that He reflects the Light and Glory of His Father as well. Consider the following verses closely:

"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel . . . I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

John 5:19-20, 30, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Matthew 16:27, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38, KJV

"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father, and of the holy angels."

Luke 9:26, KJV

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 1:14, KJV

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was . . . Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

John 17:5, 24, KJV

It may also surprise you to know that in the same manner that these pagan Moon goddesses received their glory from a more powerful Sun god, and just as Jesus Christ reflects the Glory of His Father, God's Word also informs us that in a prophetic sense, Israel -- or perhaps the Endtime Church, if you happen to embrace that interpretation -- likewise receives her glory from the Sun -- meaning God the Father -- and has the Moon positioned beneath her feet. Similarly, just as these pagan deities were "star goddesses", who were represented by actual heavenly bodies in the sky, the symbolic woman of Revelation chapter twelve is likewise crowned with twelve stars, as we see by the following verse:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"

Revelation 12:1, KJV

For an in-depth look at this intriguing subject, please refer to the three-part series titled "The Woman In The Wilderness And The 144,000". To reiterate, in all of these pagan myths, we see that whether we are discussing Isis, Ishtar, Astarte, Ashtoreth, Eos, Easter, Ostara or Aurora, all of them are in some way associated with a companion male god -- and usually a Sun god -- either through bringing him back to life, or by announcing his arrival, or in some other way. Similar to the Bible, we find the elements of the Sun, the Moon, and stars mentioned. We find a mention of Satan the "Light-Bearer". We even find a "resurrection story" dealing with the Sun, but not the true Son of God. Can you see the terrible deception which is at work here, and the satanic twisting of Biblical truth? In actuality, it appears that we may be dealing with just one central myth here, which has been quite consistent throughout thousands of years of world history, with merely some minor variations occurring between the various cultures.

While we can find reasons to easily explain why the ancient cultures believed in so many different gods and goddesses, the question that I would like to ask you is this: Why is it that the Easter myth has persisted even to our modern day? Is it possible that there is some kind of driving force which has purposely kept it alive in spite of the modernization of our society? Obviously, there are demonic spiritual forces at work here; but is it also possible that there exists some human-driven mechanism which has likewise been helping it along over the centuries? I believe that there is. Not only that, but there appear to be several factors in our story which all seem to point to the same source. We have already discussed most of them previously, but allow me to list them for you again.

1. As we saw earlier in our series, both William Tyndale, and his fellow Reformer, Martin Luther, were greatly influenced

by the Roman Catholic Church. William Tyndale was a Roman Catholic priest, while Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic monk, before they chose to rebel against the so-called "holy mother church" after failing to reform it.

2. As we also discussed previously, historically-speaking, the Roman Catholic Church has had negative feelings towards the Jews. It was only in recent years that Pope John Paul II offered apologies to the Jews for the church's treatment of the same.

3. Furthermore, a large part of Tyndale's work was achieved while he was in Germany, in the company of Martin Luther. This very area was the stronghold of the Germanic goddess Ostara, to whom sacrifices were made around the time of the Passover.

4. We know for a fact that William Tyndale repeatedly used "Easter" -- and derivatives thereof -- in his translation of the New Testament. It seems quite plausible that, given his negative sentiments towards the Jews, Luther may have done the very same thing. As we saw in part one, the English word "Easter" is derived from the Saxon word "Eostre", so this adds weight to the possibility that Martin Luther may have replaced "Passover" with "Eostre", just as Tyndale replaced it with "Easter" and "Ester".

5. The ancient Germans -- who were a part of the Holy Roman Empire -- appear to have adopted some of their gods from the Romans, and simply renamed them. Thus, the goddess Aurora of the Romans became the German goddess Ostara/Eostre, who then became the "Easter" of the Anglo-Saxons of Great Britain. Furthermore, as we've already seen, the goddess Ostara/Eostre can actually be traced all the way back to the Isis, Ishtar and Ashtoreth of the Middle East.

Taking all of these points into consideration, the evidence strongly suggests to me that the idea of integrating the name of this heathen Easter goddess -- and the rituals associated with her -- into our Christian faith, and then popularizing and perpetuating it, was formulated by none other than the Roman Catholic Church. If this is indeed the case, it is not the only time that the RCC has resorted to these kinds of tactics. No doubt you are wondering why the Roman Catholic Church would do this.

As I explain in a number of other articles which discuss the Roman Catholic Church, during the first half of the Fourth Century, it seems that the founding fathers of the Catholic Church seriously compromised our Christian faith, in order to consolidate their power base and wealth, and to expand their sphere of influence over the heathen masses throughout the Roman Empire. In short, they were enticed by the dreams of building a secular empire.

