



## PASSOVER - UNLEAVENED BREAD And The History of Easter

Exodus 13:17 to 15:26  
Numbers 28:19-25  
2 Samuel 22:1-51  
John 19:38 to 20:23  
Acts 1

Have you wondered what happened to the early Hebrew followers of Yeshua's day or how the Christian church came into being or how the Sabbath and God's/*Elohim* Feast Days disappeared from the Church creed? Looking into history will show us how this came about and why most Christian's never fully embraced the Feast of Passover or God's/*Elohim* Scripturally appointed Feast Days.

🦁 **Leviticus 23:4-8, 21** “These *are* the feasts of the LORD/*Yahweh*, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the LORD'S/*Yahweh*'s Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD/*Yahweh*; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD/*Yahweh* for seven days. The seventh day *shall be* a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work *on it*. And you shall proclaim on the same day *that* it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work *on it*. *It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.*”

### History The Bar Kokhba Revolt

Between 132 – 135 CE a Jewish leader, Simon bar Kokhba, the commander of the Jewish army, led a revolt against the Romans in Jerusalem. Before this event, the rabbinical authority at the time deposed the long-standing Levitical Kohath lineage of Zadok priests. Under the leadership of Rabbi Akiba, many proclaimed Simon bar Kokhba (*Kokva*) as their Messiah. The rabbinic that opposed God's/*Elohim* Kingdom order and priesthood was now the supreme spiritual head over Jerusalem. During the revolt, the Jews failed in their attempt to secure Jerusalem from the Romans. So severe was their defeat that all Jews were barred from Jerusalem for the first time in history. In Judea and Samaria, most of the Jewish population had either been killed or carried off

into slavery by the victorious Romans. Simon bar Kokhba, the rabbinic choice for Messiah, turned out to be their false messiah.

After the Bar Kokhba uprising, the Roman Empire forbade all biblical customs such as circumcision among the Jews. The Romans killed and replaced the Jewish Rabbi with Gentile pagan uncircumcised leaders called *bishops*. These Gentile bishops and their followers naturally began thinking of themselves as having *replaced the Jews*. That mindset laid the foundation for *replacement theology*. These pagan bishops brought with them a mix of Roman/Greek mythology; thus, syncretism (mixing pagan beliefs with God's/*Elohim* word) was woven among the assemblies/*ekklesia* and began to take root. With the advent of the Septuagint (LXX: the Greek translation of the 'old' Hebrew texts), the *Greek gospel* grew to become the *religion* of choice across the Greek believing world. This new religion far outweighed the original intent of the Hebrew text/Gospel that Yeshua preached. Thus, the Greek gospel had a new look (Jesus) and a new following called *Christianity*.

## Early Church Fathers Marcion, Origen, Eusebius, and Constantine – History Explored

### Marcion - *The Heretic*

Marcion was reportedly a wealthy ship owner who arrived in Rome in 140 CE soon after the Bar Kokhba revolt. Marcion's teaching introduced a two-deity principle where the Hebrew God of the *Old Testament* was a wrathful God and lower in status and power than the God of Jesus and Paul in the *New Testament*. Even though the Church declared Marcion a heretic at the time, his teachings lived on, flaming anti-Semitism and eventually influencing the translation of the King James Bible. His teachings became mainstream and remains a theological foundation for the Church today.

### Origen - *The Heretic*

Origen was also considered a heretic in his day. During his lifetime two church councils, held in Alexandria in 231 and 232 CE, excommunicated him. After his death, his views were officially condemned. Nevertheless, most of the Greek Church fathers of the third and fourth centuries remained more or less under the influence of Origen's theology. It was Origen's allegorical system of interpretation that produced the anti-Judaic *New Israel* theology. This heresy, which became mainstream, declared that in the Scriptures when reading the word "Israel," one was to substitute it for the word "church." That interpretation brought about a distortion of God's / *Elohim* word, His purpose, and the identity of His chosen people. Origen's beliefs leaned toward Marcionism where "*the Christian gospel was wholly a gospel of love to the absolute exclusion of the Law [Moses].*" That implied that the God of the Jews was evil, full of wrath and had nothing to do with the God of Jesus Christ. Origen influenced the term *spiritual Israel* saying that Israel now means "*the mind that sees God*" and no longer referred to the "*empty*" Jewish people but that the Church was now the *fullness* of Christ. He further stated that,

*"The passion of Christ brings life to believers... and death... to unbelievers. For although salvation and justification came to the Gentiles through His cross, to the Jews came death and condemnation."*

Origen claimed that the Scriptures did not belong to the Jews; they belonged to the Church, as *the Church* was now the supreme authority.

Anti-Semitism flourished under Origen's prolific writing style. He was relentless in saying that the Jews murdered Jesus. Because of this, he taught that the God of the *New Testament* was finished with them (Jews), and they would pay. Origen wrote,

*"Hence we may see how after the advent of Jesus the Jews have been entirely forsaken, and retain none of their traditionally sacred possessions, nor even a hint of the divine presence among them."*

Origen spoke about the Jews in terms of a lesser people who could not see the word clearly, that they had "types" of the truth but rejected it, saying,

*"If he who is commonly called a Jew murdered the Lord Jesus and is still today responsible for that murder, it is because he has not understood the Law and the prophets in a hidden manner."*

Origen stated that God closed the eyes of the Jews, as they were unworthy to see.

