

CGI Canada Newsletter

To educate, inform & entertain the congregations

The Surprising Origin of Easter

Our *Energized*
Social Media
Outreach

Have you read our Reprint Article? ...
Should Christians Observe Easter?

Sabbath Service
info for March



*This is a no coloured
eggs zone!*



Table Of Contents

5

The Surprising Origins of Easter

Have you ever wondered whether the traditional customs of Easter have any logical connection with the resurrection of Jesus?

8

Energizing Evangelism

Let's see some of the New social media Evangelism Initiatives started in February ... Per our Roar...

Let's Go in 2024

10

Focus: If somebody asks you about Easter ... Do you still have the FACTS in your mind? or is the memory a bit rusty? This Reprint Article can help!

11

Worship * Fellowship * Edification

March Sabbath Service info

"Bring One Take One" Event

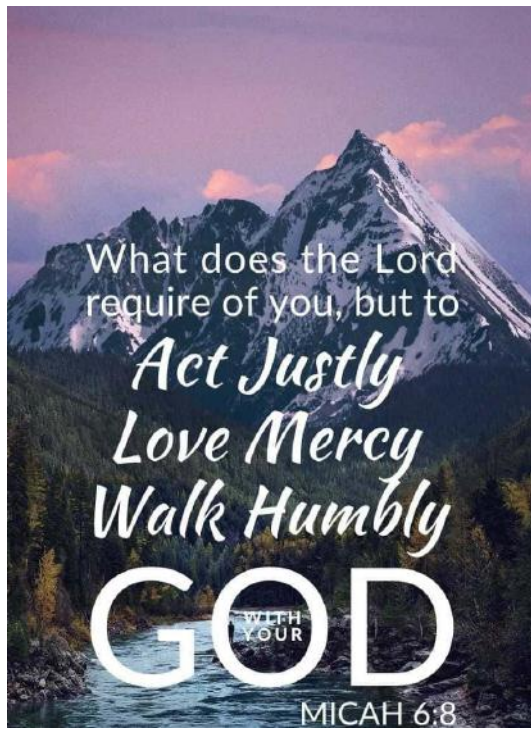
Saturday evening January 27, 2024 ... This event gave CGI Toronto the highest attendance since returning back to in-person service post COVID restrictions. We were able to donate many new and near new clothing and other items that were not taken, to a charity organization in Toronto called Home - Sojourn House.

TORONTO WOMEN'S MINISTRY



*The Bible defines "Good Works" ...
Mat 25:36 I was without clothes,
& you gave me something to wear.*

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the March edition.

