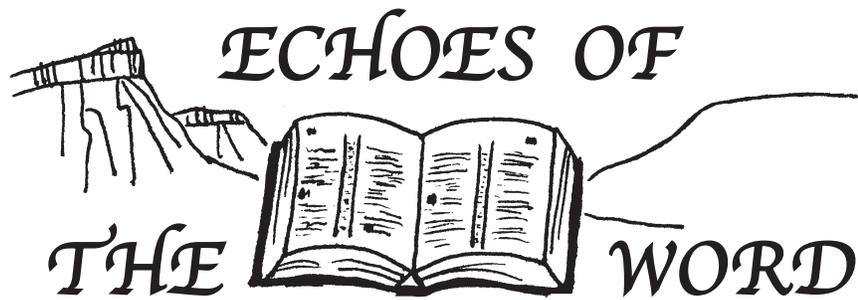


# ECHOES OF THE WORD



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***GREETINGS, from Christian Church of God - Grand Junction, Colorado.***

## THE PROBLEM WITH EASTER

While claiming that it accurately symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it focuses on a religious observance ordained by the world's churches that honors a counterfeit god. It has no basis in fact and every aspect of it is a lie. Jesus did not die on "Good Friday" and He did not rise on "Easter Sunday". You can prove it from your own Bible, if you have a love for the truth (2 Thes. 2:10). Giving honor to a pagan fertility goddess of spring diverts attention away from the single most important event in the entire history of mankind. What does Satan's cloak called Easter cover that he does not want you to see?

Christ committed His spirit to His Father, the God of truth (Psalm 31:5). Why do the world's churches attempt to worship Him with a lie from the Father of lies (John 8:44)? Does Revelation 12:9 give us a hint? Paul would have been quick to condemn a charade like Easter and it will certainly not be observed in God's Kingdom; however, the Passover definitely will be, (Luke 22:15-16).

Who do you suppose inspired the King James Version's blatant translation of the Greek word for Passover to Easter in Acts 12:4? Even though corrected in later versions it still causes some people to assume the original church observed Easter rather than Passover. We often hear, "Oh but we have baptized, washed clean and Christianized those old pagan holidays so they're okay now." Do they really think they can worship a God of truth with religious lies?

While studying 1st Kings chapters 12 through 14, I could not help noticing the similarities of what Jeroboam did to Israel and what the world's churches have done to Christianity (I particularly liked the Amplified version's rendering).

Today's account of such a falling away might read: "And the preacher said, 'Behold your God O people, which brought you up out of the slavery of sin and has given you eternal life!' And the preacher made high places of worship with their Asherims (idolatrous symbols of the goddess Asherah) throughout the land. And this became a sin to the people, for the people went to worship their Asherims provoking the Lord to anger."

What does God think about mankind's mongrelizing of His appointed Feasts and Holy days, or appointing his own feasts in place of God's? Is it really any different from the distortions of ancient Israel? Consider Isaiah 1:12-15: "When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies — I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will

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hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen" (NASU).

Notice, God is referring to their feasts and holy days not His. They're not God's if they've been corrupted by man's adaptations. God is very concerned about incorporating pagan ways of worship into His worship services. Bear in mind what He warned Israel could happen.

"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them (pagans), after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shall not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut. 12:29-31). Consider this command in light of Revelation 22:18-19.

Polluting God's commanded ways of worship with pagan rituals invariably leads to confusion in the least and a total loss of direction in the most.

Praying, venerating or worshipping images, symbols and objects representing Jesus, angels, saints or gods, is an abomination to God, for "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). "For in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7)

At their final Passover meal, Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me". By so doing He announced the change from the Old Testament Passover of sacrificial lambs to the New Testament Passover recognizing God's sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ (Luke 22:19). Few there are that observe it on the night Jesus was betrayed as Paul instructed. Most prefer to interpret Paul's words of "as oft as ye drink it" to "drink it often". Which in one sense it may be okay to do things in remembrance of Jesus, but never with leavened bread (Ex 23:18) and it certainly would not represent the New Testament Passover as observed by the early church. (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

The wonderful truth that Jesus has come at the time appointed, has triggered a progression of predetermined points in time; leading to the redemption of all things and the end of Satan's illegitimate earthly rule. They are mentioned throughout the Bible and mandated in

sequence in Leviticus 23. They are types, past and future, of events to be fulfilled in their antitype.

The Passover opened the way for a person to go directly to the Father through Christ, our High Priest, bypassing all earthly forms of mediators between God and man. The law of the Levitical Priesthood has been surpassed by the Melchizedek Priesthood of Christ (Heb. 7:11-12). "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the Feast ..." (1 Cor. 5:7). What Feast is Paul telling us to keep?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, a seven day challenge for Christians to remove all forms of sin from their lives (Lev. 23:6-8). Some 30 years after the cross, Paul admonished the Corinthian church for keeping it improperly. Although they had made themselves physically unleavened, they were spiritually leavened by allowing a person who was living in sin to congregate with them (1 Cor. 5:7-8).

