

Where Exactly Did “Easter” Come From?

Does the following sound familiar?—Spring is in the air! Flowers and bunnies decorate the home. Mothers help her children paint pastel designs on eggs dyed in various colors, which will later be hidden and searched for, then put into baskets. Sunday, clothes to wear to the next day’s worship service to celebrate “Jesus’ resurrection.” People baking succulent hams with all the trimmings. It will be a thrilling day. After all, (according to the strongly entrenched traditions of men) it’s one of the most important “religious” “Holy Days” of the year! **IS ANY OF THIS SCRIPTURAL?**

“Easter?” This is a description of an ancient Babylonian family—*2,000 years before Christ*—honoring the resurrection of their pagan false god, **Tammuz**, from whom the symbol of “the cross” actually originates, who was brought back from the underworld by his mother/wife, Ishtar (after whom the festival was named). As Ishtar was actually pronounced “**Easter**” in most Semitic dialects, it could be said that the event portrayed here is, in a sense, Easter. Of course, the occasion could easily have been a Phrygian family honoring Attis and Cybele, or perhaps a Phoenician family worshipping Adonis and Astarte. Also fitting the description well would be a heretic Israelite family honoring the Canaanite Baal and Ashtoreth. Or this depiction could just as easily represent any number of other immoral, pagan fertility celebrations of death and resurrection—including the modern Easter celebration as it has come to us through the Anglo-Saxon fertility rites of the goddess Eostre or Ostara. These are all the same festivals, separated only by time and culture.

If Easter is NOT found in the Bible, then where did it come from? The vast majority of ecclesiastical and secular historians agree that the name of Easter and the traditions surrounding it are deeply rooted in pagan religion.

Now notice the following powerful quotes that demonstrate more about the *true* origin of how the modern Easter celebration got its name:

“Since Bede the Venerable (*De ratione temporum* 1:5) the origin of the term for the feast of Christ’s Resurrection has been popularly considered to be from the Anglo-Saxon Eastre, a goddess of spring...the Old High German plural for dawn, *eostarun*; whence has come the German *Ostern*, and our English Easter” (*The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1967, Vol. 5, p. 6).

“The fact that vernal festivals were general among pagan peoples no doubt had much to do with the form assumed by the Eastern festival in the Christian churches. The English term Easter is of *pagan origin*” (Albert Henry Newman, D.D., LL.D., *A Manual of Church History*, p. 299).

“On this greatest of Christian festivals, several survivals occur of ancient heathen ceremonies. To begin with, the name itself is not Christian but *pagan*. Ostara was the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring” (Ethel L. Urlin, *Festival, Holy Days, and Saints Days*, p. 73).

“**Easter**”—the name **Easter** comes to us from Oстера or Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, for whom a spring festival was held annually, as it is from this *pagan festival* that some of our Easter customs have come” (Hazeltine, p. 53).

“In Babylonia...the goddess of spring was called Ishtar. She was identified with the planet Venus, which, because...[it] rises before the Sun...or sets after it...appears to love the light [this means Venus loves the sun-god]...In Phoenecia, she became Astarte; in Greece, Eostre [related to the Greek word *Eos*: “dawn”], and in Germany, Ostara [this comes from the German word *Ost*: “east,” which is the direction of dawn]” (Englehart, p. 4).

As we have seen, many names are interchangeable for the more well-known *Easter*. Pagans typically used many different names for the same god or goddess. Nimrod, the Bible figure who built the city of Babylon & Assyria, is an example. He was worshipped as Saturn, Vulcan, Kronos, Baal, Tammuz, Molech and others, but HE was always the same god—the fire or sun god universally worshipped in nearly every ancient culture. *The True Origin of Christmas* This holiday and Nimrod's part in it also stem from ancient Babylon.

Nevertheless, the goddess **Easter** was no different. She was *one* goddess with *many* names—the goddess of fertility, worshipped in spring when all life on earth was being renewed.

The widely-known historian, Will Durant, in his famous and respected work, *Story of Civilization*, wrote, "Ishtar [Astarte to the Greeks, Ashtoreth to the Jews], interests us not only as analogue of the Egyptian Isis and prototype of the Grecian Aphrodite and the Roman Venus, but as the formal beneficiary of one of the strangest of Babylonian customs... known to us chiefly from a famous page in Herodotus: Every native woman is obliged, once in her life, to sit in the temple of Venus [**Easter**], and have intercourse with some stranger." Is it any wonder that the Bible speaks of the religious system that has descended from that ancient city as, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (**Rev. 17:5**) (KJV)

Let's look closer at the origin of *other customs* associated with the modern Easter celebration.

The Origin of Lent

According to Johannes Cassianus, who wrote in the fifth century, "Howbeit you should know, that as long as the primitive church retained its perfection unbroken, this observance of Lent did not exist" (*First Conference Abbot Theonas*, chapter 30). There is neither biblical nor historical record of Christ, the apostles or the early Church participating in the Lenten season.

Since there is *no* instruction to observe Lent in the Bible, where did it come from? A forty-day abstinence period was anciently observed in honor of the pagan gods Osiris, Adonis and Tammuz (John Landseer, *Sabaeen Researches*, pp. 111, 112). Alexander Hislops, *The Two Babylons*, pp. 104-105, says this of the origin of Lent: "The forty days abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, in the spring of the year, is still observed by the Yezidis or Pagan Devil-worshippers of Koordistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a *Lent* of forty days was held in spring by the Pagan Mexicans... Such a Lent of forty days was observed in Egypt..."Lent" came from paganism, not from the Bible!

Nevertheless after all has been researched, who brought this paganism to so-called "Christianity?" Christendom itself with its insatiable GREED for control of the masses and their money added all of this paganism to the Catholic Church in Rome and in England as they became "**The Harlot**" (impure/adulterous religion) riding on the Political Governments of the entire Earth.... "**The Wild Beast!**"