

Scripture of the Quarter

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Deuteronomy 5:7 NKJV

Does God care if we celebrate “Easter”? Or should we be celebrating “First Fruits Of The Resurrection”?

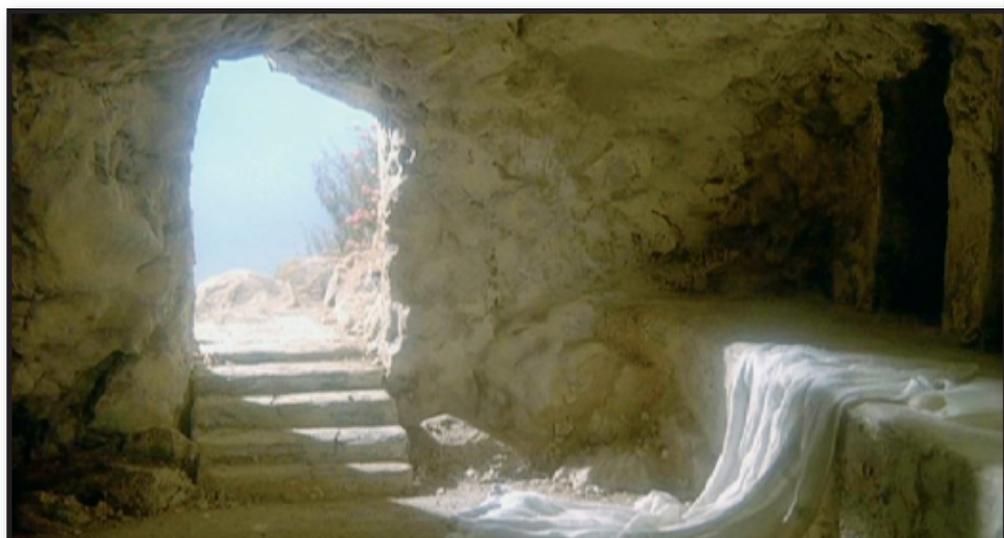
Webster’s dictionary defines *celebrate* in the following manner: mark an occasion or event especially a joyous one, with ceremony or festivity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who spoke encouraging words regarding our last newsletter. We give God all the glory as they are His Words—words of truth.

This month’s newsletter will challenge the way you have traditionally celebrated “Easter” and the festivities which go along with this holiday. It will also challenge your theology and beliefs. I want to give you a scripture found in the gospel of John: **John 8:32** Jesus speaking, *“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”* This has been and always will be our mission at Warrior of God Ministries to bring forth the truth. We have been called to be Watchman on the wall. **Ezekiel 3:17-19** reads, *“^{V17}Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from me: ^{V18}When I say to the wicked, You shall surely die, and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; (sin) but his blood I will require at your hand. ^{V19}Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”* We all must stand tall and be judged by Jesus Christ as it states in **2nd Corinthians 5:10** *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of*

Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad.” When you have read the story of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, did you notice any mention of Easter Bunnies or Easter Eggs or Easter baskets full of candy? The question we must answer is where did the “Easter Bunny” and the eggs come from? I can tell you, and will prove to you it came from the traditions of men, and Babylonian pagan festivals honoring their idols they worshiped and **NOT** from God. The Bible tells us to **beware** of men’s traditions in **Colossians 2:8** *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”* The scripture of the quarter makes it very clear. This is the **first commandment** which God gave Moses. The Bible tells us, the Israelites were always getting themselves into trouble over idols and the worship of

false gods and goddesses in their brazen disobedience to Jehovah God. Babylonian pagan festivals started centuries before the birth of Christ and have no relationship to Christ or Christianity. The word “Easter” is the English translation of the word “Ishtar”. What is or who is Ishtar? The Druid’s (Satan worshipers) had a sacred symbol, an egg. A giant egg fell from the sky and landed in the Euphrates river and fish rolled it ashore. Then supposedly doves landed on it hatched it and thus the “birth of Ishtar”. The word Easter comes from the name of the pagan goddess of rising light of day and spring. Easter is the modern English term of Eastre, Oстера, Astarte, or Ishtar, all are pagan goddesses. You may not know this but the prejudice against the Hebrew people, was so strong the Bible translators of the King James Bible intentionally mistranslated the Greek word that means Passover as Easter see **(Acts 12:4^{KJV})**. This mistranslation is found in the King James Bible even today. I personally have a Dake’s Annotated Reference King James Bible and the word Easter is in the text where the word “Passover” should be. We all know who perverted the scriptures in the wilderness when Jesus was being tempted, it was Satan himself. Druid’s in Europe used eggs as symbols of the goddess of spring. The



