

Mar.—Apr. 2008

# YAHSHUA'S WITNESS MAGAZINE

*Declaring a new and living way. (Heb. 10:20)*

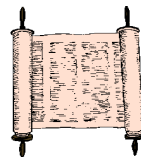
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*A publication of Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly*





## *Yahshua's Witness Magazine*

is dedicated to His bride. Yahshua will be returning soon to receive His own unto Himself (Jn. 14:3). His bride must make herself ready (Rev. 19:7). A person who is called out of this world by the Father, who repents of his/her sins, is baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah (Acts 2:38), the only name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12), and receives the Holy Spirit must come to know Him as the Scriptures declare and witness of Him (Jn. 5:39-47). Peter encouraged, "But grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Sovereign and Saviour Yahshua the Messiah," 2 Pet. 3:18. We will, with Yahweh's help and the Spirit of Truth, seek to reveal a most wondrous Savior and Redeemer, a Savior and Redeemer that much of the world has spoken of, dreamed of, hoped for, but truly never known. While much of the world looks to a savior, the savior of whom they have been taught has become corrupted. Another has been substituted in the true Savior's place. Those who are called out of this world and given to Him are likened unto virgins. But in accordance with His own parable of those virgins, only five are wise while the other five are foolish. The five wise are able to enter into the planned marriage with the Messiah, but the five foolish have the door closed to them (Mt. 25:1-13). Let's be wise, remember our betrothal to the Messiah and the virginity to which He has restored us (2 Cor. 11:1-2), resist the wiles of the devil and look to and prepare for a joyous and glorious marriage that will endure for all eternity. HalleluYah!!!!

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#### PROOFREADERS:

Frances Healan, Jerry Healan,  
John McCarty



**OUR COVER:** Spring is coming and with it also the Spring holy-days/holidays. Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are the first observances of Yahweh's Sacred Calendar, while the world observes its traditional Easter with sunrise services, bunny rabbits laying colored eggs, people displaying their new Easter garments and the children's search for the eggs, etc. Our cover picture highlights the observance of Passover and Unleavened Bread. We trust that our articles entitled "What Leaven Represents" and "Should a New Testament Believer Observe Easter or Passover?" will help to be an eye opener for the observances commanded by Yahweh in His Word and the traditions of paganism that have replaced those commands in the hearts of so many.

For comments or inquiries please write to YEA, P. O. Box 31, Atlanta, TX 75551.

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## **TUMULTUOUS TIMES AHEAD**

The reality of this world and life is beginning to sink in. We are very near the end times and things are going to begin to unravel. As most of you know, I am one of those strange people who happens to believe that the Hebrew language is a most important and vital language to look to for revelation. If you have a love for the Greek language as well as a Greek mindset, more power to you. But Scriptures were originally revealed in the ancient Paleo Hebrew and this author believes that the New Testament was also written in Hebrew. How can this be? Because the apostles were Hebrew. They were writing primarily to Hebrews. Our Savior was Hebrew and didn't bother to speak to Paul in another tongue but Hebrew when He revealed Himself to him. (Acts 26:14).

Furthermore, when Paul traveled to a new area, he always sought out the Synagogues first, performing the duty that he understood must be done, that is, go to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. (Ro. 1:16; 2:9-10) This is because the Synagogues always had a copy of the Tanakh, the Old Testament in Hebrew, which would be read and studied every Sabbath day. The Jews, like the Christians, have been instrumental in preserving the Scriptures even though they really don't understand them and they also condemn them to destruction because of their rebellion and disobedience.

Believe it or not, the ancient Hebrew tongue will open your eyes to modern day happenings if you will allow it. Take, for example, the adversary who came into Yahweh's congregation. He is identified in Psalms 74:10 as the *Tsar*! The *Tsar* who came into the congregation and took over as its *Pontifex Maximus* (high priest), was none other than Constantine the Great who dictated the changes from the Sabbath to Sunday, from the annual holy days to the holidays, and from Hebrew to Greek. After all, if you convert the Hebrew to other languages like Greek, Latin, English, etc., then you can keep people from seeing what is going on. Identification is very easily lost and the Scriptures can be made to say things differently than what they originally meant.

So what about today's world? I can tell you that it would take reams and reams of paper to explain it all, so I certainly won't be able to explain it in just one page, but I can establish a little foundation. When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, they were naked and not ashamed (Gen. 2:25). The Hebrew word for "ashamed" is *buwsh*! It would sound much like the last name of our current President Bush. That Hebrew word (*buwsh*) not only is interpreted or defined as ashamed, but it also means; to be delayed, to be disappointed, to be confounded, or confused.

The question I now have to ask is, has President Bush disappointed anyone? Yes! Even those of his own party! Are many ashamed of him now? Absolutely! What is going on in our nation that could also be described by these words? Doesn't the stock market seem to be more than a little dismayed, confounded and confused? Haven't many great burgeoning corporations, banks, etc., begun to enter into a period of confusion and decline? Is this a coincidence or has Yahweh been trying to tell those who understand Hebrew that this is the result of having lived as a lawless generation since Constantine?

You see, even though Christianity proclaims that it loves Yahweh's law and word on the one hand, they hate it on the other because they proclaim that it is done away. If there is no law, then the result is chaos, confusion, and destruction. That's right people, life, creation exists by laws that were put into play by the very Word of Yahweh. When He spoke, it came into existence by the very power of His word (Jn. 1:1-3, 10-14). It is currently being upheld by the power of His word (Heb. 1:3). By Him all things consist, being held together (Col. 1:16), by the power of His Word.

But He will not always allow His creation to continue in lawlessness, rebellion and disobedience to Him, His Word and His commands. The media has also taken the ball and run with it so that there is no lack of lawlessness in our land. I continue to harp on this, but the news media, the movie media, the television media, the radio media, the music media, the drug culture, the medical profession, as well as the Christian media and others are all working together to bring about total lawlessness, which results in total destruction.

I know that Yahweh is merciful. I have experienced His mercy all of my lifetime (PRAISE HIM!)!!! But the time came when He allowed both Israel and Judah to continue no longer in His promised land, and in His word of promise. He had to horribly chasten and correct them. We are now coming to that same period of time for this world. Destruction for many and slavery for the few survivors is on its way. Did you know that our government, the banking system, and we ourselves have spent ourselves into debt to the tune of about 180 TRILLION dollars?! We can't even begin to imagine how great these numbers are, but it is a fact that we have sold ourselves into debt so deeply that we have no way of climbing out of the pit.

Chaos, confusion, correction, destruction are on the way. The dollar is sinking. Other nations and currencies may replace them momentarily, but they also will suffer the pangs of chaos, confusion, degeneration and destruction. Lift up your heads now! Our salvation is on its way! We had to come to these times before Yahweh intervenes by sending His Son Yahshua to intervene in world affairs, and save His own people Judah and Israel from the destructive paths that they have chosen. Times are going to get very hard, but Yahweh's Word never fails. All will soon be crying out to Him for His mercy and intervention. Why not do so now?

*JH*

# WHAT LEAVEN REPRESENTS

*It is a simple fact that man loves leavened bread. What is leaven, you might ask? Leavening is the yeast, or other agents that cause a lump of dough to rise into a loaf of bread, a doughnut, roll, etc. There is a period of time, however, when Yahweh commands us to eat our bread grains without leaven in them. This period of time is called the feast of unleavened bread. It takes place with and is connected to the annual Passover observance commanded in Scripture. Why does Yahweh command us to do this? Just what does leaven represent?*

*By Jerry Healan*

Yahweh commanded Israel, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is Yahweh's Passover," Ex. 12:2-11.

Furthermore, He continued, "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordi-

nance for ever. **Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.** And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this self-same day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

*The Passover lamb of old  
was only a type of the true  
Passover Lamb, Yahshua the  
Messiah.*

**In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread," Ex. 12:14-20.**

What is the significance to this ritual? Yahweh had commanded the Israelites to take a lamb of the first year out of the sheep or the goats and to

kill it in the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month at even. This animal was called the Passover lamb. Why did He command this? Because He was going to deliver His people Israel from bondage to Egypt by slaying all of the firstborn of Egypt from the house of Pharaoh to the lowest and most common servant, even down to the beasts, the animals themselves. The Passover lamb was to be substituted for the Israelites firstborn so that no harm would come upon them.

Yahweh reiterated this command several times, but He especially commanded it in the book of Leviticus, chapter 23, "These are the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is Yahweh's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is **the feast of unleavened bread unto Yahweh: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.** In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein," vv. 4-8.

## THE TYPES

The Passover lamb of old was only a type of the true Passover Lamb, Yahshua the Messiah. The Apostle Paul writes, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us," 1 Cor. 5:7.

You see, whether you believe it or not, we are all enslaved, in bondage to

the flesh and the god of this world. The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) is the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). Egypt was a physical type of the world in which we live today. Pharaoh was a type, a representative of the present god of this world who leads all into disobedience and rebellion against Yahweh. If we are to be delivered from this great leader of rebellion and disobedience, we must come to Yahshua, the Passover Lamb, Who will soon intervene to deliver His people from this world and its rule into the promise of Yahweh, that is, the coming kingdom of heaven.

The coming kingdom of heaven is a time of blessedness, peace, tranquility, righteousness and plenty that the world has truly really never experienced. While there may be many skeptics and scoffers who doubt that such will ever take place, the fact of the matter is that Yahweh's word is sure and true. It will take place in His own chosen time and it will take this present evil world by storm and surprise.

