ISSUE 24-03 | MARCH 2024

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!

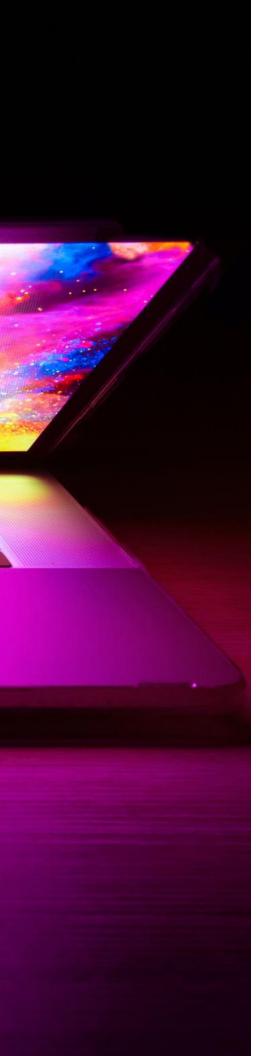


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The Surprising Origins of Easter Have you ever wondered whether the traditional customs of Easter have any logical connection with the resurrection of Jesus?



Energizing Evangelism

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

Let's Go in 2024

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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!

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Worship * *Fellowship* * *Edification* March Sabbath Service info

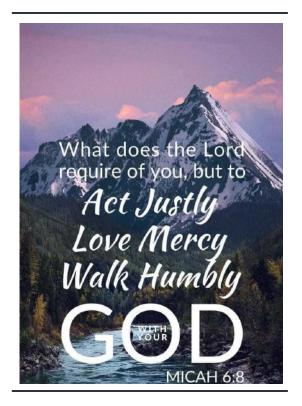
"Bring One Take One" Event

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 <u>Home - Sojourn House</u>.



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.

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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.

 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).

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 11:23-28.

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 alternoon 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 mostimportant 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 eral

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." 動

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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



<u>Group & Channel Name: Blessed Conversations.</u> <u>Description</u>: 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?

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

Click some to see the new Social Media sites setup For CgiCanada

<u>Rumble Group Linkedin Profile Signal Group Telegram Group</u> <u>TikTok Truth Social X (formerly Twitter) Locals Gab</u> <u>BitChute Youtube Facebook Instagram</u> Wow ... Look at the links here!



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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?

SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE EASTER?

When was the last time you went to yout public literary, obtained one of the leading encyclopedias or historice, and studied an article on the observer of Baster?

singlet virtuality, and a sorrespondent of the sorr

As the people moment of summine, the prior to ministrer may likely new toward the cara catero genues, heitabiling the dawn of "Easter Sanday," and ask all of the andience to pray as they face the rising sum in the east.

While many of the less denote do not bother to arise early enough to go to an actual contract service, it is a wellknown celebration, attended by well-low in sublets around the world. Who?

These many professing Christians suppose they are gathering together to commemorate the antervenary of the precise moment forms Christ new from the dead?

They believe they are celebrating the reservection. Of course, it is doubtful that even one of these sincers people a millions of professing, burchgoing Christians, aeter" is one of the chief retigious festivals. But what do egys,

abbits, new clothing, suprise services, and hot cross burs have to do with

Justs Canery? uppoint his article. Yet the inforis seadily multiple in Let himoria

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sere given in the flext deary years of school, fashionthe gaily decorated backets gaper and decorating the time paper "straw," and jolly and it shaped like Easter eggs.

yed Easter eggs, engaged in equiatter egg huns, ate little chocoate bussies, and porhaps even ing athered around a bonfore. "Q

ingpage and datacting in the contain. Certainity you recall seeing id motion picture news reports a sufficient picture news reports in services contained on the innova "Easter Parade" in New Ork City. It's castron. And in cantom to e questioned?

What Does Easter Mean? What is "Easter"? Is it the opposite of "Wester"? Does it have competing to do with one of the posts of the compass, or the Far East?

Let's see what some of the historians tell us: "Easter: The English term, according to the Van. Bode... retates to Eostary, a Tomboraic goddens of the rising light of day and spring, which deity, however, is otherwise utilatown...

"That the apostolic junkers do not mention it and that we first braze of it principally through the constructives of the Quartodecimants are protely acceledental" (The Carbolic Beryclopedia, article "Easter," emphasis added). It a stence, we are dealing

with a "boulle withdis" in this quotation, for the Catholic Church fully supperts Easter Therefoot, it is doubly important to note that the Catholic Encyclopedia advars the "apostolic fathers" (including father, Peter, John, and the early apostfet) do not mention EASTER.

As we will see later, it is equally important that they admit we first bear of it during a controversy of the "Quartodecimans." 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

<u>Toronto</u> 1:30 pm Mar 2 - Kenroy Allen Mar 9 - Kenroy Allen Mar 16 - Doug Coish Mar 23 - VP Mar 30 - Bernard Wilson <u>Kitchener</u> 1:30 pm Mar 2 - Rick Dubler Mar 9 - Bernard Wilson Mar 16 - Kenroy Allen Mar 23 - Adam Dubler Mar 30 - Doug Coish

> <u>Burlington</u> 1:30 pm Mar 2 - Adrian Davis Mar 9 - Murray Palmatier Mar 16 - Jan Kowalczyk Mar 23- Adrian Davis <u>Mar 30</u> - Murray Palmatier

<u>Kawartha Lakes</u> 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 <u>Cgicanada.org</u>11

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