On the Sunday during that seven days a sheaf of grain was offered up to God as an offering of first fruits of the harvest (Lev. 23:10-11; John 20:17). (Note, this day is not a Holy Day). Jesus was the antitype "firstfruit" (1 Cor. 15:20) of many to follow (James 1:18; Rev. 14:4). Easter confuses the ascent of Jesus to His Father.

Right on schedule, 50 days after the first fruit offering came its antitype, the Day of Pentecost; launching the New Testament Church and bringing the Holy Spirit, our source of strength and understanding given to all those that obey Him (Lev. 23:15-16; Acts 2:1, 5:32).

These have all occurred at their appointed time in history and were observed each year by the early church. Is there any reason not to expect the remaining four annual Sabbaths to occur at their future appointed time?

The first of these is the Day of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24), the antitype of which will be the second coming of Jesus. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God ..." (1 Thes. 4:16). This is the time of the resurrection of the saints, being the "firstfruits" of the harvest of the earth, (also mentioned in Matt. 24 31; 1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 11:15 etc.).

Ten days later is the very critical and serious "Day of Atonement". This day foretells the binding of our

## MANIFEST DESTINY

Manifest destiny is the term that was given by some Historians and people of the nineteenth century regarding the amazing growth and ascendancy of America as we now know today. When we study the history of America and look at the physical evidence of how the United States came into being and later developed, **IT WAS ANYTHING BUT MANIFESTED!** It was a miracle! And, **miracles are of and from God!**

Most other Nations developed by claiming a certain territory, and getting there by being "the first with the most". With America, we pretty much got here "last with the least". When our forefathers came to America, Jamestown settlement in 1607 A.D., and Pilgrim Plantation in 1621, these were **very, very small** beginnings indeed. These small settlements were numbered in the hundreds of people and they were surrounded by several thousand of mainly hostile Indians.

Moreover, the Dutch had laid claim on territory in the New York area **earlier**. The French had arrived in Eastern Canada and upper New York and Great Lakes starting 1535 A.D., and claimed a large territory. Also, the Spanish had arrived in 1509 A.D. in Florida, and their armies were mapping and claiming much of mid-America and to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico by 1542 A.D. In the West, the Spanish claimed most of the Southwest and all of California during this same period. The Spanish not only claimed these territories, they settled and developed them for the next 250 years and more. In the Northwest, the British claimed areas which are now Washington State and parts of Oregon.

By almost every physical measure, it **should have been virtually impossible** for America to even survive, yet alone to prosper and prevail **and become the greatest single Nation on earth** by the 20th Century. So, **HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?** Not realized by most people, The Creator God rules and governs His Creation! **This includes all Nations...** (Job 12:2) "He (GOD) increases the Nations, and destroys them: He enlarges the Nations, and straiteneth them again." Also (Daniel 5:21)... "the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and **He appoints over it whomsoever He wills**". This is certainly true with America, as we shall now see.

Genesis 26:3–5: long ago, God promised His servant Abraham that his descendants would receive great National power and wealth and rule over many Nations. This promise later received by Jacob and his 12 sons and finally to Joseph and his two sons (Gen. 48:15–20), **Ephraim and Manasseh**. Ephraim's children would eventually become a great commonwealth of Nations and Manasseh's children would become the **greatest single nation on earth** (Manasseh would come out of Ephraim's commonwealth). If you study world History, **no other Nations except Britain and America fulfills this prophecy!**

Manifest destiny is not just an idea or theory of man, it is the working out of **promises** that God made to Abraham long ago. America became great not because we are so smart or so great... but because **America's development has been the fulfillment of God's unbroken promises!**

PLEASE WRITE OUR MAILING ADDRESS FOR COMPREHENSIVE MATERIAL ON THIS TOPIC.

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accuser, Satan, silencing him for 1000 years. (Compare Leviticus 16)

The 15th day of the seventh month marks the Feast of Tabernacles. Seven days of feasting and rejoicing. The antitype of this feast will be the millennium.

On the wonder filled eighth day following the Feast of Tabernacles occurs the surprise of the ages. This is the day that all the remaining dead that ever lived, those who never had a chance to choose life, will be resurrected and given their first opportunity to really know Christ.

Without the Passover and following appointed times there would be no salvation, resurrection or Christianity. Is it any wonder why the God of this world, who has deceived all mankind, desperately attempts to hide the progression of events that spells the total end to his illegitimate reign. Don't be deceived! Make full proof of your ministry.

That is the problem with Easter!

So much more could be said of the wonders revealed in God's Appointed Times and Holy Days; so many questions could be answered and assurances given. Hopefully this will be a springboard for further study. These free study guides using your own Bible will help you search out the answers. **THE BEGINNING OF ERROR -- THE DAY THE CHRIST OF GOD DIED -- GOD'S INTRIGUING CYCLE OF SEVENS.** Also the "Easter slide rule" that enables you to track the Biblical statements concerning the resurrection of Christ, proving that they do not contradict as some say, but are not only specific, but precise, and true in every detail.

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