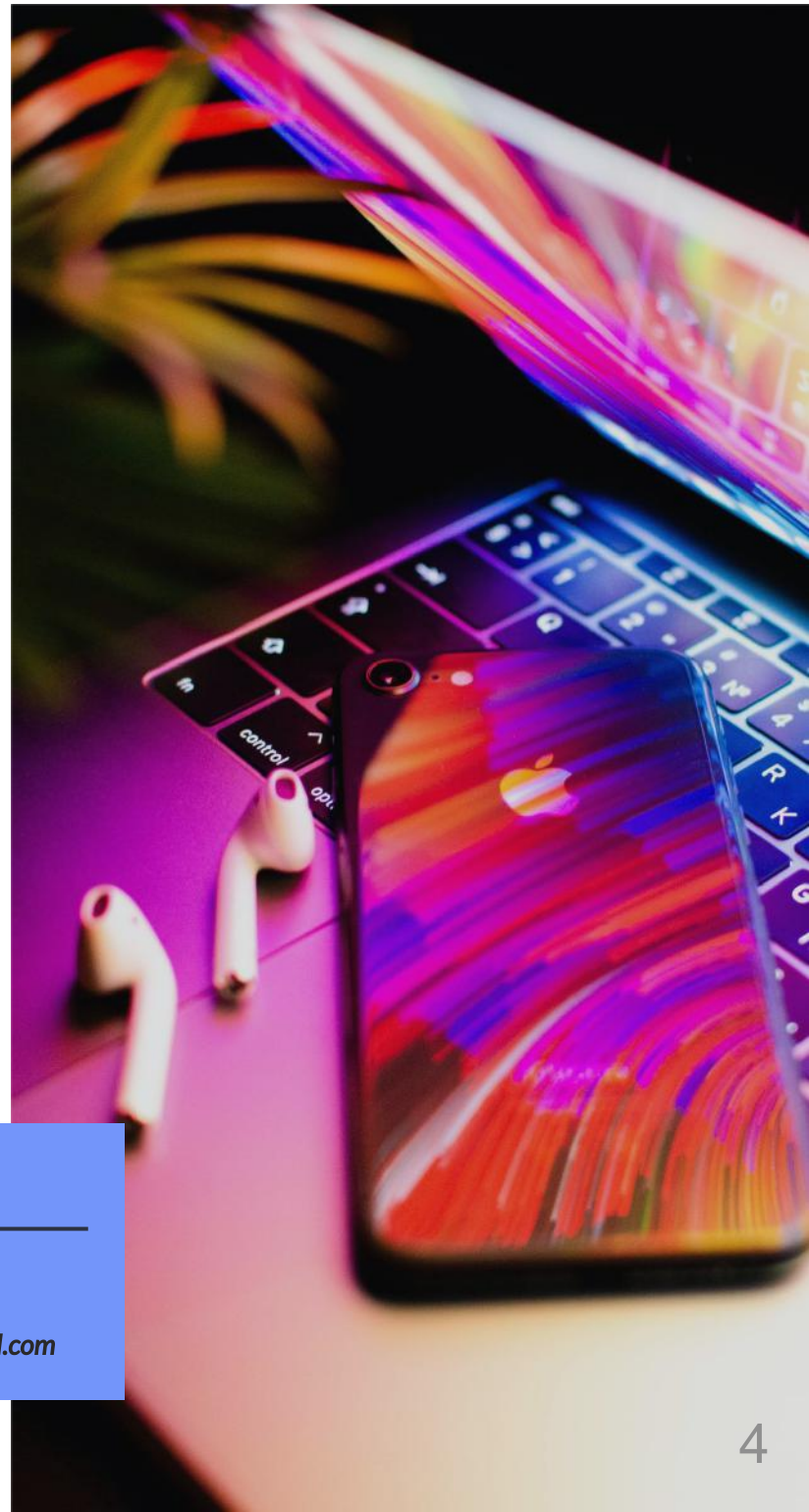
We have the interesting occurrence when Easter happens in March ... and Passover is a few weeks later in April! So This month we can explore the "Easter origins" & have April to explore the truth about Passover

Please be on the lookout for content provided by some of our members!



Jim French

Editor
CgiC Newsletter
JimFrench007@gmail.com



The Surprising Origin of Easter

Youth Magazine

What do you think of when someone mentions Easter — brightly colored eggs, bunny rabbits, hot cross buns, Easter parades and sunrise services?

Have you ever wondered whether these traditional customs of Easter have any logical connection with the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Few have ever thought about why they believe what they do — why they follow the customs they do or where those customs came from. Most grow up accepting the customs and beliefs of society without question.

Just how and when did Easter originate? Does it really celebrate the resurrection of Christ? Was Christ even resurrected on a Sunday morning? Did the original apostles, whom Jesus taught personally, celebrate Easter?

Before reading further for the surprising answers, be sure to get your Bible, a pen or pencil and some paper. Reading and then writing out the verses that answer each question will help you to remember what you are learning. Now let's begin this eye-opening study.

1. It is commonly believed that the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition began with the apostles of the New Testament Church. What do we find in the Bible about the observance of Easter? Acts 12:4, Authorized Version.

This is the only verse in the Authorized or

King James Version of the Bible where the word *Easter* is mentioned. However, as any authority of the Greek language knows, it is a mistranslation.

The original Greek word here is *pascha*, meaning Passover. In every other place in the New Testament where *pascha* is used, it is

always translated Passover. You can find examples of this in Matthew 26:2, 17-19, Mark 14:12 and I Corinthians 5:7.

Virtually all other translations of the Bible correctly render *pascha* as Passover in Acts 12:4.

The Revised Authorized Version (which is also called the New King James Version), for example, has "... intending to bring him before the people after Passover."