### Origen And The Dispensation Of Grace – Replacement Theology

Origen introduced the dispensation theology of grace in the Church saying,

*"We Christians say that although [the Jews] 'enjoyed the favor of God' and were loved by Him more than any others, yet this dispensation and grace changed over to us when Jesus transferred the power at work among the Jews to the Gentile believers."*

Origen further stated that the grace found in Jesus overrode God's written word in the Mosaic Covenant/Law and that His instructions from Mount Sinai were therefore no longer relevant. Origen became the father of the Church's new *replacement dispensation theology*. Now new believers in Jesus had a *New Testament (Covenant) in a newly reconstructed Church*.

Commenting on this verse, "He shall not be reckoned among the nations" (Numbers 23:9), Origen adds that if the nation of Israel abandons her privileged position, she is no longer Israel.

*"Therefore no one from Jacob or Israel who sins can be called Jacob or Israel, and equally no Gentile who has once entered the Church of the Lord will ever again be reckoned among the nations."*

For Origen, the whole debate between the Church and the synagogue could be reduced to the one question of the interpretation of Scripture. Thus, he viewed the difference between Judaism and Christianity as follows: *Christians perceive the spiritual mysteries, which are only hinted at in the Bible, whereas Jews are only capable of a strictly literal understanding of the text*. Sadly, Origen chose to ignore or alter reality to make it fit with his beliefs. Origen decided to portray the Jews as those who rejected the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Anyone who did not accept *his* allegorical system of interpretation was slandered as nothing more than "*a Jew*," and really did not belong in the Church. Origen distorted reality rather than change his belief system.

In his youthful zeal for ascetic holiness, Origen committed the act of self-emasculation (castration), which he repented for in his later years. Nevertheless, in 228 CE, he was ordained presbyter by two bishops friendly to his teachings. These men showed blatant disregard for God's/*Elohim* word that says, "no eunuch could serve before Him" (Leviticus 21:20).

Many Church denominations still hold firmly to Marcion and Origen's doctrines today.

## Eusebius

Eusebius became bishop of Caesarea in 314 CE. He was a student of Origen and inherited his perspective on religion and theology. At the time, Constantine was Emperor of Rome. Constantine thought of himself as the image of the sun god, representative of the Almighty, and the interpreter of Logos, the Word. He followed and adopted Eusebius' work as it best matched his ideals. Eusebius wrote *The Ecclesiastical History*, the acknowledged history of the Church from the end of the Book of Acts to the time of the Council of Nicaea, a council in which Constantine asked Eusebius to convene in approximately 325 AD.

For Eusebius, there was no distinction between the Church and the Empire or State. They appeared to merge into each other. However, the question remained, that if the kingdom of God was to be Scripturally fulfilled through the repentance of Israel and the personal earthly reign of Yeshua the Messiah from Jerusalem, then the Jews are unavoidably part of that kingdom. In which case, God's faithfulness to the Jews had not expired after Yeshua's death, and the kingdom was *still in the future*. If on the other hand, Constantine, along with the emerging Holy Roman Empire and the State-exalted church, were God's kingdom, then there was no need for the Jews and the kingdom had been fulfilled under Constantine's mandate. Thus, the rejection and replacement of the Jews were the means of fulfilling Eusebius' doctrine for the kingdom of God. Instead of being true citizens of the kingdom, Jews then became the enemy regardless of whether they were devout to Judaism, walking with the Messiah, or secular – *all were the enemy*.

## Eusebius And The *New Israel*

Eusebius firmly believed that the Church was the *New Israel* and had replaced the Jews. Upholding his mentor Origen's philosophy, Eusebius either rejected the Scriptures that promised the restoration of the Jewish people – the House of Jacob (Israel) or he ignored those Scriptures altogether (Romans 11:25-27). Either way, Eusebius was intentionally inaccurate. He had his own agenda. Eusebius was the product of the Alexandrian school of theology (that of Origen) "*the first thoroughly dishonest historian of antiquity.*" The church that he wanted to help create was more important to him than the accuracy of the Scriptures. Eusebius was credited with being the father of the allegorical method of interpretation and mandated that allegorical interpretation was the *only* way to understand the Scriptures truly. This perspective then became the *real* meaning of the text. For example, when the text read "Israel" it meant "the church" and not the Jews, so long as the text was *positive*. If the scripture was *not positive*, then "Israel" meant "the Jews" and not "the church."

An edition of the *Septuagint* (the Greek interpretation of the Hebrew 'old' testament) seems to have been prepared by Origen. According to Jerome (Eusebius's son, who preferred the original Hebrew), it was revised and circulated by Eusebius and Pamphilus.

