

Easter Sun-Day

- **The Roman Empire** merged Christianity with Paganism and all religions were merged together to satisfy each religious group under the rule of Constantine the great. Even though he claimed to be Christian, he accepted all religions and promoted religious tolerance so that all belief systems would support his rule. This is the leaven of Herod and Jesus warned against this. Leaven represents influence and Herod, being a leader of the government used his influence in government to influence the church. *Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.*
- **Easter season** is a big deal in America because of the sales and celebrations that occur. But it is not a Christian holiday. Even though many believers stopped using the word Easter and started calling it Resurrection Sunday, many have gone back to Easter in efforts to lure crowds and people for the sake of popularity and finances. Let's break down this season and get a good understand of what it really represents and how the catholic church's merge is still continuing in our day.

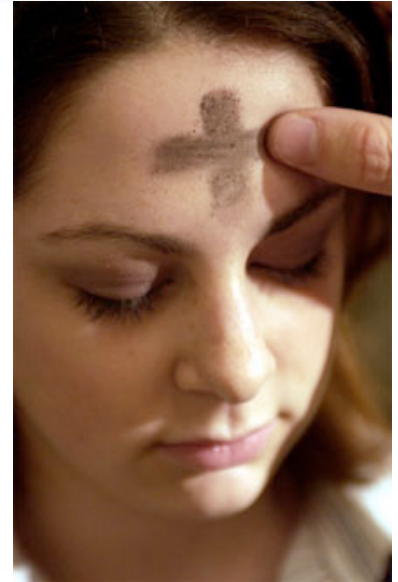


Indulge before abstaining?
Carnival is a festival which can be traced back to the Roman

- Saturnalia, a festival held in mid-December to honor the god Saturn with feasting, gift giving and role reversal. The word Carnival means to "put away flesh" This name came from the denial of meat during Lent. *1 Tim. 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*
- American Carnival is known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. This carnival celebration is where people celebrate in revelry, excess, and indulgence, with paganism included to prepare for the fasting of Lent.

In New Orleans each year, the celebration of sin and lust is done excessively during this time.

- Ash Wednesday immediately follows Mardi Gras, which is a demonic mediation of the priest to ritually have ashes smeared on foreheads in the shape of a cross. The ashes cannot be washed off but must be worn around all day as a morbid focus on death and darkness.
- During Ash Wednesday Catholics are called to fast, as well as every Friday during Lent *Matthew 6:16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*



Lent

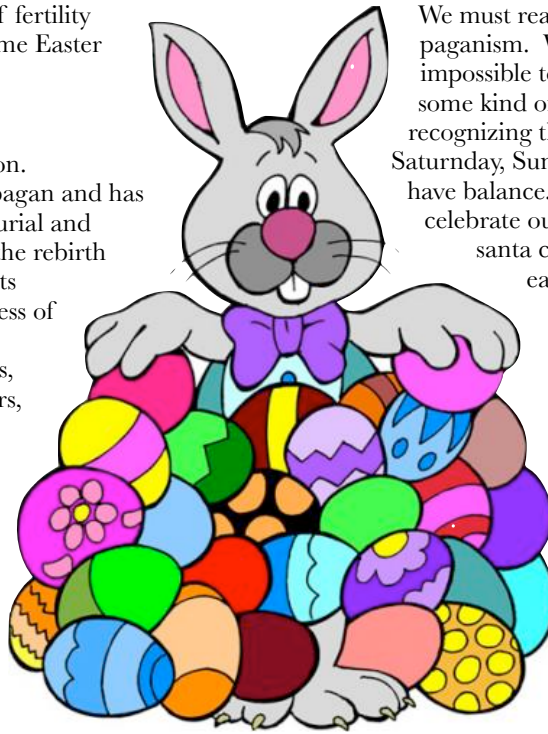
- Lent is a catholic 40 day observation and fast to commemorate the 40 day fast of Jesus and is done 6 weeks leading up to Maundy Thursday. This is a period of giving up something for 40 days but it is not biblical. Lent is used for "fasting from sin and from vice...forsaking sin and sinful ways." It is a season "for penance, which means sorrow for sin and conversion to God." *Jer. 14:12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them:*
- Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, marking the end of Lent, is the day when the last supper is commemorated and then it is followed by Fish Fry Friday which was a tradition to consume fish on Good Friday. Friday was named after Freya, the fish moon goddess and eating fish on Friday was to commemorate her. This goes back to Dagon, priest of fish, the Mitre, and also the symbol of fish for Christianity.