Besides this mistranslation, you will find absolutely no biblical record of Christ's apostles and later true Christians ever observing Easter.

According to an article in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament,

or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers... The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish [that is, *God's* — Leviticus 23:1-2] festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed" ("Easter," 11th edition).

2. Did Christ instruct His apostles to observe His resurrection or, rather, to



Have you ever wondered what rabbits and eggs had to do with Christ's resurrection?

commemorate the date of His death? Luke 22:8, 13-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26.

The evening before His crucifixion, Jesus established the New Testament Passover for Christians.

He introduced the new symbols of unleavened bread and wine in place of the slaying of the lamb. Then He commanded His true followers down through the ages, "This do . . . in remembrance of Me" (I Corinthians 11:25).

Another reason why Easter Sunday was not celebrated by the early Christian Church concerns inconsistencies in the tradition that Christ was resurrected on a Sunday morning.

3. What did Jesus say about the length of time He would be in the grave? Matthew 12:39-40, Mark 8:31. Did He fulfill that sign "as He said"? Matthew 28:6.

The only sign Christ gave to prove He was the Messiah was the length of time He would be dead and buried — a period of three days and three nights, or 72 hours.

But according to the Easter tradition, Christ was crucified Friday afternoon and resurrected Sunday morning — a period of only a day and a half, or 36 hours!

But what about the various customs and traditions associated with Easter? Most assume that the customs of this most-important religious holiday of the Western world came from Christian origins.

Shocking as it may sound, Easter and its customs date long before the birth of Jesus. Easter was observed nearly 2,000 years before the beginning of the Christian era!

Easter is actually a slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess *Ishtar*. It was pronounced by the Assyrians as we pronounce Easter today.

The New Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia (article "Easter") tells us that Easter "embodies traditions of an ancient time antedating the rise of Christianity . . . [It] was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox [about March 21, the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere], and

traditions associated with the festival survive in the familiar Easter bunny . . . and in the equally familiar colored Easter eggs originally painted with gay hues to represent the sunlight of spring. Such festivals [as Easter], and the myths and legends which explain their origin, abound in ancient religions."

Encyclopedias and other reference works show that the traditions associated with Easter, such as colored eggs, hot cross buns, the Easter bunny and attending sunrise services are pre-Christian and pagan in origin!

4. A traditional custom of Easter today is to attend an Easter sunrise service. Does the prophet Ezekiel refer to such a practice occurring during his time — more than 500 years before the birth of Jesus? Ezekiel 8:16.

Does God approve of this custom? Verses 15, 17.

It was an ancient heathen custom to gather at sunrise and have a ceremony to worship the rising sun.

Such services were being observed in Ezekiel's day by the nation of Judah, which had borrowed some of the heathen customs, in spite of God's command not to follow pagan practices in worshiping Him!

5. Many who understand that Easter evolved from pagan customs originally honoring a pagan goddess will say they observe it to honor Christ. But what does God warn about learning and following the customs and traditions of the heathen? Deuteronomy 12:29-31, Jeremiah 10:2.

God plainly commands His people not to adopt the practices of pagan nations. God will not accept this kind of worship, even though intended in His honor!

6. Did Christ say it is possible to worship Him and still do it in vain? Matthew 15:9. What did He tell His disciples about following man's ideas about how to worship God? Mark 7:7-9.

God does not want people trying to honor Christ by following traditions and customs devised by men. Notice again God's command, "You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way" (Deuteronomy 12:31).

The Thorny Path

When thorns of troubles wreath
Your drooping head,
Hold on! Hold on to the Sower
Who bore a thornéd wreath
Patiently, in your stead!

Trials and temptations,
Wars and tribulations,
Lost jobs and credit payments,
When life is full of grief,
Hold on! Hold on to the words of life!

When the path is prickly with persecution
And riddled with full-grown tares
That strive to shut out light.
Call out! Call out to Our Saviour!
He, your path will clear.

Lila Salazar, Ottawa Congregation

CgiCanada Evangelism

Last month...