Notice what the Prophet Jeremiah is inspired to declare about this time of deliverance, "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that it shall no more be said, Yahweh liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, Yahweh liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers," 16:14-15.

While the Passover lamb of old was utilized to deliver the children out of Egypt, the fact of the matter is that it was powerless to deliver those who had died from the grave. Through the all powerful Passover Lamb, Yahshua the Messiah, even the graves of His people will be opened and they will be restored to their inheritance and kingdom. What a fantastic and powerful testimony! That is why it says that the deliverance from ancient Egypt will be forgotten! Through the greater Passover Lamb, Yahshua the Messiah, there will be total and complete deliv-

erance, not only for the living, but also for the dead!

## THE UNLEAVENED BREAD

The unleavened bread is a type of Yahshua in His affliction. (Review our article entitled "*The Afflicted Messiah*" that appeared in *Yahshua's Witness Magazine* Mar. – Apr. 2007, pp. 14-23.)

Yahshua declared that He was the true bread from heaven, "They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Yahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of Elohim is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Master, evermore give us this bread. And Yahshua said unto them, **I am the bread of life:** he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believ-

*What a fantastic and powerful testimony!*

eth on me shall never thirst," Jn. 6:30-35.

While the reference is primarily to the manna, the fact of the matter is that just as the Passover lamb was a type of Him, so was the unleavened bread. It represented Him in His affliction for Yahweh commanded, "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for in the month of Abib Yahweh thy Elohim brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the Passover unto Yahweh thy Elohim, of the flock and the herd, in the place which Yahweh shall choose to place his name there. **Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the**

**bread of affliction;** for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life. And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning," Dt. 16:1-4.

Leaven puffs up, but bread dough that has no leaven is flat, typifying humility and meekness. Yahshua came as the most humble and afflicted of servants, "Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonished at thee; **his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:** So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of Yahweh revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; **a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;** and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet **we did esteem him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted.** But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Yahweh hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,** yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from



judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet **it pleased Yahweh to bruise him**; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Yahweh shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities,” Isa. 52:13-15; 53:1-11.

## LEAVEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

What do the Scriptures reveal concerning the meaning of leavened bread or leaven? We must look into the Prophets, Psalms and the New Testament for the answer.

The Prophet Hosea is inspired to write, “When I would have healed Israel, then the **iniquity** of Ephraim was discovered, and the **wickedness** of Samaria: for they commit **falsehood**; and the **thief** cometh in, and the troop of **robbers** spoileth without. And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face. They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies. **They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.** In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with **bottles of wine**; he stretched out his hand with **scorners**. For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire. They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me. Ephraim,

he hath mixed himself among the people; **Ephraim is a cake not turned**,” Hos. 7:1-8.

Look at all of the things revealed here to be associated with leaven; iniquity, wickedness, falsehood, thievery, robbery, adultery, lies, drunkenness, scorners, etc.

The Prophet Amos decrees, “Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which **oppress the poor, which crush the needy**, which say to their masters, Bring, and **let us drink**. The Sovereign Yahweh hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks. And ye shall go out at the breaches, every cow at that which is before her; and ye shall cast them into the palace, saith Yahweh. Come to Bethel, and **transgress**; at Gilgal **multiply transgression**; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: And **offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven**, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith The Sovereign Yahweh,” 4:1-5.

## *What do the Scriptures reveal concerning the meaning of leavened bread or leaven?*

Once again the oppression of the poor, crushing of the needy, drunkenness and transgression are associated with leaven by the Prophet Amos.

The Psalmist pleads, “Deliver me, O my Elohim, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and **cruel man**,” Psa. 71:4.

Interestingly, “cruel man” is translated from the Hebrew word *chamets*, which is the very word for leaven! Notice that the hand of the wicked and unrighteous are associated with the leaven (*chamets*) of the cruel man.

The Psalmist Asaph professes, “Truly Elohim is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. But as

for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the **foolish**, when I saw the prosperity of the **wicked**. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are **corrupt**, and **speak wickedly** concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth Elohim know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the **unrighteous**, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of Elohim; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Yahweh, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. Thus my heart was **grieved** (*chamets*), and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee,” Psa. 73:1-22.

Notice that the Psalmist almost went the way of the foolish and wicked until he went to the house of Elohim. Then he understood that even though they seem to prosper and do well, their ultimate end is destruction from the hand of Yahweh. When he realized these things, then his heart was “grieved.” This word “grieved” is translated from the Hebrew word

*chamets* or leaven. Thus, we can determine that grief is associated with leaven. In other words, his heart was being leavened with the evil of the wicked until corrected by Yahweh.

## LEAVEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In Matthew chapter 16, the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Yahshua desiring him to show them a sign from heaven, but he rebuked them firstly by saying that they were a wicked and adulterous generation and secondly by declaring that the only sign that he would give them was the sign of Jonah who was three days and three nights in the belly of the great whale. (Mt. 16:1-4).

Later, Yahshua warned his disciples to take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. The disciples hadn't taken any bread with them and were confused to think that they had taken no bread to eat, but he corrected them by saying that it wasn't because they had no bread, but they needed to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Mt. 16:5-11). **"Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees,"** v. 12.

The Pharisees had wrested control over the common people and were teaching them the tenets of what has become modern day Orthodox Rabbinic Judaism. Another form of modern day Judaism has descended from the Sadducees, which is called Karaite Judaism. This ministry would be remiss if it didn't warn you of the leaven that is extant in both of these movements along with much of the subsequent Jewish movements that are also influenced by them.

The book of Mark adds a little information that Matthew fails to reveal. In Mark Yahshua is quoted as saying, **"Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod,"** 8:15.

What can this mean? The leaven of Herod would have been the doctrine

of the Herodians. Herod was made king of the land of Canaan by Augustus Caesar, his cousin. His father was an Edomite and his mother was of Ishmael. There were those who promoted him as king over Israel, which is fallacious since the true King is Yahshua, who is of Judah, specifically King David. Herod practiced Judaism in the Jerusalem area, but he also built the city in the north named Caesarea, which was named after Caesar and had a temple built therein, which was dedicated to the worship of Caesar as a god.

This should enlighten us concerning the leaven of Herod. Herod's king was Caesar. Caesar was worshipped as the son of god. When Constantine Caesar entered into the New Testament Assembly, he took over as its *Pontifex Maximus* or great high priest and mediator between heaven and earth. Through his edicts the faith began to be transformed and corrupted into modern day Christianity.

The doctrine of the Herodians, therefore, was the doctrine that he was the rightful king over the Jews due to his being placed there by a still greater

*This should enlighten us  
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king, Caesar. In other words, Caesar was the ultimate king and whoever he appointed as their sub-king or leader had the authority of heaven. Constantine gave honor and esteem to another deity rather than Yahweh and another savior rather than Yahshua.

Thus, we should avoid the leaven, that is, the doctrines of Rabbinic Judaism (Pharisees), Karaite Judaism (Sadducees) and Christianity (Herodians).

## THE APOSTLE PAUL

The Apostle Paul revealed more about what leaven represents when he wrote to the Corinthians, "It is re-

ported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And **ye are puffed up**, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Sovereign Yahshua. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that **a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.** For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore **let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness;** but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth," 1 Cor. 5:1-7.

Look at what Paul associates with leaven. Firstly, he declares that they are "puffed up" which is what leaven does to dough. Being puffed up also has to do with vanity. But he is also associating fornication that is not so much as named among the Gentiles (non-Hebrew unbelievers). He also associates it with malice and wickedness.

## HOW LEAVEN WORKS

A look into the Hebrew words for leaven, as well as the way leaven works is also very revealing. There are two key Hebrew words to deal with. The Hebrew word for leaven is *seor*, while the Hebrew word for leavened bread is *chametz*. *Seor* is defined as; barm or yeast cake (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). It is simply the agent utilized to cause bread (primarily) to rise.

*Chametz* is the Hebrew term for

leavened bread. It is defined as; **ferment**, (figuratively) **extortion**. *Chametz* comes from the primitive root word *chamets* (#2556 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). *Chamets* is defined as; a primitive root; to be **pungent**; i.e. in taste (**sour**, i.e. literally fermented, or figuratively, **harsh**), in color (**dazzling**). This is the word from when the idea of the "cruel man" and the "grieved heart" is derived in the Psalms referred to above.

The word "ferment" comes from *fervere* which means to boil or become agitated. To "extort" means to get (money, etc.) from someone by violence, threats, misuse of authority, etc. (*Webster's New World Dictionary*) The term *extortion* is often used metaphorically to refer to usury or to price-gouging.

To be "pungent" or "sour" has to do with being made acid or rank by or as by fermentation. Sour usually implies an unpleasant sharpness of taste and often connotes fermentation or rancidness (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).

A look into the word "harsh" is quite revealing; **Harsh** *adj.* [ME. *harsk*, akin to G. *harsch*, rough, raw < IE. base *\*kars*, to scratch, comb., whence L. *carduus*, **thistle**, *carrere*, to card (wool)] **1.** unpleasantly sharp or rough; specif., *a*) grating to the ear; discordant *b*) too bright or vivid to the eye; glaring *c*) too strong to the taste; bitter *d*) not smooth to the touch; coarse **2.** unpleasantly crude, abrupt, or strained so as to be offensive to the mind or feelings [*the harsh realities of death*] **3.** rough, crude, or forbidding in appearance [*beneath his harsh exterior*] **4.** excessively severe; cruel or unfeeling [*a harsh punishment*] — **SYN.** See ROUGH (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).

