

Bible Study

Is it wrong to say:

“Happy Easter”

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Is it wrong to say “Happy Easter”?

- Easter, also called Pascha (Greek, Latin) or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday commemorating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day after His burial following His crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary.
- It is the culmination of the Passion of the Lord Jesus, preceded by Lent (or Great Fast), a 55-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.
- Christians refer to the week before Easter as “Holy Week” or “Pascha Week”, which contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Maundy (the ceremony of washing the feet) and Last Supper, Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus, etc.

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- Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In most European languages the feast is called by the words for Passover in those languages; and in **the older English versions** of the Bible the term **Easter** was the term used to translate **Passover**. Let's read the following KJV of Acts 12: “1- Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2- And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3- And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. Then were the days of unleavened bread. 4- And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.”

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أعمال 12

- 1- وفي ذلك الوقت مد هيرودس الملك يديه ليسيء إلى أناس من الكنيسة.
- 2- فقتل يعقوب أخا يوحنا بالسيف.
- 3- وإذ رأى أن ذلك يرضي اليهود، عاد فقبض على بطرس أيضاً وكانت أيام الفطير.
- 4- ولما أمسكه، وضعه في السجن مسلماً إياه إلى أربعة أرباع من العسكر ليحرسوه ناوياً أن يقدمه بعد **الفصح** إلى الشعب.

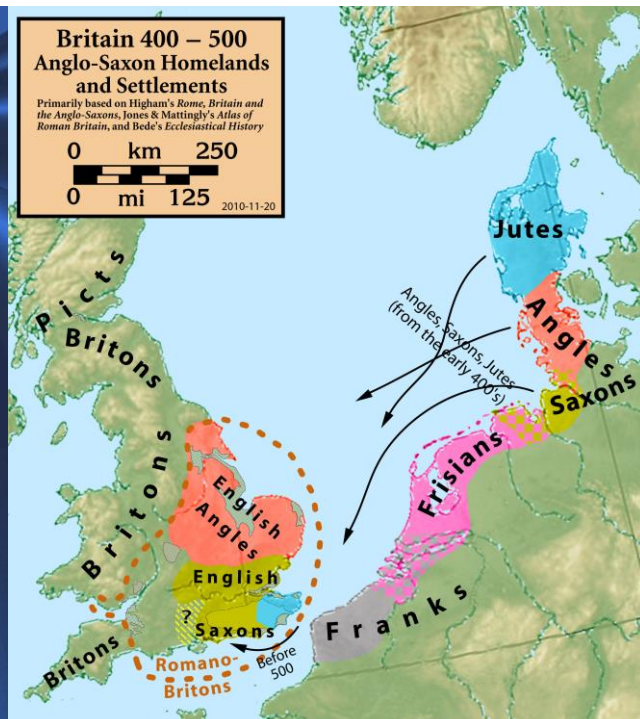
[Easter = الفصح]

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- Now, some satanic people who love to destroy Christianity and stand against our Lord Jesus Christ and His love of mankind to the extent of death on the cross to save us, spread false rumors that the name Easter comes from a pagan figure called Eastre (or Eostre) who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe.
- According to this false theory, Eostre was the “goddess of the east (from where the sun rises),” her symbol was the hare (a symbol of fertility), and a festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by the Saxons to honor her.
- **In all history books, there is no hard evidence that such a goddess was ever worshiped by anyone, anywhere.**

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The Saxons were a Germanic tribe that originally occupied the region, which today is the North Sea coast of the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. Their name is derived from the seax, a distinct knife popularly used by the tribe.



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- Now, **the only mention of Eastre** comes from a passing reference in the writings of Bede, an 8th century **German monk**. Bede wrote, “Eosturmonath has a name, which is now translated as “**Paschal month**” or Easter; as mentioned earlier, and which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honor feasts were celebrated in that month. Now they designate the Paschal season by her name, calling the joys of the new rite by the time-honored name of the old observance” (De Temporum Ratione). And that’s it.
- Eostre or Eastre **is not mentioned in any other ancient writing; no shrines were found, no altars, nothing to document the worship of Eastre**. It is possible that Bede simply extrapolated the name of the goddess from the name of the month; **made up by his own imagination**.

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- In conclusion, **the supposed goddess is completely unknown outside this single reference of Bede**. She is not mentioned in any of the other Anglo-Saxon or **Germanic** writings, there are no tales about her, nothing about hares...etc. Nothing at all. **Bede made her up**.
- Since Resurrection of the Lord happened in the Hebrew month Nissan, meaning Spring time, the name Easter was an excellent way of representing the sun of righteousness of the Lord by His Holy Resurrection is shining on all humanity.
- If He was not resurrected, He could have been considered to be a good prophet who came for some time doing some miracles, like raising people from the dead, and later He died like them. But His resurrection proves that He is the Logos, the Word, God incarnate who brought salvation to all mankind.

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- Why Satan is fighting only Christians, because they worship the One and only One true God. From the very beginning, God used the word "East" in so many wonderful ways:

1. A star appeared in the East declaring His birth and the magi come from the East to celebrate the birth of a King:

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from **the East** to Jerusalem, saying, where is He that is born, **King** of the Jews? for we have seen His star in **the East**, and are come **to worship Him**" (Matthew 2: 1 - 2)

"When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the **East** went before them, till it came and **stood over where the young Child was**" (Matthew 2: 9)

2. God is called the sun of righteousness that rises from **the East** (in Arabic we say "toshrek", meaning rises and shines from the East).