## Pamphilus - *The Presbyter And Promoter*

Pamphilus' family came from Beirut. He studied at the famous Roman catechetical school in Alexandria, Egypt where he became devoted to the works of Origen. In Caesarea, he was ordained as a priest and was the friend and teacher of Eusebius.

Pamphilus was one of the most liberal and efficient copy/correctors of Christian manuscripts in his day and was credited as being the father of Church history. The views of Origen had been declared heretical until Pamphilus helped establish a religious school and library dedicated to establishing Origen's views as the true orthodoxy throughout the entire church. Eusebius wholeheartedly gave himself to the task of publishing six volumes in defense of the views of Origen. Pamphilus transcribed with his own hand these and other books, among them the Greek Septuagint from the Hexapla of Origen. Origen's heresy inevitably triumphed in the fourth century at the Council of Nicaea through Eusebius, Constantine, and those who followed them. Pamphilus was later beheaded in 309 CE.

## Constantine - The Sun God



In 312 CE, Constantine, the commander of the legions of Britain and Gaul, was focused on moving south toward Italy. Before the invasion, he received a vision known as the *Chi-Rho*, which is a symbol of the spring and fall solar equinox lines around the center of the universe. That symbol had long been used in Greek mythology representing father-son. Constantine saw himself as the sun god and had his men wear this *Chi-Rho* sign on their shields before going into battle. That image helped influence the Christians over to Constantine's side, as they mistook the emblem as representing *for Christ*. Within eighteen years Constantine had acquired the Roman Empire and a new religion.

To aid his governing of the people, Constantine adopted Eusebius' teachings as they complimented his ideals. Constantine's objective was two-fold. He saw himself as the Emperor of Rome and at the same time the image of Almighty God. Thus, Emperor Constantine acted as the interpreter of Logos, the Word, and head of the emerging Holy Roman Empire and the exalted state Church. He reasoned that if *they* had become God's kingdom, then there was no need for Jewish believers, as the Jews held no special significance for the kingdom of God. Thus, the rejection and replacement of the Jews as the natural branch was the means to fulfill Constantine's newly established church. Therefore, the Jews became the enemy. Consequently, the Church proclaimed and enforced its new belief.

## Constantine And The Council Of Nicaea

Constantine's position was purely political. He used Christianity for his own gain and did not commit himself to the faith until his death, just to cover himself. In 325 CE he assembled a general council of more than 200 bishops at Constantine's palace. Called the Council of Nicaea, its purpose was to settle two main issues. The first concerned the divinity of Christ. The writings of Arius (Arianism), a Presbyter in Alexandria, taught that Jesus was divine, but that He was a lesser deity, created by the Father and that He did not exist before the Father, but came into being after God. Arius failed in his attempt, was labeled a heretic and excommunicated. Later the authorities tried to reinstate him, but he suddenly died the night before the reinstatement ceremony.

Although the Council of Nicaea dealt primarily with the issue of the deity of Christ, some maintain that the council was not the originator for the doctrine of the Trinity. Over a century earlier, the use of the term “Trinity” (*trinitas* in Latin) could be found in the writings of Origen (185-254) and Tertullian (160-220). A general thought of a “divine three” in some sense was expressed in the second and third-century writings of Polycarp, Ignatius, and Justin Martyr. The doctrine in a more full-fledged form was not formulated until the Council of Constantinople in 360 AD. Trinitarian professes that God eternally exists in three distinct persons. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, therefore, three Gods. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father, the Father is not the Spirit, etc.

### Contradicting Monotheism

In contrast, Scripture affirms the truth of God’s/*Elohim* One-ness called Monotheism. Monotheism upholds the Scriptural tenet without attempting to explain God/*Elohim* in His numerous manifestations. Monotheism is the foundation through which the finite human mind cannot even begin to grasp or understand our infinite God/*Elohim*. Monotheism expresses the fundamental Scriptural truth that God/*Elohim* is One, and this One God is *Omnipresent* - existing everywhere at all times. He has no special boundaries. He fills the universe and beyond, and He is always near. Monotheism also expresses the fundamental Scriptural truth that God/*Elohim* is *Omniscient* - knowing all things. He knows all our thoughts and deeds from the past, present, and in the future. Monotheism expresses the fundamental Scriptural truth that God/*Elohim* is *Omnipotent* – all-powerful, eternal, without beginning or end. He transcends time. God/*Elohim* exists everywhere and at all times. The numerous manifestations of God/*Elohim* throughout the Bible are simply progressive revelations of the same One God. Monotheism focus: God/*Elohim* is One and does not separate God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into eternally separate or distinct persons, modes or manifestations. He has no beginning and no ending (1 John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJ).

- Omnipresent*: Father, Creator, Shepherd, First.
- Omniscient*: Son, Redeemer, King, Last.
- Omnipotent*: Holy Spirit, Savior, “I AM,” Rock. One Eternal God/*Elohim*

### Easter

#### The Pagan Feast Celebrating The Spring Equinox

The second issue settled by Constantine at the Council of Nicaea was the difference between God’s/*Elohim* Feast of Passover versus Easter. The Jews celebrate God’s/*Elohim* Passover Lamb in the first biblical *lunar* month/Nisan on the eve of the 14<sup>th</sup> day every year. Constantine and his cohorts celebrated the Babylonian *solar* feast of *Estar*/Easter on the first Sunday after the spring equinox.