Finally, "dazzle" is defined as; **1.** to overpower or dim the vision of with very bright light or brilliant qualities, display, etc. —**vi.** **1.** to be overpowered by glare. **2.** to arouse admiration by brilliant display (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).

Dazzle is defined as, **1.** to overpower

or dim the vision of with very bright light or moving lights **2.** to confuse, surprise, or overpower with brilliant qualities, display, etc.—**vi.** **1.** to be overpowered by glare **2.** to arouse admiration by brilliant display.

Isn't this the technique that modern day movies, musicians, advertizers, and even the media utilize to obtain and keep the attention of their viewers, who could also be called their worshippers as many of them, especially the rich and famous are called icons, idols, etc.?

What we have found in these definitions certainly goes hand in hand with the descriptions that we have found in the Scriptures concerning leaven typifying the works of sin and wickedness.

## PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Yahshua came speaking in parables in order to keep the people of his day blinded to the realities of the kingdom. Only his chosen disciples were to be given the understanding of the parables. In Matthew chapter thirteen, he gives four parables. The first par-

*The wheat will bear fruit for the kingdom, while the tare will bear nothing.*

able was of a man sowing seeds some of which fell by the wayside where the birds came and ate them up, others fell in stony places and the seeds did spring up, but perished because they had nothing to support their root system. Others fell among thorns which choked them but others fell on good ground and bore fruit unto the kingdom. Yahshua explained this parable for all to be able to hear and understand.

Yahshua explained to his disciples that the seeds are the word of the kingdom of heaven. Those that fell by the wayside heard the good news of the kingdom of heaven, but couldn't understand it. The wicked one, there-

fore, came and took what they had heard away from them. Others heard it and received it gladly, but have no depth of root in themselves to endure the hardships and troubles that come because of the good news of the kingdom. Still others desired the cares of this world and life, which causes one to become unprofitable. But the seeds that fall into the good soil bring forth much fruit for the kingdom.

He then put forth another parable of the kingdom wherein a man sowed good seed in his field, but an enemy came and sowed the seeds of tares among his wheat. The tare and the wheat both look alike until the time for the fruit to be borne. The wheat will bear fruit for the kingdom, while the tare will bear nothing.

The next parable is about the mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds, but eventually grows into a great tree so that even the birds of the air can lodge in its branches.

Notice that each of these parables is about the kingdom of heaven in its relationship to the earth. The final parable that Yahshua gives is this, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened," Mt. 13:33.

When we look at the preceding parable about the mustard seed and measure it with this final one, it appears as if the two go hand in hand in explanation about the growth of the kingdom, but what about the second parable where the enemy sows tares in the field? What can we learn about this last parable? We have already searched the Scriptures and actually found nothing good about leaven. We have only been able to find it in association with the works of sin, evil, unrighteousness and wickedness. Let's see if we can figure out each of these parables, because a parable is given to hide certain meanings and we must search it out as carefully as we can by comparing Scriptures with Scriptures.

## FIGURING IT ALL OUT



The first parable is explained by Yahshua to his disciples. The next parable reveals the insidiousness of the enemy. He sows tares among the wheat and both are allowed to grow together. Thus, in the earthly kingdom of heaven, we have the good, the righteous, the fruitful and we have the evil who are only there to sap the strength of the good, grow up among them and crowd them out. Whether you realize it or not, this has taken place in the body of the Messiah.

Psalms 74 is a very revealing Psalm, "O Elohim, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; **even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary. Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations**; they set up their ensigns for signs. A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees. But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers. **They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground.** They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the meeting places of Elohim in the land. We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long. O Elohim, how long shall the adversary reproach? **shall the enemy blaspheme thy name** for ever? Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom," vv. 1-11.

Notice that! It says that the enemy (tares) has done wickedly in the sanctuary. Yahweh's enemies roar in the midst of His congregation. They have cast fire into His sanctuary. The enemy is blaspheming His name which has caused His right hand to be withdrawn.

Yahshua is Yahweh's right hand

(Psa. 110:1-5; Heb. 1:13; Eph. 1:20). Who is the enemy, the adversary that blasphemes His name? The psalm identifies him. The Hebrew word for adversary in verse ten is TSAR! One of the most important titles for Constantine, called the great, was TSAR! He entered into the New Covenant Assembly and took over as its *Pontifex Maximus* (High Priest and mediator) and began to issue the edicts of sun (fire) worship. The signs of Yahweh's people were the seventh day Sabbaths and the annual holy days. He changed them to Sunday and the annual pagan holidays (more fire worship). He and his cohorts who have followed him, including King James, have blasphemed Yahweh's name, authority, seal, and power.

The tares have been sown among the wheat and have been in the process of crowding the wheat out of existence ever since. Constantine is the little horn of Daniel 8 who magnifies himself to the prince of host, casts the (spiritual) sanctuary and the truth to the ground through the transgression of desolation and practices and prospers seemingly as the true faith.

***It says that the enemy (tares) has done wickedly in the sanctuary.***

### THE MUSTARD SEED

The mustard seed is the third parable that we need to briefly deal with. It is so small in the beginning, but grows into a great tree wherein even the birds lodge in its branches.

What event in the Scriptures do we have available that this parable is likened unto? Once again, we must go to the book of Daniel chapter 4. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him. When none of his astrologers and magicians could explain it, he called for Daniel and explained, "Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold **a tree in the midst**

**of the earth**, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and **the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof**, and all flesh was fed of it. I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and **let a beast's heart be given unto him**; and let seven times pass over him," vv. 10-16.

In Daniel chapter two, Nebuchadnezzar is revealed to possess the title "king of kings" (v. 37). This is the same title that Yahshua will be given in the very near future (Rev. 17:14; 19:16). Furthermore, Nebuchadnezzar is given the heart of a beast, which identifies him with the first beast of Daniel chapter 7. That beast is like a lion with eagle's wings. The lion is king of beasts while the eagle is king of birds, thus the title "king of kings."

In Daniel chapter 2 a great dreadful and terrible image is revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, which is a microcosm or thumb nail sketch of the history of the ruling kingdoms of the world and their pagan idolatrous religions. The rulership of these kingdoms begins with Nebuchadnezzar and ends with the fourth kingdom (Rome) whose legs are iron and feet part of iron and part of clay. The ten toes of the image is part of iron and part of mirey clay.

The rule of these kingdoms and their idolatrous worship continues until a stone is cut out without hands that will

smite the image on its toes and then grow into a great mountain or kingdom that will fill all of the earth. That stone, of course, is the Messiah Yahshua.

The parable of the mustard seed is a parable of the time when Yahshua's kingdom will be planted in Jerusalem and His kingdom, beginning as the smallest of kingdoms, will grow to fill all of the earth.

## THE WOMAN

Now we can come to the parable of the woman who hides leaven into three measures of meal until the whole of it is leavened. What would the three measures of meal represent? Noah had three sons of whom all of the races of mankind have descended, they are Shem, Ham and Japeth. The good news of the kingdom was to go to all the world as a witness, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen," Mt. 28:19-20. Therefore, the good news is to go forth to the descendants of the three sons of Noah.

But what about the woman? What does she typify? Israel was, in effect, the wife of Yahweh. Yahshua came for the purpose of restoring his bride, Israel. His disciples understood this, therefore, they asked him, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Master, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6.

The Prophet Zechariah is shown a prophecy, "Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and **this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. And he said,**

**This is wickedness.** And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out **two women**, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base," Zech. 5:5-11.

The woman is the wife of Yahweh that was taken into the land of Shinar or Babylon which was Judah. But the women of Israel fared no better, "Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink. The Sovereign Yahweh hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks. And ye shall go out at the breaches,

***Yahshua came for the  
purpose of restoring his  
bride, Israel.***

every cow at that which is before her; and ye shall cast them into the palace, saith Yahweh. Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: And **offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven**, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Sovereign Yahweh," Amos 4:1-5.

Furthermore, the assembly, the body and bride of the Messiah is likened to seven assemblies in Revelation chapters one through three. They are likened to seven candlesticks in chapter one (11-20).

In chapter two, He begins to give messages to each of the seven assemblies. In chapter two he warns the first assembly (Ephesus) that she has fallen because she has left her first love (vv. 4-5). The second assembly (Smyrna) is basically persecuted out of existence. The third assembly (Pergamos) dwells where Satan's throne is and he warns, "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate," vv. 14-15.

Wouldn't this be the beginning of the introduction of leaven into the assembly?

## THE RECIPE

The assembly is, at first, like an unleavened lump of dough. This would be the state of Ephesus. But the problem is that she has left her first love, therefore, a very important ingredient is found missing. What a baker does is knead the dough adding the proper moisture and getting it ready for the introduction of the leaven. This would be the beatings, incarcerations and persecutions of the Smyrna Assembly. Then the leaven is introduced. Pergamos begins this.

When we get to the fourth stage, the Assembly of Thyatira, a prophetess named Jezebel (similar to Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, king of Israel) is allowed to seduce Yahshua's servants to commit fornication, and eat things sacrificed unto idols. The lump is now fully leavened.