1st Outreach Campaign

BLESSED

Conversations

Group & Channel Name: **Blessed Conversations.**

Description: It seems as though we've been caught in a cycle of negative news and global conflicts. How about uplifting one another through positive words and meaningful conversations?

hashtags

- #FaithSaturday
- #GraceUnleashed
- #ShareTheWord
- #HopeInChrist
- #LoveInAction
- #SoulfulSaturdays
- #EternalTruths
- #InspiredByFaith
- #HealingHope
- #SavedByGrace
- #FaithJourney
- #TransformedByLove
- #BlessedMessenger
- #JoyfulWitness
- #KingdomImpact
- #SpreadTheGospel
- #PrayForTheWorld
- #FaithfulLiving
- #BelieveInLove
- #JesusSavesNow
- #WorshipTogether
- #FaithCommunity
- #HopefulHearts
- #PraiseAndProclaim
- #LightInTheDarkness

[Click some to see the new Social Media sites setup For CgiCanada](#)

[.Rumble Group](#) [Linkedin Profile](#) [Signal Group](#) [Telegram Group](#)

[TikTok](#) [Truth Social](#) [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) [Locals](#) [Gab](#)

[BitChute](#) [Youtube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Wow ... Look at the links here!



<https://linktr.ee/cgicanada>

@cgicanada

Striving to worship God in Spirit & in Truth

Website

Sabbath Services

Keeping Watch Ep 71

Social Media

Facebook

Gab

Instagram

Linkedin

Locals

Truth Social

TikTok

Telegram Group

Signal Group

Rumble

X (Twitter)

YouTube

Focus On... Our Articles

Should Christians Observe Easter?



To millions of professing, churchgoing Christians, "Easter" is one of the chief religious festivals. But what do eggs, rabbits, new clothing, sunrise services, and hot cross buns have to do with Jesus Christ?



Click Article to download



MARCH SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto 1:30 pm

Mar 2 - Kenroy Allen
Mar 9 - Kenroy Allen
Mar 16 - Doug Coish
Mar 23 - VP
Mar 30 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener 1:30 pm

Mar 2 - Rick Dubler
Mar 9 - Bernard Wilson
Mar 16 - Kenroy Allen
Mar 23 - Adam Dubler
Mar 30 - Doug Coish

Burlington 1:30 pm

Mar 2 - Adrian Davis
Mar 9 - Murray Palmatier
Mar 16 - Jan Kowalczyk
Mar 23 - Adrian Davis
Mar 30 - Murray Palmatier

Kawartha Lakes 1:00 pm

Mar 2 - Tape
Mar 9 - Stephan Willshaw
Mar 16 - Tape
Mar 23 - Tape
Mar 30 - Jim French

London 1:30 pm

Mar 2 - Bernard Wilson
Mar 9 - Rick Dubler
Mar 16 - Bernard Wilson
Mar 23 - Adrian Davis
Mar 30 - ?

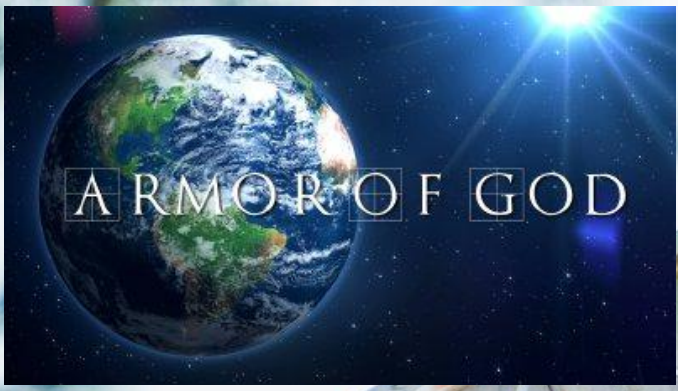
Ottawa 1:00 pm

Mar 2 - Jim French
Mar 9 - Tape
Mar 16 - Jim French
Mar 23 - David Townson
Mar 30 - Tape

For more info - see the Congregation websites
at Cgicanada.org.

Follow our Outreach Tools

Click to launch!



ENJOY THE UPCOMING EPISODES



LIVE

subscribe



Tune into the **Keeping Watch** Podcast for inspiring conversations on world events, from a Biblical perspective.

New episodes released every SATURDAY