Sometime in the second century the Gentile pagan bishops, in several of their western Greek Churches, began to campaign for a syncretizing of pagan elements with the worship of God’s/*Elohim* Biblical Feast Days. Starting with Passover, they successfully devised a plan to *blend* the death and resurrection of Messiah with the pagan worship of Tammuz and move Yeshua’s death and resurrection dates to match their worship of the sun equinox celebrations. They also changed the Scriptural Sabbath day of worship to *Sun*-day in honor their *sun* god. By

this time the Greek believers (along with the rest of that culture), had lost sight of God’s Scriptural *lunar* calendar as they had accustomed to the Roman *solar* calendar (like the one we have today); hence, the changes and suggestions the council of Nicaea made remained unchallenged. The result of all this so-called theological blending helped ushered in and establish this new religion called *Christianity*.

## Constantine, The Sun God, And The Easter Rule

As Emperor, Constantine also thought of himself as the sun god. Therefore, it was a requirement that his subjects worship him as the one true god. Before convening the Council of Nicaea, Constantine had already declared that whoever would disturb the unity of *his* Church doctrine would be a “*malignant foe*” motivated by a “*malevolent demon*,” exposing God’s law to “*slander and detraction*.” To have an absolute rule he chose to eliminate from his empire any disunity caused by the Jewish traditions (or ‘internal sedition’ as he called them). To achieve this Constantine established the *Easter Rule* through the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It was decided at the Council that the Church as a whole would celebrate the *festival of Easter* (not *Passover*). Honoring the vernal equinox and using its course for their calculations, Easter would fall on the first *Sun*-day after the full moon in March. Their purpose in doing so was to bring honor to Constantine as the sun god and at the same time avoid the actual Scriptural date of Passover. All Churches were ordered to comply under the threat of excommunication and death if they did not act on the Council’s decision.

### The Constantine Creed: The Law of Easter

“I renounce all customs, rites, legalisms, unleavened breads and sacrifices of lambs of the Hebrews, and all the other feasts of the Hebrews, sacrifices, prayers, aspirations, purifications, sanctifications, and propitiations, and fasts and new moons, and Sabbaths, and superstitions, and hymns and chants, and observances and synagogues. Absolutely everything Jewish, every Law, rite and custom and if afterwards I shall wish to deny and return to Jewish superstition, or shall be found eating with Jews, or feasting with them, or secretly conversing and condemning the Christian religion instead of openly confuting them and condemning their vain faith, then let the trembling of Cain and the leprosy of Gehazi cleave to me, as well as the legal punishments to which I acknowledge myself liable. And may I be an anathema in the world to come, and may my soul be set down with Satan and the devils.” (Stefano Assemani, *Acta Sanctorum Martyrum Orientalium at Occidentalium*, Vol. 1, Rome 1748, page 105)

Furthermore, any follower of the “Jewish Messiah” (Yeshua HaMashiach) who wished to join this “holy community” was compelled to adopt a different set of rules and customs. Subsequently, special creeds were drafted, to which the Christian would have to swear such as:

“I accept all customs, rites, legalism, and feasts of the Romans, sacrifices. Prayers, purifications with water, sanctifications by Pontificus Maximus (high priests of Mithraism), propitiations, and feasts, and

the New Sabbath “So! dei” (day of the Sun), all new chants and observances, and all the foods and drinks of the Romans. In other words, I absolutely accept everything Roman, every new law, rite, and custom, of Rome, and the New Roman Religion.”

Constantine was able to take a whole population and render them as his subjects, to worship and pay tribute to him, over this creed against Passover. This expert military strategist brilliantly staged the entire Nicene event to bring about a massive passive conquest of a people to create his earthly kingdom, complete with separate gods and laws, apart from God’s/*Elohim* heavenly kingdom.

Many believers today do not realize that the *Apostles Creed* and the *Nicene Creed* are one in the same and both rooted in *Constantine’s Creed: The Law of Easter*. The Law of Easter is a law still honored today and widely used in the weekly liturgy by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Anglican Communion, and many Presbyterian denominations as a profession and foundation of their faith - “*I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church...*” When people declare this vow, they are agreeing and granting permission to Constantine’s gods and laws by giving them rule and reign over their lives. In pronouncing this pledge, they are also renouncing the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, including the Messiah, *Yeshua HaMashiach*, and His eternal Heavenly Kingdom. Armed with a new understanding as to the ramifications of this confession, many believers are now repenting and renouncing Constantine’s Creed especially during this season of Passover.

Soon after the Feast of Easter in 337 CE Constantine fell seriously ill and knew he was dying. If he should survive, he promised to live a more *Christian* life. Desiring purification he sought to be baptized as Christ had in the Jordan River. Constantine died fifty days later on the Feast of Pentecost on May 22, 337 CE.