The next Assembly is Sardis who has a name as if she were alive, but is dead. The lump is allowed to sit while the leaven permeates totally. Total leaven sin, wickedness, adultery, fornication, etc., brings total death and destruction.

There is a group of believers who are allowed to become unleavened which causes them to love their fellow man

and to proclaim the truths concerning Yahshua. This is the Philadelphian Assembly.

The final assembly is lukewarm, rich in physical goods, but poor in the spirit. She is naked, meaning that she is practicing outright idolatry without her true covering, Yahshua the Messiah. She is blind and simply can't see her spiritual impoverishment.

Yahshua is shown to be outside this assembly for He stands at the door and knocks. The problem is that, in accordance with his parable in John ten, He is the door. Thus, this assembly has embraced another door rather than the true door.

When Yahshua returns, who is Elohim and a consuming fire, the unleavened, the true seed, the wheat, will be preserved, while the leavened, the tares, will be gathered and burned. Remember the lot or fate of the harlot of Revelation 17-18.

## BECOMING UNLEAVENED

How do we become unleavened? Paul advised the Corinthians, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with **the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**," 1 Cor. 5:7-8.

"Sincerity" is translated from the Greek word *heilikrineia*, which is defined as, clearness, i.e. (by implication) purity (figuratively). It comes from another Greek word, *heilikrines*, which is defined as, from *heile* (the sun's ray) and 2919; **judged by sunlight**, i.e. tested as genuine (figuratively). (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*)

If we are to be cleansed, then we must be examined by Yahweh's light. The Psalmist asks and answers, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word," Psal. 119:9.

John reveals that Yahshua is the

word, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. The same was in the beginning with Elohim. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth," Jn. 1:1-3, 14.

Furthermore, Yahshua is the light, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men," Jn. 1:4. "For Yahweh so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For Yahweh sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of Elohim. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the

*Leaven is to be put out of all  
our dwellings.*

light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in Yahweh," Jn. 3:16-21.

Yahshua is also the truth, "Yahshua saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," Jn. 14:6.

Yahshua is the word, the light, the truth through whom we must become unleavened. He is our Passover sacrificed for us. We are cleansed in his blood. This is the unleavened of sincerity and truth.

## UNLEAVENED BREAD

For one seven day period out of the year, we are commanded to eat

unleavened bread (Lev. 23:4-8). Paul says for us to keep the feast (1 Cor. 5:7-8). The first day of this feast is holy and the seventh day is holy. This feast is associated with the Passover, thus it begins with the afflicted and sacrificed Lamb of Elohim, Yahshua the Messiah, who is also the true bread from heaven, the bread of affliction. It is begun in holiness, cleanness, purity, for Yahshua is the Lamb without blemish (1 Pet. 1:19) who did no sin (1 Pet. 2:22), setting an example for us that we should walk in his steps (1 Pet. 2:12).

As we eat the unleavened bread for seven days, we must realize and think of the bread typifying his flesh (Jn. 6). There are seven days in a complete week. The seventh day brings about rest. The seventh day of unleavened bread is also a holy day and a rest day, typifying his ability to unleaven us every day of the week and for all time. The seven days also typify the seven thousand year period of Yahweh's plan of salvation. Each day represents a thousand years (2 Pet. 2:8).

We are to eat no leavened products during this seven day period. Leaven is to be put out of all our dwellings. This typifies our putting sin out of our lives by the power of the blood of the Lamb and the eating of his flesh. Seven is the number for spiritual perfection and completion, thus, in Yahshua, the Passover Lamb, the true bread from heaven, the bread of affliction, we have the ability to be forgiven of our sins and to become unleavened for all eternity.

Leavening typifies sin, wickedness, unrighteousness and all things that go with it. To be unleavened typifies purity, cleanness, righteousness without which we will not see our Heavenly Father. We can serve Yahweh (purity, unleaven) or we can serve the flesh (sin, leaven), what will your choice be?



# EASTER OR PASSOVER?

*The preponderance of those who embrace the New Testament Scriptures and the Messiah of that New Testament observe Easter during March or April of each year. A minority of believers, however, observe the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. Which is right? Which is truly according to Scripture?*

*By Jerry Healan*

During the Easter observance, the Scriptural account of the resurrection of the Savior is the supreme focus. However, why is this period called Easter and where did this term Easter come from? “The English term, according to the Ven. Bede (*De temporum ratione*, I, v), relates to Estre, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring...” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia Electronic Version*) “The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon Eostre, a goddess of light or spring whose festival was celebrated in April.” (*The World Book Encyclopedia*, p. 2088) “The name Easter, like the names of the days of the week, is a survival from the old Teutonic mythology. According to Bede (*De Temp. Rat.* C. xv.) It is derived from Eostre, or Ostâra, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, to whom the month answering to our April, and called Eostur-monath, was dedicated.” (*Encyclopedia Britannica* 14th edition, vol. 7, p. 858) “Then look at Easter. What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name was found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is Ishtar. The worship of Bel and Astarte was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, ‘the priests of the groves’.” (**The Two Babylons** by

Alexander Hislop, p. 103)

Do you get the impact of all of these statements? Easter is a name associated with a pagan goddess! It is a name which is associated with Teutonic mythology which reaches further back to Nineveh and Babylon! It is the name of the “Queen of heaven!”

## ISHTAR

The name “Easter” comes from the name of the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess Ishtar. Here is what the *Encyclopedia Britannica* says about Ishtar,

***The name “Easter” comes from the name of the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess Ishtar.***

“...the chief goddess of Babylonia and Assyria, the counterpart of the Phoenician Astarte (q.v.) The earliest written form of the name is *Ash-dar*, an Accadian rendering of the older Sumerian Innîni, ‘Lady of Heaven.’ Ishtar was the Semitic deity identified with the Sumerian Venus. For this reason Asdar, Ishtar, is undoubtedly the same deity as the south Arabian Athtar, god of the planet Venus. At all events it is now generally recognized that the name is Semitic in its origin. Where the name originated is likewise uncertain, but the indications point to Erech, where we find the worship of a great Sumerian mother-goddess having no association with a male coun-

terpart flourishing in the oldest period of Babylonian history. She appears under various names, among which are Nanâ, Innanna, Ninâ and annuit. As early as the days of Khammurabi we find these various names which represented originally different goddesses, though all manifest as the chief trait the life-giving power united in Ishtar. Even when the older names are employed it is always the great mother-goddess who is meant. Ishtar is the one goddess in the pantheon who retains her independent position despite and throughout all changes that the Babylonian-Assyrian religion undergoes.” (14th edition, vol. 12, p. 707)

Since Astarte is the same principal goddess, let’s see what is said about her under this name, “A Semitic goddess whose name appears in the Bible as Ashtoreth. She is everywhere the great female principle answering to the Baal of the Canaanites and Phoenicians and to the Dagon of the Philistines. She had temples at Sidon and at Tyre (whence her worship was transplanted to Carthage), and the Philistines probably venerated her at Ascalon (1 Sam. Xxxi. 10). Solomon built a high-place for her at Jerusalem which lasted until the days of King Josiah (I. Kings xi. 5; II. Kings xxiii. 13), and the extent of her cult among the Israelites is proved as much by the numerous biblical references as by the frequent representations of the deity turned up on Palestinian soil. The Moabites formed a compound deity, Ashtar-Chemosh and the absence of

the feminine termination occurs similarly in the Babylonian and Assyrian prototype Ishtar. The old South Arabian phonetic equivalent 'Athtar' is, however, a male deity. Another compound, properly of mixed sex, appears in the Aramaean Atargatis ('At[t]ar-'athe), worn down to Derketo, who is specifically associated with sacred pools and fish (Ascalon, Hierapolis-Mabog).

"As the great nature-goddess, the attributes of fertility and reproduction are characteristically hers, as also the accompanying immorality which originally, perhaps, was often nothing more than primitive magic. As patroness of the hunt, later identification with **Artemis** was inevitable. Hence the consequent fusion with **Aphrodite**, **Artemis**, **Diana**, **Juno** and **Venus**, and the action and reaction of one upon the other in myth and legend. Her star was the planet Venus, and classical writers give her the epithet Caelestis and Urania. Robertson Smith argues that Astarte was originally a sheep-goddess, and the points to the interesting use of 'Astartes of the flocks' (Deut. Vii. 13) to denote the offspring. To nomads, Astarte may well have been a sheep-goddess, but this, if her earliest, was not her only type, as it clear from the sacred fish of Atargatis, the doves of Ascalon (and of the Phoenician sanctuary of Eryx), and the gazelle or antelope of the goddess of love (associated with the Arabian Athtar). (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 2, pp. 570-571)

## WORSHIPPING OTHER ELOHIM

Ishtar or Easter was equivalent to Astaroth, Ashtoreth and Astarte. Let's see what Yahweh's word has to say about the worship of these pagan deities, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and served Baalim: and they forsook Yahweh Elohim of their fathers, Which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other elohim, of the elohim of the people that were round

about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked Yahweh to anger. And they forsook Yahweh, and served Baal and Ashtaroth," Judg. 2:11-13.

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of Yahweh, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the elohim of Syria, and the elohim of Zidon, and the elohim of Moab, and the elohim of the children of Ammon, and the elohim of the Philistines, and forsook Yahweh, and served not Him," Judg. 10:6.

Notice it! The worship of Baal and Ashtaroth (Ishtar) has to do with the worship of all of the deities of the other nations. Isn't that the gist of the idea that we get from reading the articles in the Encyclopedias, etc.? Ishtar was found to be equivalent to all the other goddesses and certain male gods.