rabbit is associated with the moon in ancient Egypt. It is a fertility symbol of sexual significance. Ishtar is depicted as a bare-breasted idol, a fertility goddess. Think about what you are saying the next time you say "Happy Easter" to someone on "Easter" Sunday you are really saying "Happy Ishtar" Ref. (Babylon Mystery Religion & Encyclopedia Britannica). *"The Roman emperor Constantine, came into power in the early fourth century, perverted Christianity as far back as (A.D. 306-337). He was a master politician. He tried to attract heathens to Christianity, by modifying pagan customs and festivals and giving them Christian meanings, which would still allow the Christians to keep their traditions. But he didn't like the Jews since they had rebelled against Rome. And the Church, however was more than willing to follow Constantine's lead in order to avoid further persecution. Christians were prohibited from worshiping on Saturday or observing Passover, upon the threat of excommunication or worse. In A.D. 196, without the presence of the Jewish believers, a church council meeting in Caesarea changed the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the third day of Passover [First Fruits] (see Lev. 23:9-11; 1st Corinthians 15:4,20-23) to Sunday, during the feast of the pagan fertility goddess, Ishtar. In the fourth century, the Council of Nicea (headed by Constantine) made the change official. The decision was based on the premise that it was not proper for the Church's celebrations to be connected with "the cursed Jewish nation" that crucified Christ. Today, the holiday is known as Easter (from Ishtar). Have you ever wondered why we have Easter bunnies and eggs? These are vestiges of Ishtar worship. The prejudice was so strong that the translators of the King James Bible intentionally mistranslated the Greek word that means "Passover: as Easter (see Acts 12:4^{KJV})"* Ref. Sid Roth, The Incomplete Church, Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. Copyright 2007 Sid Roth pages 65-67.

Therefore today as I have pointed out the festival is known as "Easter" from the fertility goddess Ishtar. So, does God care if we celebrate Easter? Or should we be celebrating First Fruits (Jesus Christ) of the resurrection? Or do you still believe this is it just semantics?

I will list one more reference. It is in the Dakes King James Bible on page 238 of the New Testament, in Acts 12:4 (section b. Gr.

pascha, the Passover) Finis J. Dake explains, *"This is an unfortunate and absurd trans., as Easter was a pagan festival observed long before Christ. It is not a Christian name, but is derived from Ishtar, one of the Babylonian titles of an idol goddess, the Queen of Heaven... "an egg of wondrous size fell from heaven into the river Euphrates; the fish rolled it to the bank, where doves settled upon it hatched it; and out came Astarte, or Ishtar, the goddess of Easter."* Easter, Christmas, Lady Day, Lent, and other Babylonian festivals were all borrowed from this religion and were all observed centuries before Christ. None of them have any relationship to Christ or Christianity." Remember, I want you all to be a Berean and do your own research. I would like to share with you some scriptures from the Word of God, which will prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt we should NOT celebrate "Easter", as it involves festivities which come from the worship of a pagan idol a fertility goddess Ishtar. God told His people the Israelites that idol worship was an abomination to Him. Let's begin in Exodus 23:13 *"And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect (careful to consider) and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth."* I would say this is very serious when God says don't even speak or mention the names of ANY FALSE gods such as Ishtar (Easter) or participate in their festivals! The Bible makes things very clear regarding idol worship or participating in or sponsoring a pagan festivity called "Easter or Easter egg hunts". The next scripture applies to all the people who read this newsletter, and say to themselves "Oh God won't mind, it's for the children to have a good time. They are just having fun picking up little Easter eggs." In our minds we can justify anything we do. The question you must ask yourself is, What does God think about this attitude? Let me remind you anything that rises up against the will of God is called rebellion and rebellion is a sin which separates you from God. In 1st Samuel 15:23 *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity (sin) and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord.* Now let's turn in your Bible to Galatians 5:20-21 read the list of those who will not enter the kingdom of heaven: Depending on the translation it will either read in verse V20 Idolatry, witchcraft or in other translations it reads idolatry and sorcery which is a form of witchcraft. It is amazing to me when I

hear people who call themselves Christians saying "Oh we need to be careful not offend this person or that person." Hear my heart we should not cause offenses, but what really amazes me is they forget about the One they should never offend is God Almighty. In our world today most people don't fear (have a deep reverence) for the Almighty God we serve. I hear people taking the name of God in vain on a regular basis and think nothing of it. Now you know the truth and must make a choice; Do I please men and their traditions or do I please God? When Sheree and I discovered this truth, the Holy Spirit rose up in us and we immediately repented to God and asked for His forgiveness for celebrating a pagan festival and also repented teaching them to our children, and living a lie. I admire the Messianic Jewish believers who believe in Jesus whose true name in Hebrew is (Yeshua) the Messiah. They celebrate "Passover". I assure you there are no Easter baskets or Bunnies in their celebration as we have personally attended a Passover service. They remember Jesus, His death and resurrection. They magnify Jesus' name and remember He was the "Passover Lamb" without spot or blemish who died for all of our sins.

Some will say, that is only for the "Jews and the House of Israel". Remember that Jesus died for all of us, Jew and Gentile! I assure you that Jesus did not die so that you can honor "worship" pagan gods and teach or allow your children to do so. Selah.

As it is written in Hosea 4:6^{NKJV} "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

I have some suggestions, get rid of the "pagan ritual of Easter" and all vestiges that are associated with it. Teach your children the truth. Then celebrate the "Resurrection of Jesus Christ" by calling it "RESURRECTION SUNDAY" or "FIRST FRUITS OF THE RESURRECTION" and PLEASE GOD not men!

Sheree and I live by this scripture found in Joshua 24:15 *"And if it seems evil to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."*