## Are The Jews Saved?

Is all Israel saved? This question has been a divisive mark against God’s/*Elohim* great people and their nation since the *Nicean Creed* was put into law. This fallacy still continues to echo throughout the Church today. It stems from those who are illiterate in God’s/*Elohim* word and have innocently or knowingly partaken in *the Creed*. Every time a “believer” confesses the *Apostles Creed* or the *Nicene Creed* in *Constantine’s Creed: The Law of Easter* they evoke a spirit of death and annihilation upon God’s/*Elohim* people, upon all Israel, and *Yeshua HaMashiach*/the Messiah. God/*Elohim* foreseeing all this, in His wisdom, has equipped His people by sending them His word *the truth* that is recorded for all generations. If you find yourself in an anti-Semitic situation about “*Who is Israel?*” or “*Are the Jewish people saved?*” or “*If the nation of Israel exists today?*” or “*Israel’s position in God’s/*Elohim* kingdom?*” take up your sword and read aloud the recorded prophetic words of the prophets, *Yeshua*, and the disciples (i.e. Paul) among the nations. God’s/*Elohim* truth will settle the matter in your heart and silence the blasphemer (Isaiah 63:11-14; Romans 11:25-27).

✠ **Isaiah 63:11-14** “Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: ‘Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock [*Yeshua*]? **Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them [600,000 men, not**



*including the women and children, which puts the number upwards to over 2 million...many times more than those saved in Acts 2], who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?’ As a beast goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of the LORD/Yahweh causes him to rest, so You [Yeshua] lead Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name.”*

✿ **Romans 11:24-27** “For if you [*believer*] were cut out of the olive tree [*the root Yeshua by choosing to live outside of His Covenant*] which is wild by nature, and were grafted [*by repenting and returning to right Covenant relationship*] contrary to [*wild*] nature into a cultivated olive tree [*now yoked into the Covenant with Israel*], how much more will these [*from the House of Judah*], who are natural branches [*Israel*], be grafted [*back*] into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren [*believers*], that you should be ignorant [*illiterate*] of this mystery [*that you ‘believer’ are grafted into Israel and now are part of Israel and look forward to the Wedding Feast at the Wedding of the Lamb*], lest you [*believer*] should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness [*ignorance causes blindness*] in part has happened to Israel [*as you believer did not understand that you are part of Israel if you are in Yeshua*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*those living outside His Covenant with them*] has come in [*to full understanding of their Wedding Vows given them at Mount Sinai through Moses*]. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘*The Deliverer will come out of Zion [Yeshua], And He [Yeshua] will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [all Israel]; for this is My covenant with them [all Israel], when I take away their sins.*’”

✿ **Hebrews 8:8-10** “Because finding fault with them [*Who? All Israel*], He says: ‘Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD/Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant [*I will ‘kainos’/ ‘renew’ My Marriage Covenant*] with [*Who?*] the house of Israel and with the house of Judah [*All Israel*]” (quoting Jeremiah 31:31-33).

## Easter Versus Passover Yeshua – Our Passover Lamb

Throughout Yeshua’s life, He, His family and all with Him plus all the Israelite ancestors before Him upheld and observed the celebration of Passover on the fourteenth of Nisan on the Biblical *lunar* calendar. Yeshua kept all of the Levitical High Holy Sabbaths on their appointed days as decreed in Scripture. As John writes in John 1:29 ‘Behold! The Lamb of God [Yeshua] who takes away the sin of the world!’ In a desire to fulfill all righteousness, Yeshua upheld the laws of Moses and became the perfect atonement. From the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple on the fourteenth day of Nisan, during the offering of the lambs for Passover at the ninth hour of prayer, Yeshua was crucified. Yeshua became our Passover Lamb, the Lamb of God/Elohim who takes away the sins of the world (1 Corinthians 5:7; Revelation 19:7-9).

Scripture (not man) set the date of Passover as being on the fourteenth of Nisan, the first Biblical month on the Hebrew *lunar* calendar. This was also the same Scriptural date Yeshua our Messiah, and all the disciples with Him observed the Passover. We read in the book of Acts that even *thirty years after Yeshua’s death* the apostle Paul, whose ministry was to the Gentiles

(Israel in the Nations), observed and celebrated all of God's/*Elohim* Feasts Days including the Passover (Acts 20:7, Acts 20:16, Acts 27:9).

## Changing God's/*Elohim* Laws

🌿 **Deuteronomy 4:1-2** “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD/*Yahweh* God/*Elohim* of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD/*Yahweh* God/*Elohim* which I command you.”

John wrote The Revelation of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, as given him by Yeshua. In the closing chapter, John added this warning, “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book [the Torah], if any man shall add unto these things, God/*Elohim* shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book [the Torah]: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy [the Torah], God/*Elohim* shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book [Torah]*” (Revelation 22:18-19). The only book John had in those days was the same book Moses had - *The Torah*. John's writing expounded on The Torah, as witnessed in the title - *The “Revelation” of Yeshua (John 5:46-47)*.