This treachery began in earnest during the reign of Emperor Constantine, due to the fact that it was at that time -- in the year 313 A.D. -- that Constantine issued the historic Edict of Milan, by the which, after many years of being a persecuted faith, Christianity was formally established and adopted throughout the Roman Empire as a "religio licita"; that is to say, a legal religion. In other words, whereas Christianity had been an ostracized minority religion with its adherents being victims in the coliseums of Rome, with the issuance of the Edict of Milan, Christians became quite prominent, respectable citizens in the empire, even owning

wealth and property. Sadly, as you will know, this attitude was contrary to the original teachings of Jesus Christ, and His first Apostles, as we can determine by verses such as the following:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also . . . No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world . . . They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

John 17:14, 16, KJV

Sadly, going by the historical record, we are given a clear impression that the leaders of the nascent Roman Catholic Church wanted to do the exact opposite. Rather than remain an ostracized society, the RCC bishops wanted to be embraced by Rome. They were no longer willing to pay the price of being social outcasts in the world because of their unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, like Peter, James, John and the other Apostles and Disciples had been. Instead, they desired to be a part of the world, and they foolishly lusted after power and wealth. In short, it is safe to say that those Fourth Century leaders chose to accept the satanic offer which even Jesus had wisely refused in Luke chapter four, as we see here:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt

worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Luke 4:5-8, KJV

Why did Jesus do this? Because as He would later say to Pilate just prior to His Crucifixion:

". . . My Kingdom is not of this world . . ."

John 18:36a, KJV

What about yours?

Please go to part seven for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

OUR PAGAN WORLD -- THE EASTER MYTH EXPOSED! : PART 7

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : April 19, 2000

Last Updated : April 16, 2011

Roman Catholic Empire-Building, Where There Is No Vision, A Light Hid Under A Bushel, Magnificent Cathedrals Built At The Expense Of The Poor, Deplorable Spiritual Condition Of The United States, Doctrinal Compromise By Roman Catholic Church, Merger Of Pagan And Christian Holy Days, Very Slow Process Of Assimilating Heathen Beliefs And Practices Into Roman Catholicism, Ecumenism And One World Religion, Roman Catholic Air Of Spiritual Superiority, Did Christianity Convert Rome Or Did Rome Convert Christianity?, Oppressive Religion Which Converted Through Violence, Persecution And Torture, Constantine's Alleged Conversion To Christianity, Ungodly Marriage Of Roman Politics And Christianity, Israel Hath Forgotten His Maker, Lip Service Only, Byzantine Era, The Poor Neglected While Leaders Revelled In Their Wealth, Roman Catholic Church Reacts With Violence To Reformers, Millions Killed By A Violent Holy Mother Church, Is RCC Symbolic Of Babylon?, Is There A Modern Queen Of Heaven?

As we concluded in part six, rather than remain true to the Christian faith which they had received from the Apostles and Disciples who had preceded them in the previous three hundred years, the worldly-minded bishops of the early Fourth Century chose to accept Satan's devilish offer, by compromising with Rome. With the issuance of Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313 AD, which resulted in the Roman government no longer persecuting the Christian Church, the bishops seem to have lost the vision for establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth, and instead chose to concentrate on building a vast empire of power and wealth, which would eventually extend all across the physical Roman Empire. In the Old Testament, we find the following verse:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18, KJV

In other words, the bishops of the Fourth Century lost their connection with God; and while they may not have perished in a physical sense, they most certainly perished in a spiritual sense. They shriveled up just like the fig tree that Jesus cursed in the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Contrary to what Jesus instructed us to do in the Gospels, the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church chose to hide their spiritual light under a bushel, and they became completely engrossed in the task of building a vast empire which was symbolized by its beautiful and richly decorated cathedrals and church buildings, all at the expense of the poor, who were required to pay indulgences to the church, in order to be forgiven for their sins, and to receive a reprieve from Hell. But please consider what Jesus said:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
Mark 8:38, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
John 18:36, KJV

So even though our Kingdom is not of this world, the bishops were set on establishing one anyway.

The same thing has happened in the United States of America. Just look at the deplorable spiritual condition in which the nation currently finds itself. After only two hundred and thirty-five years of being in existence, she has gone from being a God-fearing nation, which was founded upon Biblical principles, to becoming a multi-cultural society where even our school-aged children are now being instructed to say the more politically-correct "happy holidays", lest they offend someone who is not a member of the Christian faith.

Add to this the widespread practice of murdering the unborn innocent through abortion, the rampant sexual promiscuity which is now accepted even in some of the churches, the legalization of ungodly sexual relationships which are both an offense and an abomination to God, the rejection of God in the public school system as well as in other areas of public life, the corruption of both government and Big Business, the propensity for violence and war, the widespread use of drugs, and so many other social ills which now afflict the nation, and one must truly wonder how much longer the nation can last in its current state.

