
Palm-Sunday is symbolic of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as described by John in John 12:12-15, where the people spread palm branches in his path. The first celebration of this event was unknown until somewhere in the 3rd century CE.

MAUDAY-THURSDAY

Mauday-Thursday, sometimes called Holy Thursday, is supposed to recall to one's mind Jesus' last meal with the twelve apostles in the upper room. In some locations the priest will wash the feet of twelve members of his congregation to show that Jesus washed his disciples feet.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is supposedly an observance of the death of Christ on the cross and his suffering for our sins.

HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday is a day of solemn vigil (waiting). Some hold vigil services which often include the baptism of new members. This sometimes leads up to a dramatic moment when all the lights are put out leaving everyone in the dark. The priest will light a tall candle which represents the risen Christ. He then lights the members candles which is supposed to symbolize the light of Jesus going out into the world. Many vigils last until dawn which will then end in a "sun-rise service". This is where the practice of many religious groups having special sun-rise services on Easter morning comes from.

EASTER EGGS & RABBITS

Easter Eggs & Rabbits have always been a part of the Easter season. The egg is a symbol of life and creation. The giving of multi-colored eggs was a custom throughout the East. In "church history" the egg symbolizes the immature hope of the resurrection. Rabbits are associated with the fertility of Spring because of their ability to produce many young.

Pretzels were originally a Lenten food. Hot cross buns which are not eaten throughout the Easter season were made with a cross of icing on top.

WEARING OF NEW CLOTHES

The Wearing of New Clothes for Easter has been a long established tradition. It originated from the old practice of having newly baptized Christians wear new white robes for Easter. The new clothes represented the new life offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

CONCLUSION

What must the view of the New Testament Christian be? The command taught in Colossians 3:17 must ever be etched in the forefront of our minds. "whatsoever ye do in word or deed do all in the name, by the authority, of the Lord Jesus." We must do only what the Lord has authorized us to do. As we stated earlier there is no authority to celebrate Easter or any other special time or day in a religious manner. We are to observe the memorial Christ left us, The Lord's Supper each first day of the week. We cannot observe these days with any religious significance attached to them because Bible authority is not there to do so.

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"And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quarters of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

Acts 12:4

The Season Called: Easter



Mike Hughes

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Once a year in either March or April we are bombarded with big doings from those of the denominational world over “LENT” and “EASTER”. We have been around these terms and observances all our lives. Still few of us have ever stopped and asked “Where did these things all come from?” “Is there any Biblical basis for their observance?” I this article we want to try and get an answer for these questions.

EASTER

EASTER the name given to a day of the year which we all are familiar. We, for the most part, are not familiar with its origin and if it has a relationship with the Bible and Christian worship. Easter represents a convergence of three events. (1) The Hebrew Passover - having its observance in the Jewish month of NISAN, the first month of their calendar. I always fell in what some refer to as the Easter season. (2) The observance of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus which took place at the feast of the Jewish Passover. (3) The pagan celebration of Spring which was observed at the time of the vernal equinox on March 20 or 21st depending on whether the year contained a leap year. Most of the symbols in this celebration of nature, which marked the end of Winter and the new-birth of Spring, were rabbits, colored eggs; representative of the different colors in the sun's rays. This pagan celebration had engulfed in it the worship of the pagan goddess of the Saxons in whose honor sacrifices were offered annually at this time. When Easter was to be celebrated was highly disputed in centuries gone by. The council of Nicaea in 325 CE

declared it should be on Sunday but failed to set a certain Sunday for its observance. In the 7th century a rule was adopted that would set the Sunday of its observance each year. This same rule governs when Easter is observed today. Easter Sunday is determined to be the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of Spring which falls on either March 20 or 21, again depending on the presents of a leap year. Easter can fall anywhere between March 21 and April 25, a period of 35 days. Easter is considered by most to be the greatest even in the Christian Religious world. Those who observe Easter tell us the new plant life which appears in the Spring stands for the new life Christians gain because of Christ's resurrection. There is absolutely no authority for observing an Easter Celebration! There is no command, Approved Apostolic Example or necessary inference of its observance in the New Testament church. We, as Christians, are to observe the Lord's Death every Lord's day on the first day of the week when we come together to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Also take note of Colossians 3:17. The word “Easter” does appear in the King James translation of the Bible in Acts 12:4. Many have ridiculed it to be a mistranslation of the passage. However, upon further investigation “Easter” in this passage is not as bad a misrepresentation as some would lead you to believe. The context says that Herod had captured Peter and put him in prison “. . . intending after “Easter” to bring him forth to the people.” The word translated here Easter is translated in other occurrences (28) as “Passover”. Why, then,

is it translated “Easter” in this passage? One simple answer can be offered, the translators, in carrying out their responsibility to give the common reader the best possible understanding of it, chose to use the word so English people could relate it to their own calendar of events. The reader would be more familiar with the time when Easter fell than when the Passover was observed. They would have a better handle of when Herod intended to deliver Peter to the people, which was after the Jewish Passover or as the world now observed the season of “Easter.”

LENT OR “LENTEN”

Lent or “Lenten” is the name given to the forty days of fasting preceding Easter Sunday. Our word “Lent” signifies the Spring-fast for “lenten-tide”. It is observed in commemoration of Jesus' fast in the wilderness for a period of forty days. It begins on Ash Wednesday. It is supposed to be a time of penitence where one shows sorrow for sin and their need to seek forgiveness. It is a time for its observers to prepare for Easter by abstaining from certain foods and activities. Again there is no Bible authority for such a time.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It came from a custom observed by people expressing their humiliation during this time by appearing in sack-cloth and ashes. In some churches, ashes burned from the preceding year's Palm Sunday would be blessed by the priest and used to mark a cross on the foreheads of the congregation's members. This is a reminder for the people to begin their Lenten penance in a humble spirit. Again like other observances during this season the Bible is deathly silent in regards to Ash Wednesday.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday before Easter and marks the beginning of what is termed the “Holy Week or Passion Week”.