We see this same warning in Deuteronomy when Moses alerted the people not to add or delete any of Yeshua's words from the Book - *Torah, His Gospel*. Both John and Moses referred to the same word or book as being *The Torah*. Because God's/*Elohim* word is eternal, it is also prophetic. Therefore, the word that became flesh and dwelt among us, Yeshua, is eternal and prophetic. Thus, when John wrote of the *revelation* or *prophecy*, he wrote of Yeshua, the Eternal One. Furthermore, Yeshua has already given us His Word from the beginning. His word is the revelation or prophecy of Himself, as His word is from the beginning of time, therefore, also prophetic (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10; John 1:1,14; John 5:46-47; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:11, 20).

🌿 John 5:46-47 <sup>46</sup> “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

🌿 **John 1:1,14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God/*Elohim*, and the Word was God/*Elohim*. And the Word became flesh [*Yeshua*] and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

🌿 **1 John 5:20** “And we know that the Son of God/*Elohim* has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. This is the true God/*Elohim* and eternal life.”

🌿 **Jude 1:20-21** “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God/*Elohim*, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* unto eternal life.”

📖 **Revelation 19:10** “For the testimony [*Word/Torah/Gospel*] of Jesus/*Yeshua* is the spirit of prophecy.”

The Word, The Revelation, The Spirit of Prophecy, and Eternity, *Yeshua* gave to Moses and those who believe Moses. “*For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words [prophecy]?*” (John 5:46-47). Therefore, the book or prophetic word that John was referring to when he wrote the Book of Revelation expounded on the Living Torah, the same Torah [*Spirit of Prophecy*] *Yeshua* gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. Thus, all the commandments and the law from the beginning to the end rest in *Yeshua*, as He is the eternal Word made flesh; the revealed prophecy Moses and John wrote about in the books from Genesis to Revelation – *the beginning and the end* (Revelation 22:18-19).

📖 **Romans 16:25-27** “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God/*Elohim*, for obedience to the faith - to God/*Elohim*, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* forever. Amen” (Revelation 1:9, 21:6; 22:13-16).

### Separation From The Revelation, The Spirit of Prophecy, And The Eternal One

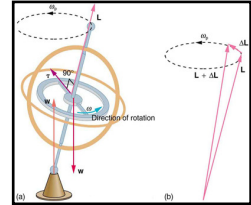
A departure from the Torah, the Word of God/*Elohim*, and an establishment of a new authoritative institution became the new law in the land that now supplanted the law of God/*Elohim*. Constantine said that “*the most holy feast of Easter*” should be celebrated on the same day each year on the solar calendar in agreement to the spring equinox. The worship of the heavenly things was the new divine will of Constantine. God/*Elohim* warned us not to worship created things, especially the heavenly host. “*And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them*” (Deuteronomy 4:19). A letter was sent to all the Churches that officially established this anti-Scriptural doctrine as foundational law. It declared contempt against the God/*Elohim* of the Israelites and mandated a rejection of His people in fellowship as representative of a proper Christian attitude.

An excerpt from the Council of Nicaea states,

*“...it seemed to everyone a most unworthy thing that we should follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of this most holy solemnity, who, - polluted wretches! - having stained their hands with a nefarious crime, are justly blinded in their minds. It is fit, therefore, that rejecting the practice of this people, we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, Easter in a more legitimate order...Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews...In pursuing this course with a unanimous consent, let us withdraw ourselves...from that most odious fellowship.”*

It was Eusebius who drew up a new solar calendar in such a way that literally obscured Passover from true worshippers. The Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC revised it. However, they discovered over the course of thirteen centuries that the vernal equinox date moved from March 21 to March 10.

As the earth revolves around the sun, it acts like a gyroscope. The pull of gravity from the other planets also affects the magnitude and the orientation of the tilt of the rotation axis thus it changes slowly over time. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII hired astrologers to redesign their solar calendar to better reflect their worship of Easter with the vernal equinox. However, man's calendar and the worship of heaven have nothing to do with Yeshua.



In all of man's attempts to obliterate Passover and Yeshua, as the Passover Lamb, God/Elohim created the laws that govern the nature of His universe, the earth's orbit, and axial procession, to be in constant motion - a wheel within a wheel. Thus, man's effort to worship or have rule over the heavenly bodies becomes unhinged and is unbalanced at best.

Eventually, upon threat of death, Rome was able to abolish the celebration of all of God's/Elohim Feasts Days – including His weekly Sabbath. Worshiping on the Sabbath from Friday to Saturday was outlawed and changed to *Sun*-day worship in keeping with Constantine's worship of himself as the sun god.

## Manmade Religion Versus God's Scriptural Truth

Definition: *manmade* an adjective meaning: made or caused by human beings as opposed to occurring or being made naturally (by our Creator), artificial, synthetic, manufactured, fabricated, imitation, ersatz, simulated, mock, fake, phony, counterfeit, plastic.

This new Church made its religion suit its political purposes. It was successful mainly due to the lack of the public's ability to obtain the Scriptures and read the truth for themselves. Lack of knowledge plunged the people into this dark Roman system. Today there are more Bibles in the world than ever before. Some families have two or three. Even with the freedom and accessibility to the Scriptures, few realize they are missing God's/Elohim appointed Feasts - the gift of redemption to all Israel (Romans 11:26). With the emergence of this new allegiance to Constantine and his belief system came great compromise to God's/Elohim word. This conquest and rise of the Church of Constantine distorted the very nature of the God/Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that is still practiced to this present day.