But returning our discussion to events of the Fourth Century, one of the methods that the Roman Catholic Church bishops employed in order to achieve their worldly objectives, and to strengthen their position within the Empire, was to adopt many pagan beliefs and practices, and to meld them with the pure Christian doctrine which had been carefully passed down

to them since the time of Christ and His original Apostles, only a few centuries before.

For example, Roman festivals which honored the pagan gods were transformed into Christian holy days. This was made particularly easy when the dates of the Roman festivals closely coincided with those of Christian holy days. As we have now seen, this is precisely what happened in the case of Roman Spring fertility rites and the worship of the Sun, and the day of our Lord's Resurrection. The Passover feast was ultimately transformed into Easter, just as the Roman Saturnalia festival eventually became Christmas, despite the fact that there is no clear Biblical evidence to support the belief that Jesus was even born during that time of year.

Through this process of polluting and perverting our faith, the bishops of the Fourth Century enticed the heathen into joining the newly institutionalized version of Christianity. You need to realize that to just expect the pagans of Roman society to suddenly abandon their own pantheon of gods, in order to embrace the new Christian God, would have no doubt caused some rather serious problems for the Roman government; so it seems that the corruption of our faith was more than likely a very slow, gradual process.

This process of assimilation has continued to our very day. All over the world, Roman Catholicism has adopted some of the customs and beliefs of the native peoples which it has brought into its fold. Some of you reading this will know exactly what I am talking about. For a number of years now, the Roman Catholic Church has spearheaded the ecumenical movement. The ultimate goal of this movement appears to be to create a "One World Religion". If this objective is in fact achieved, there should be no doubt that the Church of Rome expects to be at its helm, with the latest Pope sitting firmly on his throne. As I have mentioned a number of times before, and as many non-Catholics are already aware, the Roman Catholic Church views itself as being far superior to all other denominations within the Christian family, and also claims to be the inerrant voice of God on Earth -- the very "vicar of Christ".

While many modern Christians are of the opinion that the bishops of the Fourth Century Christianized Rome, I have to wonder if that is really true. Is it possible that the exact opposite happened? Stated another way, is it possible that Rome actually secularized and institutionalized our Christian faith, and to a large degree purged from it the Christian love and compassion which had been taught by Jesus Christ? In other words, did Christianity really convert Rome, or did Rome actually convert Christianity?

A brief look at the history of Europe and the Middle East following the Edict of Milan would certainly seem to uphold this belief. If anything, Rome turned our faith into a very worldly, oppressive, violent religion. Prior to that time, Christians most certainly did not create armies. To do so would have been totally contrary to the peaceful doctrines of Jesus Christ. Neither did they engage in wars or crusades as a means to convert the heathen to our faith at the edge of a sword. Honestly, what makes the Crusaders' actions so much different from a Muslim brandishing a sword for Allah? Neither did the early Christians engage in inquisitions in order to force people to accept our faith, lest they be persecuted and tortured, quite often to the point of death. This was not the Christian faith of Jesus and the Apostles.

It was the Christianity of Rome, which wasn't very Christian.

While we often hear the story of how Rome was so filled with secret Christians, that it was bound to be converted sooner or later, my suspicion is that Constantine's conversion, if it ever really occurred at all, may merely have been nothing more than a strategic move on his part. After all, like all Roman emperors, Constantine was a shrewd ruler, who had to constantly protect himself from ambitious adversaries, even from within his own ranks. Perhaps Constantine realized that the Christian Church was a powerful force which he could use to his own advantage, in order to unite the Empire under one common faith, as long as he controlled that faith. In other words, is it possible that Roman politics and Christianity became entwined in an ungodly marriage due to what was seen at the time as mutual advantage?

While other branches of modern Christianity have serious issues of their own, such as the inroads that the gay and lesbian agenda has made into so many churches, infidelity within married couples, false prophets and charlatan faith healers, fast-talking profiteering preachers, etc., I still feel that Roman Catholicism may be the most polluted, the most materialistic, the most idolatrous and the most corrupt of them all. From the time that Constantine established his capital in the ancient Greek city of Byzantium -- which was later renamed Constantinople, and is today known as Istanbul -- until now, the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy has been drunk on worldliness, power, and wealth. Similar to Israel of old, the RCC seems to worship God in name only, and has glorified herself in her many richly-decorated cathedrals and church buildings and other materialistic possessions; but has she too forgotten her Maker? Consider the following verses:

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples."
Hosea 8:14a, KJV

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"
Acts 7:48-49, KJV

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"
Isaiah 29:13, KJV

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."
Mark 7:6, KJV

During the Byzantine Period, Roman Catholic Churches sprung up all over the Empire, and her leadership revelled in their positions of power and wealth, while the common people were heavily burdened with indulgences, and the insecurity of their Salvation. At that time, the Bible was maintained in the language of scholars; that is, in Latin. As I point out in "The History Of The KJV Bible", when the brave Reformers of the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries began to translate the Holy Scriptures into English, so that their countrymen might better understand God's Plan of Salvation, the "holy mother church" reacted violently, and a clear record of her

bloody deeds can be found in "Foxe's Book of Martyrs", a copy of which you will find on our "Armageddon FREE Files" server. You will need to use either the FreeShare or Hotline client in order to download it.

While a precise figure is not known, the general consensus is that literally millions of people all across Europe and the Middle East were killed by the Roman Church, as a result of their refusal to accept Rome's brand of Christianity. Is it any wonder then, that from the time of the Reformers until now, many people have been strongly convinced that the Roman Catholic Church, or the popish church as she has been called, is the Biblical Babylon the Great, in whom was found the blood of Prophets and of Saints? Truly, she has ridden upon the political beast of the world, and has proclaimed herself the queen of the Christian faith, the "holy mother church", just as Babylon is called in the Book of Revelation, as we see here:

". . . MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."
Revelation 17:5, KJV

This brings us to our final topic for this series. We have seen how the "Easter" goddess has been loved and worshipped from culture to culture down through the ages. The question I would like to ask you is this: Is it possible that she is still worshipped today in a very subtle way? We have already seen that the day which has been designated to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection from the dead has been besmirched by the name of this false sex and fertility goddess, but does the deception truly end there? Is it possible that this deceptive mistress of disguises, who has gone by many different names down through the ages, has acquired a new identity in our modern times? Before you dismiss this possibility, please consider the following tantalizing hints.

From previous Scriptures which I have shared with you, we know that the ancient Israelites worshipped the Babylonian Tammuz and Ishtar, or the Phoenician Baal and Ashtoreth if you prefer. In the Books of the Prophets, there are some rather startling clues which may assist us in answering my previous questions. For example, in exposing the Israelites' sin of worshipping Ishtar, the Prophet Jeremiah wrote the following lines:

"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."
Jeremiah 7:18, KJV

"But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? . . . Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths,

and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows."
Jeremiah 44:17-19, 25 KJV

While some scholars believe that this "queen of heaven" may have been Asherah, personally, I am of the belief that she is none other than Ishtar -- the wife and companion of Tammuz -- who, as we saw earlier in this series, was also worshipped by the Israelites. Here again are the verses in order to refresh your memory:

"He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. 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."

Ezekiel 8:13-16, KJV

What is amazing about the previous verses from the Book of Jeremiah, is the fact that the ancient Israelites were so spiritually blind, so deeply deceived, and so backslidden in their hearts, that they were convinced that they had been blessed by Ishtar, the "queen of heaven". Notice that they even go so far as to inform the Prophet Jeremiah that the minute that they stopped worshipping Ishtar, and no longer offered sacrifices to her, their troubles returned in the form of war, invasion, famine, etc. In other words, they were convinced that their blessings were dependent on their adoring that pagan goddess, and not on worshipping the true God of Heaven, who had spared them time and time again from their enemies. What a far cry from the praises of King David who only a few centuries earlier wrote the following:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Psalms 20:7, KJV

Having said that, allow me to ask you now: Is there a major world religion today, in which literally millions of people worship a spirit which manifests itself as a beautiful woman surrounded by stars? Similar to Ishtar of old, is not this modern spirit also reverentially referred to as the "Queen of Heaven" by her millions of faithful followers? Just as the Israelites believed that their blessings were a result of their veneration of Ishtar, do not these modern believers diligently obey the words of their "goddess" as well, and do they not also constantly refer to her as "Blessed Mother"?

It is also very interesting to note that, just as Ishtar was associated with the Sun god, it is claimed by the followers of this modern "Queen of Heaven", that they too have seen miracles occur in association with the Sun. Personally, if I were a member of this religion, I would be terribly troubled by the information that I have just relayed to you. For more information regarding this topic, allow me to refer you to my series titled "Lying Wonders Of The Endtime". In conclusion, Do you still feel comfortable with saying "Happy Easter"? If

so, are you also comfortable with William Tyndale referring to Christ as our "easterlamb", or "esterlamb"; or should we really be saying "Ishtar's Lamb"?

With these questions I will bring another series to a close. I pray that it has been informative, and a blessing in your life.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>