The Queen of Heaven

- Eostra is the Anglo-Saxon version of Ishtar/Ashtoreth/Semiramus, the Sumerian goddess of love and war who is the moon goddess and wife of Baal. According to Sumerian lore, Ishtar was the wife of the Sumerian god, Tammuz. Both are spoken of in the Bible – Tammuz in Ezekiel 8:14 and Ishtar, called Ashtoreth and Queen of Heaven, in Judges 2:13, Judges 10:6, Jeremiah 44:17, and elsewhere.
- When Tammuz died, Ishtar/Semiramis followed him to the underworld, leaving the earth deprived of its fertility. She and Tammuz were rescued from death when the Queen of the Dead allowed a heavenly messenger to sprinkle them with the water of life. This allowed them to return to the light of the sun for six months of each year. For the other six they had to return to the land of death creating the winter/spring celebrations.
- Easter was created as a celebration of these events in worship to the goddess of fertility and the power of the sun. The name Easter is said to derive from Ishtar.

Parallels

- Easter predates Christ's resurrection. Symbolism used during Easter is pagan and has no significance to Christ's death burial and resurrection. The eggs represent the rebirth or fertility as with the bunny rabbits because of the the sumerian goddess of fertility.
- Chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs, marshmallow chicks in pastel colors, and candy of all sorts have pagan origins. An ancient pagan belief is to ingest the gods you worship, so the candy easter bunny and eggs allow one to ingest the goddess of fertility in worship to her so one can lay hold to her strength, vitality, and fertility. This is why the eggs are boiled and colored, to be more pleasing to the eyes and stomach.
- Easter is mentioned in the bible only once and it's not a mistranslation of the word Pascha which means passover. This word appears twenty-nine times in the New Testament. Twenty-eight of those times the word is rendered "Passover" in reference to the night when the Lord passed over Egypt and killed all the firstborn of Egypt (Exodus 12:12), thus setting Israel free from four hundred years of bondage. This occurrence in Acts 12:4 is referring to the Easter celebration because the feast of unleavened bread that follows Jewish Passover had already passed. The bible was specifically referring to Herod celebrating Easter.
- Sunrise services are the most pagan events of the whole Easter weekend. The rising sun is worship to the sun god rising from the underworld. It has nothing to do with Christ's resurrection because Christ rose Saturday evening not Sunday morning. **Eze 8:15 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.

- Easter is really patterned after the pagan parallel of Semiramis/Nimrod. The enemy created a false virgin birth story years prior to the true story and now the pagan celebration and the celebration of Christ's resurrections has overlapped. This is common living in a pagan society. But we must use balance when we are trying to be in this world and not of this world.

Summary

We must realize that our culture is full of paganism. We live in Babylon reborn! So, it is impossible to live in our world without observing some kind of pagan celebration or even recognizing the pagan days of the week (Freyaday, Saturday, Sungodday, Moonday, etc). We must have balance. This does not mean that we celebrate our savior with eggs, rabbits, or even santa clause, but we do have authority in the earth to chose to celebrate our loved ones and Christ's birth, death/resurrection if we desire. Celebrations and recognizing days are not mandatory since Christ has risen, but if we chose to, we can. But we must be careful in adopting pagan practices that may lead to indirect worship of false gods when we are aware.

Because the enemy knew the seed of the woman would bring forth Christ, he created a false seed and a false messiah. And because of the parallels in all societies of his virgin birth story, there are many celebrations that point to false gods

instead of the true messiah. But we must remember that, the true story is the only real story. Christ was born, and he died and was resurrected. So, if we choose to commemorate his events, then it's our prerogative. After all, the false god stories aren't real anyway, so they were created to keep people away from the true messiah and it's our job to bring people to the truth. That being said, when we celebrate Christ, even if it parallels the pagan dates, times, and events, we must not allow pagan beliefs to enter into what we do.

Col. 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.