## The Origin Of Easter



Constantine followed the example of his father and the earlier 3rd-century emperors in seeing himself as a solar henotheist (the belief in and worship of a single god while accepting the existence of other deities that may also be worshiped). Constantine believed that the Roman sun god *Sol* was the visible manifestation of an invisible highest god who was the principal power behind the

universe. This god was thought to be the companion of the Roman emperor. Constantine saw the rebirth of life in the spring solstice after the death of winter as a spiritual and holy phenomenon, and invariably connected the rebirth of life.

The origin of Easter has its roots in Babylonian worship. Easter represents the mythological pagan fertility goddess (Eastre or Eostre). Other names for her are - in *Assyria*: Semiramis and Ninus. In *Babylon*: Ishtar and Tammuz. In *Egypt*: Isis and Osiris. In *Syria*: Astarte and Bel or Baal (Marduk) (later Venus Urania and Adonis). In *Greece*: Aphrodite and Adonis and in *Rome*: Kybele and Attis (or Venus and Adonis). Worshippers memorialize her during the spring vernal equinox by celebrating the *resurrection of life*. In time, *Ishtar*, whose name can be pronounced “*Easter*,” was honored in the Sumerian civilization on a day commemorating the resurrection of a god who died and was reborn, named Tammuz. He was believed to be the only begotten son of the moon goddess and the sun god.

Tammuz, the son of Nimrod, was killed at age forty by a wild boar. That is why many eat ham on Easter in commemoration of his death. His mother *Eastre* (Easter) or *Semiramis* (also called the *Queen of Heaven* or *Mother Earth*) called for “*a forty day weeping for Tammuz*.” Today the Roman Catholic Church has renamed this time as *Lent* beginning with *Ash Wednesday* where they place ash in the sign of the *Cross of Tammuz* on the foreheads of the “faithful.” (*For more information on the origin of Easter, please refer to the studies Bo in Leviticus and Shoftim in Deuteronomy [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com)*)

📖 **Ezekiel 8:13-14** “Turn you yet again, and you shall see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’S/Yahweh’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, have you seen this, O son of man?”

In many cultures today, people make *hot cross buns* at Easter not realizing they are inadvertently offering up cakes to the Queen of Heaven.

📖 **Jeremiah 7:18-19** “The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. Do they provoke Me to anger?” says the LORD/Yahweh. “Do they not *provoke* themselves, to the shame of their own faces?”(Jeremiah chapters 43-44).



Easter sunrise services began with ancient peoples who wanted to celebrate the “*cross of the sun*” in the heavens at the vernal equinox. It was and still is a pagan fertility feast. On this day, the temple prostitutes would hold wild orgies to become pregnant. Then the next year the three-month-old babies would be sacrificed live on an altar by fire to the fertility goddess *Eastre* (*Easter*). Eggs, symbols of fertility from the supposed egg laying rabbits, would be dipped in the blood of the sacrificed infants and then hidden. During Easter day, the children of the Canaanite parents would often go and hunt for those hidden eggs, as they believed they were symbols for lust, sexual prowess, and reproduction. The modern tradition of dipping, coloring, and decorating Easter eggs, Easter egg hunts, and eating candy eggs all come from this pagan fertility



rite. That became the accepted tradition for Easter celebration in the Christian world today. Sadly many who celebrate these events are not aware of the pagan origins or what they represent.

## Concerning Yeshua's Birth Day

The Church of Rome also intervened to change the biblical date of Yeshua's birth from the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot* in the fall to coincide with their worship of the winter solstice. Constantine's constant drive to control his empire rearranged Yeshua's birth date to agree with his solar calendar and his sovereignty as the sun god. Over 300 years *before* the birth of Yeshua, December 25<sup>th</sup> had long been recognized as the return of the winter sun. Before the establishment of the Gregorian calendar, December 25<sup>th</sup> was the date of the *winter equinox / solstice*, the point when the sun reaches its southern-most trek below the equator and where it appears to stand still approximately three days. After that time the sun begins to move back toward the Northern Hemisphere, gaining strength with each passing day. The Babylonian's used idioms such as "*the sun is born,*" "*the light comes into the world,*" and "*the light of the world is at hand*" to indicate the phases of the sun's axis. However, Constantine exploited these terms to support his kingdom further. With the memorial Feast Day of Passover annulled (upon threat of death), Constantine then went after the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot* using the terminology for the winter solstice to fabricate the false date of Messiah's birth. It did not take long for this fallacy to materialize as truth among the new believers. They unwittingly accepted this fictitious account; unaware that those expressions were not in support of Christ's birth but were in support of the Babylonian worship of the sun and Constantine, the incarnate sun god.

