

# **IS IT O.K. TO SAY “HAPPY EASTER”?**

Supplemental Teaching

April 6, 2014

(2 weeks before Easter)

**THESE TIMES OF THE YEAR – ALARMS ARE SOUNDED!**

- “**ANOTHER PAGAN HOLIDAY...**

... **COVERED OVER WITH CHRISTIAN LABELS...**

...**AND RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS!”**

- SAME THINKING THAT DEMANDS THAT **TRUE CHRISTIANS** NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

*Prov. 19:2 It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.*

*Pro 18:17 The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.*

THE CLAIM: “Easter” originates from the Babylonian language and the name of their fertility goddess “Astarte,” or “Ishtar,” or “Ashtoreth”. These pagan religions included all kinds of immoral practices including male prostitution as part of their “worship”.

- THEREFORE – to say “Happy Easter” is like saying: “Happy Paganism”

- THE REASONING – SIMILARITY OF SOUNDING OF “EASTER & ISHTAR”!

- ALSO – POINT TO COUNCIL OF NICEA – 325 A.D.

– It’s All Emp. Constantine’s fault & then Ordered by Roman  
...Catholic Church (so the story goes)

**IS EASTER A PAGAN FESTIVAL COVERED OVER WITH CHRIST AND THE CROSS?**

(The following information comes from the website for “Answers In Genesis”)

Nick Sayers ... suggest(s) that the origin of Easter in English comes from the German:

Because the English Anglo/Saxon language originally derived from the Germanic, there are many similarities between German and English. Many English writers have referred to the German language as the "Mother Tongue!" The English word Easter is of German/Saxon origin and not Babylonian as Alexander Hislop falsely claimed. The German equivalent is Oster. Oster (Ostern being the modern day equivalent) is related to Ost which means the rising of the sun, or simply in English, east. Oster comes from the old Teutonic form of auferstehen / auferstehung, which means resurrection, which in the older Teutonic form comes from two words, Ester meaning first, and stehen meaning to stand. These two words combine to form erstehen which is an old German form of auferstehen, the modern day German word for resurrection.<sup>7</sup> (Italics in original)

(My Note: The connection between “Easter” and our English word “East” – where the sun rises – is more than just phonetic. As the sun stands First on the Eastern horizon so too Christ was the First to step out of Death and Stand and in New Life on that Resurrection morning!)

When Martin Luther translated the Bible into German (New Testament in 1522), he chose the word Oster to refer to the Passover references before and after the Resurrection.

John Wycliffe was the earliest translator to publish a complete New Testament in English (1382), though he did his translation from the Latin Vulgate. Wycliffe transliterated the word pascha to pask, rather than translating it. William Tyndale translated the Bible into English

from the Greek and Hebrew. His New Testament (1525) uses the word ester to refer to the Passover. In fact, we owe our English word Passover to Tyndale. When translating the Old Testament (1530), he coined the term to describe how the Lord would “pass over” the houses marked with the blood of the lamb (Exodus 12). The usage of ester was retained in the 1534 revision of the New Testament, and it was not until later that it was known as Easter, adding the a. Luther and Tyndale were the first to use a translation of pascha rather than a transliteration.

So *GO AHEAD – SAY IT – LOUD AND CLEAR: “HAPPY EASTER!!!”*  
*IT IS “HAPPY” FOR ALL WHO COME TO THE ONE WHO WAS THE FIRST  
TO RISE FROM THE DEAD – BUT NOT THE LAST, FOR THE DAY WILL  
COME WHEN ALL WHO ARE CALLED BY HIS NAME WILL RISE TO NEW  
LIFE AND MEET OUR LORD IN THE AIR AND BE WITH HIM FOR ALL TIME  
AND ETERNITY!*