When the deities of the other nations are served, Yahweh is forsaken and not being served. It is also the committing of evil in the sight of Yahweh.

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the

*Ishtar or Easter was  
equivalent to Astaroth,  
Ashtoreth and Astarte.*

Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; of the nations concerning which Yahweh said unto the children of Israel, 'Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their elohim:' Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other elohim: and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his Elohim, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Ziodo-

nians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and went not fully after Yahweh, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their elohim," 1 Ki. 11:1-8.

Even the great king Solomon fell prey to the worship of these pagan foreign deities. He no longer was serving Yahweh his Elohim, but was serving the deities of the other nations. Such worship is shown to be an abomination to Yahweh. It stirs up His anger. Time after time He sold Israel into the hands of their enemies because of their worship of these forbidden deities.

## THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Ishtar was also known as the "Lady or Queen of Heaven." Yahweh told Jeremiah, "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other elohim, that they may provoke me to anger. Do they provoke Me to anger? Saith Yahweh: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?" Jer. 7:17-19.

Alexander Hislop has this to say, "The hot cross buns of Good Friday, and the dyed eggs of Pasch or Easter Sunday, figured in the Chaldean rites just as they do now. The 'buns,' known too by that identical name, were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess Easter, as early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens—that is, 1500 years before the Christian era. 'One species of sacred bread,' says Bryant, 'which used to be offered to the gods, was of great antiquity, and called Boun.' Diogenes Laertius, speaking of this offering be-

ing made by Empedocles, describes the chief ingredients of which it was composed, saying, 'He offered one of the sacred cakes called Boun, which was made of fine flour and honey'." (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 107-108)

"Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other elohim and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, *As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of Yahweh, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying, The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not Yahweh remember them, and came it not into his mind? So that **Yahweh could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day. Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against Yahweh, and have not obeyed the voice of Yah-***

**weh, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.** Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah that *are* in the land of Egypt: Thus saith Yahweh of hosts, the Elohim of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to **the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows. Therefore hear ye the word of Yahweh, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith Yahweh, that **my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt**, saying, the Sovereign Yahweh liveth. Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that *are* in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them,"

*Easter is observed with the  
tradition of Easter eggs,  
Peter Rabbit, etc.*

Jer. 44:15-27.

Why have the Jewish people suffered so much down through the ages? Why are they suffering so much today? Why do they have the name of their Elohim taken out of their mouth? However, they are not the only ones who have suffered down through the ages. They are not the only ones who have had the name of the Creator Yahweh taken out of their mouth. They are not the only ones who have gone back into Egypt. There are many groups and movements which exist today who can prove that the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic peoples have descended from the ten northern tribes of Israel. Both Israel and Judah were cast out of the promised land of Canaan because

they turned back to the elohim of Egypt and also turned to the elohim of the nations around them.

Easter, the goddess of the Teutonic peoples, is none other than Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven! The descendants of Israel are still hopelessly caught up in the worship of the deities of the nations that were around them. Yahweh, their Creator and Elohim is still not being served. Do you think His attitude of anger and wrath has changed? Doesn't He promise to pour out His wrath on the nations in the latter days? "For the wrath of Yahweh is revealed from heaven against all impiety, and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness," Ro. 1:18. Why will He do so? "Because that which may be known of Yahweh is manifest in them; for Yahweh hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Headship; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew Yahweh, they glorified *him* not as Elohim, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible Elohim into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things," Ro. 1:19-23. Because of Israel's, Judah's and the world's unrepentant attitude!

## EGGS AND RABBITS

Easter is observed with the tradition of Easter eggs, Peter Rabbit, etc. Where did this tradition come from? "The sending of Easter eggs is a custom thought to have originated with the Persians, the eggs being symbols of new life. Coloring them red typifies the blood of redemption; other colors have no special significance. Another custom, the presence of the Easter 'rabbit' in the festivities, may be traced to the old belief that rabbits lay eggs on Easter Eve. This superstition



is thought by some authorities to be of Teutonic origin, and is the basis of many stories for children.” (*The World Book Encyclopaedia*, article “Easter”, p. 2088)

“Because the use of eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter Day, coloured red to symbolize the Easter joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin but also in the Oriental Churches. **The symbolic meaning of a new creation of mankind by Jesus risen from the dead was probably an invention of later times. The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter.** The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring. Easter eggs, the children are told, come from Rome with the bells which on Thursday go to Rome and return Saturday morning. The sponsors in some countries give Easter eggs to their god-children. Coloured eggs are used by children at Easter in a sort of game which consists in testing the strength of the shells (Kraus, *Real-Encyklopädie*, s. v. Ei). Both coloured and uncoloured eggs are used in some parts of the United States for this game, known as “egg-picking”. Another practice is the “egg-rolling” by children on Easter Monday on the lawn of the White House in Washington.” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Electronic version)

“The Easter Rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. **The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility** (Simrock, *Mythologie*, 551).” (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Electronic version)

“Easter, a Christian festival, embodies many pre-Christian traditions. The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believe it probably comes from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of

the vernal equinox; **traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight.**” (*Funk & Wagnells New Encyclopedia* 1988 Edition, pp. 432-434)

“The origin of the Pasch eggs is just as clear. The ancient Druids bore an egg, as the sacred emblem of their order. In the Dionysiaca, or mysteries of Bacchus, as celebrated in Athens, one part of the nocturnal ceremony consisted in the consecration of an egg. The Hindoo fables celebrate their mundane egg as of a golden colour. The people of Japan make their sacred egg to have been brazen. In China, at this hour, dyed or painted eggs are used on sacred festivals, even as in this country. In ancient times eggs were used in the religious rites of the Egyptians and the Greeks, and were hung up for mystic purposes in their temples. From Egypt these sacred eggs can be distinctly traced to the banks of the Euphrates. The classic poets are full of the fable of the mystic egg of the Babylonians; and thus

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its tale is told by Hyginus, the Egyptian, the learned keeper of the Palatine library at Rome, in the time of Augustus, who was skilled in all wisdom of his native country: ‘An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, where the doves having settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Venus, who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess’ — that is, Astarte. Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter; and accordingly, in Cyprus, one of the chosen seats of the worship of Venus, or Astarte, the egg of wondrous size was represented on a grand scale.

“The occult meaning of this mystic egg of Astarte, in one of its aspects (for it had a twofold significance), had reference to the ark during the time of the flood, in which the whole human race were shut up, as the chick is enclosed in the egg before it is hatched. If any be inclined to ask, how can it ever enter the minds of men to employ such an extraordinary symbol for such a purpose, the answer is, first, The sacred egg of Paganism, as already indicated (p. 108), is well known as the ‘mundane egg,’ that is, the egg in which the *world* was shut up. Now the *world* has two distinct meanings—it means either the material earth, or the *inhabitants* of the earth. The latter meaning of the term is seen in Gen. xi. 1, ‘The whole earth was of one language and of one speech,’ where the meaning is that the whole people of the world were so. If then the *world* is seen shut up in an egg, and floating on the waters, it may not be difficult to believe, however the idea of the egg may have come, that the egg thus floating on the wide universal sea might be Noah’s family that contained the whole world in its bosom. Then the application of the word *egg* to the ark comes thus: — The Hebrew name for an egg is Baitz, or in the feminine (for there are both genders), Baitza. This, in Chaldee and Phenician, becomes Baith or Baitha, which in these languages is also the usual way in which the name of a *house* is pronounced. The *egg* floating on the waters that contained the *world*, was the *house* floating on the waters of the deluge, with the elements of the new world in its bosom. The coming of the egg from heaven evidently refers to the preparation of the ark by express appointment of God; and the same thing seems clearly implied in the Egyptian story of the mundane egg which was said to have come out of the *mouth* of the great god. The doves resting on the egg need no explanation. This, then, was the meaning of the mystic egg in one aspect. As, however, everything that was good or beneficial to mankind was represented in the Chaldean mysteries, as in some

way connected with the Babylonian goddess, so the greatest blessing to the human race, which the ark contained in its bosom, was held to be Astarte, who was the great civiliser and benefactor of the world. Though the deified queen, whom Astarte represented, had no actual existence till some centuries after the flood, yet through the doctrine of metempsychosis, which was firmly established in Babylon, it was easy for her worshippers to be made to believe that, in a previous incarnation, she had lived in the Antediluvian world, and passed in safety through the waters of the flood. Now the Romish Church adopted this mystic egg of Astarte, and consecrated it as a symbol of Christ's resurrection. A form of prayer was even appointed to be used in connection with it, Pope Paul V. teaching his superstitious votaries thus to pray at Easter: — 'Bless, O Lord, we beseech thee, this thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance unto thy servants, eating it in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.'" (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 109-110)

There you have it! The admission of the Catholic Church and secular scholars is that the rabbits and eggs associated with Easter come directly from paganism. Isn't it amazing that the two most important feast observations of Christianity (Christmas and Easter) are not only associated with paganism, but are observed with lies! The fact of the matter is that the Savior WAS NOT born on Dec. 25th (order our free tract entitled "*Just Whose Birthday Is Dec. 25th?*"). It is also a fact that there is no such creature as Santa Claus (Order our free tract entitled "*Just Who Is Santa Claus?*"). The truth of the matter concerning Easter is that it is associated with paganistic idolatry. The truth of the matter is that the Savior WAS NOT resurrected on Easter Sunday morning. The other outright lie is that rabbits lay eggs.