In the fourth century, Pope Julius I commanded a committee of Gentile bishops to legalize the date of the Nativity of Jesus as the day of the invincible sun - *Sol Invictus*. It is not coincidental that this day was also when the pagan world celebrates the birth of their sun gods – the *Egyptian* Osiris, *Greek* Apollo and Bacchus, *Chaldean* Adonis and *Persian* Mithra - when the Zodiacal sign of Virgo (the sun is born of a virgin) rose on the horizon.

As mentioned, the winter solstice is the pagan festival of the birth of the sun. This feast is called *the Feast of Saturnalia*. The Christian Church adopted the Feast of Saturnalia for the Nativity of Jesus by calling it *Christ's Mass or Christmas*. Christmas and the Feast of Saturnalia are one in the same feast. Very few people realize that the origin of Christmas is based in the Feast of Saturnalia, a weeklong lawless celebration held during December 17-25. Roman authorities allowed this week of mayhem believing they were destroying the enemies of the state and the forces of darkness. In 1466, the Catholic Church revived this weeklong violence when Pope Paul II amused his Roman citizens by forcing Jews to race naked through the city streets. Many Jews were abused and brutally murdered during this time. *Christ Mass* is more about a massacre and a mass for the dead than the birth of Christ.

## After The Council Of Nicaea

Constantine had achieved a political victory by disguising a false doctrine to look biblical, all in the name of Christ. From that point on, his Church doctrine was to be enforced by the sword of the State. The books they deemed written by heretics, including all Torah scrolls, were to be



burned and exterminated from the earth. In an attempt to erase all Hebrew content of Yeshua, the Church ceased to be the Church of Yeshua and the restoration of the Davidic Kingdom and became the Church of Jesus created by Constantine. It was no longer the Bride of Messiah. It had become the Bride of Caesar. The light within turned to darkness. The Church changed from a means of salvation to a means of destruction. Through the centuries, the Constantinian Church has sought and brought about the innocent death of millions of God's/Elohim people around the world.

Earlier we mentioned that under Constantine's direction, Eusebius wrote the history of the Church that pointedly eliminated any positive reference to the restoration of Israel and the earthly reign of Yeshua. The Church was now officially set against and in opposition to the Jews. Thus, the Church established the anti-Judaic foundation on which both doctrine and practice stood. The historical and theological eradication of the Jews prepared the way for the *lawful* attempts to eradicate them *physically*. The Church itself replaced the power of God with the might of the Roman Empire and became its own man directed kingdom. God's Truth was henceforth to be determined by Church councils and not by the Word of God.

Three hundred years after Paul's teachings in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha*, the Council of Nicaea, under the edict of Constantine, struck down the Feast of Passover. The council's decree from that time forward ruled that *no one* was allowed to observe *any* Biblical Feast. They were publicized as being *undesirable* and *too Jewish*, just as the Bible itself was *too Jewish*. To put this proclamation into perspective, to date, the United States of America is not yet three hundred years old. Each passing year reveals how long God's/Elohim people have strayed from their Biblical roots. Thus, it was easy for the people during Constantine's time to be taken captive by the wiles, trickery, and deceits of the enemy. With no one to teach or guide them, the doctrines of man and now pagan feasts moved into a higher position than God's/Elohim authority on the earth. Over time, the Scriptures were watered down to suit man and his religious ideologies. Lukewarmness and compromise seeped into the Church, and a new deceptive language appeared called, *Grace*. This false doctrine lulled the people into a false sense of security with no accountability to righteousness or sanctification. That allowed paganism to flourish, which continues to this day (Leviticus 23; Haggai 1:3-11; Daniel 9:4-19; Leviticus 26).

Constantine and the early church leaders institutionalized many serious errors. Rome's new divergent state religion had separated itself from its Creator God/Elohim, and a new era of *man's religion* had begun. By laying a foundation other than the one Yeshua and His apostles laid, the world was plunged into thousands of years of darkness.

### God's/Elohim Feast Days Are All Prophetic And Eternal

Did Constantine's plan succeed? Did he override God/Elohim and the redemptive plan for His people Israel? The answer is "No!" God's/Elohim Feast Days are all eternal, full of the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Revelation of the Yeshua for all Nations under heaven. They *will* unfold at their appointed times as stated in His Word. Constantine and others like him turned the cross upside down to use as a sword against God's/Elohim people. However, their unholy legacy will not prevail against the God/Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- 📖 **Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God/*Elohim* is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s/*Elohim* sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”
- 📖 **Revelation 15:3-4** “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God/*Elohim*, and the song of the Lamb [*they are one in the same song*], saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.’”
- 📖 **Revelation 19:7-9** “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, write: *Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!* And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God/*Elohim*.’”

### How To Celebrate Passover

If you have not had the opportunity to celebrate a Passover event before, you will find a helpful *Messianic Passover Hagaddah* (a narrative and guide) on our website at [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com). For more information on the history of Passover and Easter, please refer to the studies #3 *Bo/Exodus 10* and #5 *Shoftim/Deuteronomy 16* on the same website or email Julie at [sheephear@yahoo.ca](mailto:sheephear@yahoo.ca).



May you have a blessed Passover!  
Chag Sameach!  
Julie Parker

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