

UNTO THE END

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“BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE
SAVED” (MTH. 24:13)

On Easter

By Bro. Jim

It's that time of year again; new Sunday dresses, baskets of candy, colored eggs and a famed bunny rabbit. Quick, what do any of these items have to do with Jesus Christ? Answer: NOTHING. These things are all part of the pagan holiday known as Easter. This holiday was celebrated (like Christmas) a LONG time before Jesus Christ walked the earth, died, and was resurrected. The word is mentioned once in the scriptures (which we will look at shortly) but it is not in any way, shape, or form associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to research the origin of Easter. You will find that what I have said concerning its pagan origins is indeed the truth. I could spend pages talking about the origins of witchcraft, pagan celebrations, Catholic Holidays, etc. but I will spare you. Again, I encourage you to look this up on your own. Rather, I want to turn to the Holy Bible and look at the passage that mentions Easter. Namely because I have over the years heard Christians say “The word ‘Easter’ is in the Bible” with the idea that since this word is contained in the scriptures, then there must be nothing wrong with keeping the holiday. Secondly, I've also heard people say that the word Easter was a mistranslation by the King James translators and the correct word should have been “Passover” not “Easter”. This too is false; the word of God is perfect and complete. There is no mistranslation. It is my prayer that if you are a Christian, you will come to understand that Easter is a pagan holiday and not for you to partake of. I also want you to know that the scriptures are perfect and without error. Let's now turn to the passage that contains the word Easter and have a closer look.

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched

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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.

There you have it; the word Easter is found in the Holy Bible; but before we use this fact alone as a basis to say that Christians can/should keep Easter, let's take a closer look. The question is who was keeping Easter. Herod was a pagan king who killed a man of God (James). Because he saw that this pleased the subjects he was ruling over (Christian hating Jews) he proceeded to arrest and imprison Peter. So Peter was thrown into jail by a pagan king because the king wanted to have happy subjects (which are much easier to govern). It just so happened that Peter was taken captive with the Easter holiday being fast approaching. The pagan King Herod decided to let Peter sit in prison and to bring him before the people after Easter. Was he doing this for Peter's benefit? Was he being “nice” to Peter who, as a Christian was keeping Easter? No! Herod the pagan king was keeping Easter, the pagan holiday. He wanted to enjoy the celebration and to wait to “mess” with Peter after the holiday had been enjoyed. So it was Herod who was keeping that holiday. Christians are not to keep pagan holidays. Further, nowhere in scripture does God tell the church to keep Easter. Also, nowhere in scripture is Easter associated with the death and

resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a pagan and Catholic holiday. It is for pagans and Catholics, not men and women of God. Amen. Now that we have an understanding as to who was keeping Easter let's now move to the next topic: was the word "Easter" a mistranslated word?

To those that say the word "Easter" in the passage is an error and the correct word should have been "Passover": there is NO error in the Word of God. Isaiah the prophet said, **"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."** Isa 40:8. Jesus Christ said, **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."** Mth. 24:35. I believe Jesus when he said this. If however you believe that the word "Easter" was a mistranslation, then indeed you are calling Jesus a liar. But it is impossible that God should lie, amen! The Greek word "Pascha" can be translated as either "Passover" or "Easter". There are those that when the King James translators translated "Pascha" as "Easter" they should have translated it as "Passover" instead. But as we will see, the correct translation of Pascha here is Easter and the King James translators were indeed correct. Let's look at why the word could NOT have been "Passover". Notice that Peter was put into prison during the days of unleavened bread (vs. 3). Keep this in mind as we look at a passage from the Old Testament:

"These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. 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." Lev.23:4-6.

So the 14th day of the first month is the Passover. Then, the next day, the 15th day begins the days of unleavened bread which lasts for seven days. The scripture in Acts said Peter was put into prison during the days of unleavened bread. So he was put into prison AFTER Passover, sometime during those SEVEN days of Unleavened Bread. In other words, when he was put into prison the Passover had already happened. But the scripture also says that Herod was going to bring Peter forward to the people after Easter, which apparently hadn't happened yet at the point he was put into prison. Therefore, Peter was put into prison after Passover (during the days of unleavened bread) and before Easter (since Herod intending to bring him forth to the people AFTER Easter). So the word Easter is NOT a mistranslation. Easter and Passover are two different things and if Peter was put into prison during the days of unleavened bread, then Passover was already over. The King James translators understood this and so since Passover was over, then the correct word for the next celebration would have been Easter. God's word stands forever. Amen.

One final thought on Easter. This holiday is celebrated widely across the globe (like Christmas). Many people love and celebrate Easter each year; Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Atheists, Pagans etc. The problem with this is found in the following scripture:

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." Jn. 15:18.

Jesus Christ says plainly that the world hates him and also hates those that are His. Taking Christ at His word, if the world hates him, then why would the world want to celebrate his birth (Christmas) and his death and resurrection (Easter)? They would not. Therefore Christmas/Easter are not of the Spirit of Christ. These holidays are pagan holidays and have nothing to do with true biblical Christianity. The world hates Jesus Christ therefore they are NOT going to celebrate His death and resurrection. If you are a born again believer, hear what the Spirit saith to the church; please cease to celebrate these pagan holidays with the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is NOT in him (1Jn. 2:15-17)!! God commands you NOWHERE to celebrate the birth of Jesus (Christmas) or His death and resurrection (Easter). The Catholic Church in time past took existing pagan holidays and married them to the "church". But God says, Come out of HER my people. Thus saith the Lord. Amen

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