Shame on parents for continuing traditional lies to their children. When parents raise their children taking delight in lying to them, even though it

seems like fun and the right thing to do (but lies are not right) the result is children who are raised in a world of lies who feel that they are always expected to lie and justify themselves in doing so.

## ISHTAR AND TAMMUZ

Yahweh took Ezekiel in a vision to Jerusalem in order to show him the abominations that were going on there (Ez. 8:1-12). Ezekiel writes, "He said also unto me, 'Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.' Then He brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz," Ez. 8:13-14.

Ishtar and Tammuz were very closely related in paganism. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* reveals, "Aphrodite, known as the Greek goddess of love and beauty, the counterpart of the Roman Venus. Although her myth and cult were essentially Semitic, she soon became hellenized and was admitted to a place among the deities of Olympus....Among the

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Semitic peoples (with the notable exception of the Hebrews) a supreme female deity was worshipped under different names—the Assyrian **Ishtar**, the Phoenician Ashtoreth (Astarte), the Syrian Atargatis (Derketo), the Babylonian Belit (Mylitta), the Arabian Ilat (Al-ilat)....She is connected with the lower world, and came to be looked upon as one of its divinities. Thus, **Ishtar** descends to the kingdom of Ilat the queen of the dead, **to find the means of restoring her favourite Tammuz** (Adon, Adonis) to life. During her stay, all animals and vegetable productivity ceases, to begin again with her return to earth. This legend, which strikingly resembles that of Persephone, probably refers to the

decay of vegetation in winter, and the re-awakening of nature in spring." (14th edition, vol. 2, pp. 97-98)

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* has this to say about Tammuz, "...Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian god, who died and rose annually with dying and reviving vegetation, originally *Dumu-zi*, 'the son who rises, goes forth (from the nether world),' but generally interpreted 'faithful son.' Philologically both interpretations are correct, and no Accadian commentary exists to explain which meaning was accepted by them. The interpretation as 'the son who rises,' 'the resurrected child,' accepted in this article, is new and differs from all views held in the standard works on this cult. It is clear, however, that the main principle of this cult is the resurrection of the dying god and the verb *zi* stands for the root *zig* to rise up, not *zid*, to be faithful (See s. Langdon, *Sumerian Liturgies and Psalms*, p. 287, 17, *ušubba-za uziga-za*, 'In thy fall and in thy resurrection.')

"There are many titles of the youthful god, loved by his sister, the earth and heaven goddess, Innini (**Ishtar**), who descends yearly into Aralū (under-world) at the time of his death to bring him back to earth in her bosom....The liturgical wailings for Tammuz during the period of his sojourn in Aralū are numerous and describe every aspect of the theological doctrines concerning him. They are invariably composed in Sumerian, rarely with Accadian interlinear translation....He is described as the shepherd who left his flocks, as the shepherds sat in the fields wailing for Tammuz....There is a strange inconsistency in the hymns of these wailings concerning the relation of the mother goddess to her lover, Tammuz. In the early Sumerian texts she is his sister, but soon the Semitic view that she is his mother prevails. The two theories appear inconsistently together throughout the entire history of the cult. He is, however, invariably the husband and lover of the otherwise consistently described virgin goddess

of love, Innini, Gestianna, *Bêlit-sêri* (queen of the field of the lower world), and the cult is particularly associated with the great city Erech, home of the cult of Anu, the heaven god, and Innini....No great temple was built to him, and a few casual references to a temple of Tammuz at Umma, Ur, Lagash, Agade, clearly refer to shrines in the temple of the local deity reserved for the wailings and mystic ceremonies of the cult. Worship of Tammuz spread far beyond the lands to which the Sumerian religion was principally confined. Ezekiel speaks of it as firmly installed at Jerusalem in his time; it is mentioned in the Christian era in Mandaean and Syriac literature, and survived among the Sabeans at Harran as late as the middle ages. At Byblus, in Syria, he was identified with the West Semitic Adonis....He was held to be a god of healing, bestower of health, and one who, like all other deities, had power over the demons.

"It is obvious that a cult which is based upon the death and resurrection of a propitiating god, and upon the love of a divine mother who wails for her son, has direct connection with the facts and the theological views based upon them, which gave birth to Christianity. But the form of the cult which apparently most directly affected the origins of Christianity is that in which Marduk of Babylon was identified with Tammuz. At the Nisan or new year festival at Babylon, **Bêl** (Marduk) was said to have been imprisoned in the lower world, and a priestess weeps at his sepulchre. A malefactor was slain with **Bêl** and they descend together to the land of darkness. Beltis, his wife, descends to hell to seek him, and Bêl's garments are given **Ishtar** (mother of Tammuz). Bêl was laid in a sepulchre, from which he soon comes forth." (14th edition, vol. 21, pp. 776-777)

Notice the wailings which took place for a period of 40 days (revealed elsewhere). This has been passed down to Christianity as the 40 days of Lent. This was the wailing that was going on at Jerusalem when Ezekiel was

taken there in the vision.

Ishtar (pronounced like Easter) and Tammuz were closely linked! She was his sister, wife, mother, etc. The modern day Christian Easter observance with its Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, etc. has been taken directly from paganism!

## SUNRISE SERVICES

Ezekiel continues, "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 Yahweh's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east," 8:15-16.

This is nothing more than Easter (Ishtar) sunrise services! These pagan rites are the rites of earth and vegetation worship. Ishtar was the goddess of spring. Spring is when the earth springs back to life after the dead of

*Ishtar was the goddess of spring.*

winter. Ishtar, like Persephone, was a goddess who was in the under world for six months and in the upper world for six months.

The dying of vegetation in the fall was a type of the death of Tammuz. He went into the underworld for 6 months (fall and winter). Ishtar descended into the underworld to bring him back to the upper world. On the day appointed in the spring (usually in April), the goddess would come back bringing Tammuz with her. This was represented by the sun rise of that particular day! There was much joy and rejoicing exhibited in the people as they celebrated the return of spring as well as the return of their pagan goddess Ishtar and pagan god Tammuz.

Modern day Christianity has been deceived into following the ways of the pagans rather than the very word of Yahweh, Himself! This fact is admitted by the *Encyclopedia Britannica's* article on Tammuz.

The question is, Is it alright to commemorate Easter sunrise services to the true Messiah, the resurrected Yahshua? Is it possible for paganism and the worship of the true Creator to go hand in hand? The answer is found in the book of acts (of course it is found throughout the Scriptures).

Yahweh told Ezekiel, "Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke Me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their (should be My) nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them," vv. 17-18.

This has happened to the Jewish people! Actually it has happened twice and will happen a third time according to Scripture (see our corresponding article on Jerusalem). But it is also going to happen to the non-Jewish world! Paul writes that Yahweh pours his wrath on the Jew first and then on the Gentile (Ro. 2:9). Yahweh's wrath is coming on a world that is as involved in paganism today as ancient Israel and Judah were and even are presently!

## DIANA/ARTEMIS

The name Diana was shown in one of the excerpts that we referred to as just another name for Ishtar. We have the account of a confrontation between the worshippers of Diana (Artemis) and the New Testament Assembly in the book of Acts, chapter 19.

"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the crafts-



men; whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, ‘Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no elohim which are made by hands: so that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth’,” vv. 23-27.

Who is it that delight in the continual observance of the pagan festivals? It is the merchants, of course! The merchants of the world are greatly enriched by the observance of all of the pagan festivals. If people followed the truth, the observance of the pagan festivals would be overthrown and destroyed. The merchants would have to close their doors because of lack of sales. When great Babylon falls, the merchants of the earth are going to weep and mourn over her because no man will buy their merchandise any more (Rev. 18:11).

The book of Revelation reveals that not only will the merchants of the earth mourn, but so will the kings (leaders) of the earth (Rev. 18:9). It is the leaders and merchants of this world who are continually promoting pagan Babylon. Why? Because they are able to live deliciously through the great power and wealth that is generated by the system.

When the New Testament Assembly was doing its great works publishing the message of truth and Yahweh’s kingdom, the position of the leaders and merchants of the world were threatened. So was the position of the pagan priesthoods. Their temples and false elohim were being overthrown and destroyed. Here is New Testament proof that the ways of paganism and the ways of Yahweh cannot be syncretized, they cannot be blended together! The real truth will turn one away from the paganistic observances of this world in favor of the obser-

vance of the Scriptures.

The merchants, leaders and pagan priesthoods of this world delight in the observance of Jan. 1st. (New Year’s Day), Valentine’s day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Sunday worship. These are all non-Scriptural observances! But the observance of these days creates power and wealth for them. Thus, they are just like Demetrius the silversmith and the craftsmen or merchants of that day.

### THE IMAGE THAT FELL

Acts 19:35 says, “And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, ‘Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana (*Artemis*), and of the *image* which fell down from Jupiter?’”

The interesting thing about the phrase “*image* which fell down from Jupiter” is that it is translated from one Greek word *diopetes* (ΔΙΟΠΕΤΟΥΣ). *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* reveals that this Greek word *diopetes*

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is translated from two other Greek words. The first word is #2203—Zeus Zeus dzooce; of uncertain affinity; in the oblique cases there is used instead of it a (probably cognate) name Δις, Dis, deece, which is otherwise obsolete; Zeus or Dis (among the Latins, Jupiter or Jove), the supreme deity of the Greeks.

The second word is #4098 πλπτω pipto, pip'-to, which is defined as: probably akin to 4072 through the idea of alighting; to fall (literally or figuratively).

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th edition has this to say about Zeus, “The Greek counterpart of the Roman god, Jupiter....To appreciate the Ho-

meric Zeus, we must distinguish the lower mythologic aspect of him, in which he appears as an amorous and capricious deity lacking often in dignity and real power, and the higher religious aspect in which he is conceived as the all-father. In fact, later Greek religion did not advance much above the high-water mark of the Homeric, although the poets and philosophers deepened certain of its nobler traits. But Homer we now know to be a relatively late witness in this matter. Yet traces of a pre-deistic and animistic period survived here and there; for instance, **in Arcadia we find the thunder itself called Zeus (Zeus Κεραυνος)** in a Mantinean inscription, **and the stone near Gythium in Laconia, on which Orestes sat and was cured of his madness, evidently a thunder-stone, was named itself Zeus καπνωτας, which must be interpreted as “Zeus that fell from heaven”** (Pausan iii. Ww. I.); we here observe that the personal god does not yet seem to have emerged from the divine thing or divine phenomenon....**He is the spirit of the world**, the law of the universe, the universal reason, and all other gods are only parts or manifestations of him (cf. Diog. Laert. vii. 147). Moreover, as we may see from the ‘hymn’ of Cleanthes (frag. 48), and from St. Paul’s quotation from it or Aratus (Acts xvii., 28—Arat., phaen. 5), he was conceived by the Stoics as the father of the human race, who ‘alone of mortal things that live and move upon the earth’ were created in his image.” (vol. 23, pp. 948-949)

Isn’t it interesting that Diana, Artemis, Ishtar, etc. is associated with a god that fell from heaven!

The International Standard Bible Dictionary (fully revised) has this to day about the Greek word *diopetes*: “**Sacred Stone.** Greek diopetēs (lit. ‘fallen from heaven’; see Bauer, rev., p. 199) is rendered by the RSV ‘sacred stone that fell from the sky’ (cf. AV ‘image which fell down from Jupiter’; NEB ‘symbol...which fell from heaven’). It probably denotes a meteorite that was worshipped as an

image of Artemis. For other examples of meteorites that were worshiped as images of gods or goddesses, see F. F. Bruce, *Acts of the Apostles* (2nd. ed. 1952, repr. 1970), p. 367.

Without belaboring the point any longer, who was it that had “fallen from heaven?” Yahshua said, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven,” Lk. 10:18.

## THE FALLEN ONE

When did this event occur? It had to have happened before the flood! We know that the serpent Satan was in the garden of Eden. The prophet Ezekiel was inspired to write, “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, ‘Thus saith the Sovereign Yahweh; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of Elohim; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of Elohim: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground (Heb. = eretz = earth), I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will

bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more,” 28:12-19.

Notice that this being is a cherub. Cherubim are winged angelic beings. This being was in the garden of Eden. The only individuals spoken of as being in the garden were Adam, Eve, Yahweh and the serpent. Yahweh is inspiring Ezekiel to write this against the cherub so it can’t possibly be Him. Adam and Eve were both dead by the time of Ezekiel so why write this prophecy to or about them? There is only one other being mentioned and that is the serpent.

The serpent is shown to still be around at the end time as revealed in the book of Revelation, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him,” 12:9.

Notice that this being was perfect on the day of his creation, but corruption set in because of his beauty. Yahweh

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Satan as lightning fall from  
heaven,” Lk. 10:18.*

speaks of his sanctuaries. This word comes from the Hebrew word “מִקְדָּשׁ / miqdash” which can be translated as holy place (s) or even holiness (es).

It is obvious that Satan has been cast out of heaven at least once before and maybe even more than once. It is apparent that each time he is cast down, through his subtlety he is able to rise up and exalt himself into heaven again. How does he do this? Through deceiving man, angels, etc. into serving and worshipping him. How can he deceive man so easily? Didn’t he quickly deceive Eve in the garden of Eden? Hasn’t man been deceived through the various heathen and pagan religions of the world? And yes, what

about Diana, Artemis, Aphrodite, the Queen of Heaven, Ishtar and Easter? What about Zeus, Jupiter, Baal, Bel, etc.? He is able to deceive man because Man takes his eyes off of the truth and turns them to myths, fables, lies and falsehoods. How about you? Have you fallen for his subtle deceptions?

## THE PASSOVER

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* admits, “**There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers.** The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Christians, **who continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed.**” (14th edition, vol. 7, p. 859)

That’s absolutely right! The apostles were commanded to observe the Passover. Here is what Paul writes, “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **the Messiah our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast**, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” 1 Cor. 5:7-8.

Yahweh had originally delivered Israel out of pagan Egypt through the sacrifice of the passover lamb. The blood of the lamb had to be on the side posts and upper post of the door of the house or the death angel would come into the home and destroy all of the firstborn (Ex. 12:6-13).

On the night before Yahshua’s death, He replaced the ritual of sacrificing the lamb, which has always portrayed His death which was to come, with another ritual. This new ritual was to be in remembrance of His death which did occur at the appointed time. He set the example for His Disciples and for all Believers to follow in remembrance of Him being the true **Passover Lamb** of Yahweh. In the night that He was betrayed, He took

bread, blessed it and broke it and gave to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is My body." (Mt. 26:26). Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (v. 27).

The Apostle Paul also writes, "For I have received of the Sovereign, that which I also delivered unto you, that the Sovereign Yahshua the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, 'Take, eat, this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.' After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, 'This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Sovereign's death till He come,'" 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

Notice that carefully. We show His death till He come. Of course, we delight in His resurrection, but we are commanded to observe the Passover in the same manner that He observed it.

We no longer have to kill a lamb. Yahshua is the Passover Lamb of the New Covenant. We are to continue to eat of the unleavened bread and to drink of the cup which are symbols of His broken body and His blood that was poured out.

We must come out of this present evil world through our Passover Lamb, Yahshua, just as Israel was delivered from the evil world of their day through the sacrifice of their pass-over lamb.

## THE REMEMBRANCE

Passover observance was to be a memorial for the children of Israel, "And this day shall be unto you for a **memorial**; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever," Ex. 12:14.

The Hebrew word for memorial is "zikrown" (זִכְרוֹן). Zikrown is defined

as; from 2142; a *memento* (or memorable thing, day or writing) in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. The root word #2142 is "zakar" and is defined as; a primitive root; properly, to *mark* (so as to be recognized), i.e. to *remember*; by implication, to *mention*; also (as denominative from 2145) to *be male* (Ibid).

A memorial is the same thing as a remembrance. According to Luke (Lk. 22:19) and Paul (1 Cor. 11:24-25), when Yahshua administered the Passover to His disciples He said to do it in "remembrance" of Him. Yahshua would have been speaking Hebrew and would have utilized the very same Hebrew word as employed in Exodus 12.

The original Passover Lamb was a type, a foreshadow of the true Passover that was to come into the world. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is **perfect** is come, then

## ***Yahshua is the Passover Lamb of the New Covenant.***

that which is in part shall be done away," 1 Cor. 13:8-10.

The word "perfect" is taken from the Greek word "telios" which is #5046 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Its definition is given as; from 5056; *complete* (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with 3588) *completeness*.

The root word (#5056) is "telos" and is defined thusly; from a primary tello (to *set out* for a definite point or *goal*); properly, the point aimed at as a *limit*, i.e. (by implication) the *conclusion* of an act or state (*termination* (literally, figuratively or indefinitely), *result* (immediate, ultimate or prophetic), *purpose*); specially, an *impost* or *levy*

(as paid).

These definitions are extremely important to understand for elsewhere Paul writes, "For the Messiah is the **end** of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth," Ro. 10:4.

The word "end" is translated from the very same word that "perfect" is translated from in 1 Cor. 13:10. Yahshua didn't come to destroy the law or the prophets, rather He came to fulfill it (Mt. 5:17-18).

Looking at the definitions, the root word "telos" has to do with an impost or levy (as paid). What was the impost or levy? Wasn't it death? (Ro. 5:12-14 & 6:23, first part).

Israel had been enslaved to the Egyptians. The Passover that they observed set them free from that slavery. But they and all mankind were still in subjection and slavery to a much greater master, sin and death. Yahshua, the true Passover Lamb was the goal, the point aimed at. He is the termination of the law of sin and death to everyone who believes and follows Him. How much greater is Yahshua's Passover! The original Passover was only given in part until the true Passover could be initiated. It delivered Israel from slavery to Egypt, but it didn't change their hearts. Witness the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Witness their every attempt to return to Egypt and even when they were delivered into the land of promise, they still turned to the deities of the nations around them and had to be overthrown and destroyed later.

The Apostle Paul warns, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry," 1 Cor. 10:14. A resounding YES!!!! Let us flee from the idolatry of Easter and all of the idolatrous paganism that it portrays. Let us remember, let us memorialize the true Passover of Yahshua the Messiah. Let us do away with that which is in part and look to and remember that which is perfect and complete, to wit; Yahshua the Messiah, our Passover and Deliverer. HalleluYAH!!!!



# AND THEY DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF YHWH...

*This phrase is used 44 times in scripture and is always followed by punishment from YHWH. What were these sins that caused the Almighty to severely punish Israel and their kings, which led them into such gross error?*

*By Brick Parrish*

**Here are some examples of why YHWH became angry:**

**Jdg 2:11** *And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and served the Baalim.*

**Jdg 2:12** *And they forsook YHWH, the Elohim of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the peoples that were round about them, and worshipped them; and they provoked YHWH.*

**Jdg 2:13** *And they forsook YHWH, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.*

**Jdg 2:14** *And the anger of YHWH was kindled against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and He gave them over into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.*

**And again...**

**Jdg 3:7** *And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and forgot YHWH their Elohim, and served the Baalim and the Asheroth.*

**And again...**

**Jdg 10:6** *And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and served the Baalim, and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook YHWH, and served Him not.*

**Jdg 10:7** *And the anger of YHWH was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the children of Ammon.*

In every one of these cases, Israel forgot YHWH and served Baal and the Asheroth.

Are we also guilty of these same sins that provoked YHWH to such anger that He gave His people over to defeat by the nations around them? To an-

swer that question, we need to find out what these sins were. The children of Israel served Baal and the Asheroth. Let's look at each one.

**Baal - Lord.** (1.) The name appropriated to the principal male god of the Phoenicians/Canaanites. It is found in several places in the plural BAALIM (Jdg\_2:11; Jdg\_10:10; 1Ki\_18:18; Jer\_2:23; Hos\_2:17). Baal is identified with Molech (Jer\_19:5). The sun-god, under the general title of Baal, or "lord," was the chief object of worship of the Canaanite. (*Easton's Bible Dictionary*)

Baal is also associated with Asherah, inaccurately translated "THE GROVE" or "groves" (Jdg\_3:7; 2Ch\_33:3; 2Ch\_34:4; 2Ki\_23:5-6). (*Fausset Bible Dictionary*).

**In every one of these cases,  
Israel forgot YHWH and  
served Baal and the  
Asheroth.**

So we see that chief male deity was Baal or "the lord" to the Phoenicians and the chief female deity was Asheroth, where we get the English word "Easter". Ashtaroth, also called Ishtar, was thought to represent the moon whereas Baal was the sun deity or sun god. He was also called "Lord of the Heaven and the Earth." He was not only a fertility god, but the king of the gods. The Babylonians spelling of Baal was "Bel." He ultimately became known as the Greek Belos, identified with Zeus.

Asheroth was also called Astarte, the goddess of fertility. She also became identified with the Egyptian deities, Isis and Hathor (*Ency. Britannica*). Every time that Israel indulged in

Baal worship and erected asherah (idols or standing obelisks) in the high places, YHWH punished them severely. Obviously, He didn't like this kind of activity from His people.

We find the first instance of His anger being expressed in this manner when Moses went up on the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments. While he was gone, the people began to worship Him though the molten calf as the Egyptians did with their gods. Aaron also declared the following day as a Feast unto YHWH. Was YHWH pleased with this? No! He was livid! He wanted to destroy all of Israel at this point and start over with a new people fathered by Moses. Only Moses' intercession on behalf of Israel saved them from destruction. Israel was trying to worship YHWH in their own way and not the way He specified. They were trying to come to Him in their own way as we so often do today.

Naturally, none of us think we are guilty of worshipping these deities because of their names. We don't worship Baal or Astarte, do we? Israel always had trouble with these and still does today. Once we realize we ARE Israel (see Romans 11), then it becomes apparent we haven't left Baal worship very far behind. We still erect asherah today, but call them now by different names. You often see them on top of churches, which are now called "steeple". Many still participate in the fertility rites of coloring eggs when observing "Easter." These colored eggs were originally dyed red in the blood of sacrificed babies. Do we want to perpetuate a custom that we know YHWH hates? By observing Christmas and Easter, we are doing exactly what Israel was guilty of many years ago. December 25 has been celebrated for the last 4000 years as the rebirth of the sun. It is the time

of the winter solstice when the ancients thought the dying sun began to be reborn. It was a date celebrated as the birth date of practically every sun god known to man.

It is, in effect, the worship of the sun god, who in reality is Satan. The two deities of the ancient world, Baal and Asheroth, are worshipped by observing these two celebrations.

We say to ourselves, "It doesn't mean that to me," It really doesn't matter what it means to us, all that matters is what it means to YHWH. It didn't mean that to Israel at Sinai either, but it certainly did to YHWH. He was angry enough to have destroyed them all. Why would we think it is different now?

*Mal 3:6 For I YHWH change not; and ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*

*Heb 13:8 Yahshua the Messiah, the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

If YHWH doesn't change, it stands to reason that He hates the same things today. I can state authoritatively upon the word of YHWH, that He absolutely abhors these two celebrations today as He did in the days of yore. But don't take my word for it, let's again refer to YHWH's word.

*Eze 8:13 He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.*

*Eze 8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of YHWH's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.*

*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.*

*Eze 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of YHWH's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of YHWH, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of YHWH, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.*

Tammuz was a sun god. He was worshipped for a 40 day period, now called Lent, prior to his expected resurrection. This was expected to occur

at sunrise on Easter Sunday. YHWH called this a WICKED ABOMINATION in Eze. 8:9. These are the strongest two words in Hebrew that can be used to express outrage. This was an Easter sunrise service. How about Christmas?

*Jer 10:1 Hear ye the word which YHWH speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:*

*Jer 10:2 Thus saith YHWH, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

*Jer 10:3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*

*Jer 10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*

*Jer 10:5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good*

We are not to learn the way of the heathen. We are not to cut down a tree, decorate it with silver and gold and fasten it upright. The Christmas

***If YHWH doesn't change, it stands to reason that He hates the same things today.***

tree is also a fertility symbol and is not pleasing to YHWH. This custom is typically performed around the birthday of the sun god, December 25—Christmas.

YHWH will not accept worship that is based upon a pagan festival. Baal (the lord) is the sun god, which is none other than Satan himself. His birthday is celebrated on December 25, not Yahshua's, who was born during the Feast of Tabernacles in September or October. Easter is a pagan feast to Ashtaroth, the Canaanite fertility goddess. Yahshua was not resurrected on Easter Sunday; it was the sun god who was to be resurrected at sunrise on Easter Sunday. Yahshua was resurrected right after Passover on the Feast of First Fruits.

How long will we continue to provoke YHWH with these two false feasts? If He accepts worship on these two days from those who celebrate them, then He has changed and His word is meaningless.

When our country was founded, these two false feasts were outlawed. Only in the last half of the 19th century did these two pagan feasts begin to be observed here. Our country has forsaken the giver of life and is now on the brink of judgment. If the pattern of the bible is our guide, we will soon be defeated by our enemies and our way of life will change drastically. Our personal eternal well being and standing with the Almighty depends upon our forsaking of these pagan feasts and a deeply repentant and humble spirit.

Will you have this said about you? "And he did evil in the sight of YHWH?" I pray not. Let's look at someone of whom it was said "He did right in the sight of YHWH." It was King Josiah.

*2Ki 23:3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before YHWH, to walk after YHWH, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.*

*2Ki 23:4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of YHWH all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the asherah, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.*

*2Ki 23:5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.*

*2Ki 23:6 And he brought out the asherah from the house of YHWH, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of*

the people.

**2Ki 23:7** And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of YHWH, where the women wove hangings for the asherah.

**2Ki 23:8** And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.

**2Ki 23:9** Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of YHWH in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.

**2Ki 23:10** And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

**2Ki 23:11** And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of YHWH, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

**2Ki 23:12** And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of YHWH, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

**2Ki 23:13** And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

**2Ki 23:14** And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the asherah, and filled their places with the bones of men.

**2Ki 23:15** Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the asherah.

**2Ki 23:16** And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of YHWH which the man of Elohim proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

**2Ki 23:17** Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of Elohim, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

**2Ki 23:18** And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

**2Ki 23:19** And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke YHWH to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.

**2Ki 23:20** And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

**2Ki 23:21** And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto YHWH your Elohim, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

**2Ki 23:22** Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

**2Ki 23:23** But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was held to YHWH in Jerusalem.

**2Ki 23:24** Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of

Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of YHWH.

**2Ki 23:25** And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to YHWH with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

We see that Josiah destroyed the altars to Baal and cut down and burned the asherah of Ashtarothe. He slew the priests of Baal and commanded Israel to keep the Passover. He put witchcraft, idol worship and other abominations out of Israel.

Shouldn't we also put away these things from our houses and our lives? Shouldn't we get rid of the idols, false feasts and the things we know does not please YHWH? Shouldn't we keep the Passover instead of the pagan Easter? How about keeping the Sabbath instead of the day honoring the sun god, who we have already established is Satan? Shouldn't we fear YHWH and do today as Joshua admonished Israel?

**Jos 24:14** Now therefore fear YHWH, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye YHWH.

**Jos 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve YHWH, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites (Canaanites), in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve YHWH.

Who will you serve?

## RADIO PROGRAM ON THE NET!

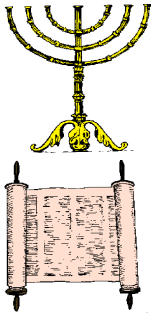
Elder Jacob C. Meyer and the Frystown Congregation would like to announce their radio program that is now available on the internet. The title of the program is "The Land Between". You can access the program

and choose any or all of the programs that have aired by going to <http://www.thelandbetween.com/broadcast.htm>.

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Please help the program to expand by informing others of this blessing and opportunity.





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