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3. The Book of Ezekiel speaks a lot about **the East**. For example, "**Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that faces toward the east. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shined with His glory**" (Ezekiel 43: 1, 2). "**The forefront of the house was toward the East**" (Ezekiel 47: 1). As such, all church altars face towards the East.

4. When we look at the altar towards the **East**, we see the icon of the Lord sitting on His throne, which we call "**Bosom of the Father**", for He is called the "**Sun of Righteousness**" that shines from the East.

5. During the Liturgy, after The Prayer of Reconciliation, the deacon calls people's attention to "Greet one another with a Holy kiss... Offer. Offer. Offer, in order. Stand with trembling. **Look toward the East.** Let us attend."

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6. Also, in the long tune called “Aspazesty”, the deacon says: “Greet one another with a Holy kiss... Raise your eyes toward the **East** to see the altar, and the Body and Blood of Immanuel our Lord placed on it. The angels and archangels are standing. The Seraphim with six wings and the Cherubim, full of eyes covering their faces because of the splendor of His great glory, which is invisible and ineffable; praising in one voice, proclaiming and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy.”

7. During the prayer of The Anaphora (the prayer before the descent of the Holy Spirit to convert the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ), we hear the deacon calling for the attention of the people saying: You who are seated, stand... **Look towards the East**... Let us attend.”

8. The Lord told us “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for **He makes His sun rise** on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5: 45).

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9. “Then **the righteous will shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Matthew 13: 43).

10. “Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb **when the sun had risen**” (Mark 16: 2).

11. “He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like **the sun shining in its strength**” (Revelation 1: 16).

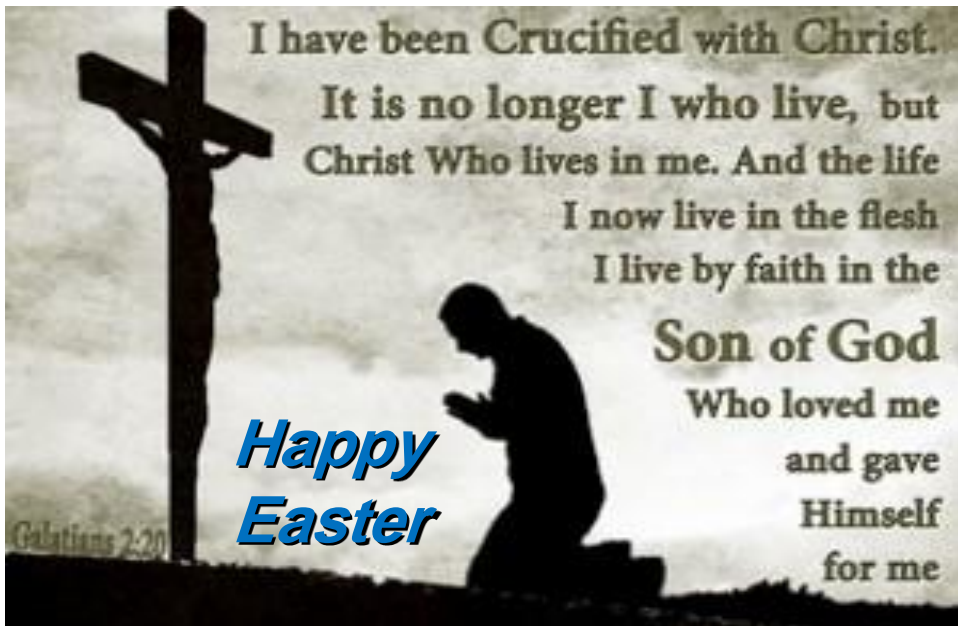
12. “But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise** with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves” (Malachi 4: 2).

13. In funeral prayers, we set the casket with the feet of the deceased towards the altar. Why? Because we rejoice that when he is raised from the dead, he will stand on his feet and his face will be looking at the **East**, where God sits on His throne.

- Finally, with these little examples should we listen to one monk who stood against his church and taught false and satanic teaching against God and His resurrection?

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- Didn't it also happen in the 16th century that Martin Luther, a German Catholic monk "protested" against his church and formed the Protestant denomination?
- Didn't it happen that one person, Charles Darwin, wrote a book about "The Theory of Evolution" to deny the existence of God and everybody followed him without asking, if true, who created the apes that evolved into humans, why do we still have apes till this very day, how about other animals...etc.?
- Should we follow anyone who speaks against God, and spread any article against God. The internet is full of hatred against God and Christianity, should we follow them and spread their messages and just forward any satanic message?
- These people are tools in satan's hand, who is using them to destroy the truth about God and make them lose their life on earth and their eternity for believing anything, ignoring the right teaching of the Bible.
- Please use wisdom in sending messages. Watch for those simple people who could easily stumble because of you. **HAVE FAITH.**



"مع المسيح صُلبت، فأحيا لا أنا بل المسيح يحيا فيّ؛ فما أحياه الآن في الجسد فإنما أحياه في الإيمان، إيمان ابن الله الذي أحبني، وأسلم نفسه لأجلي" (غلاطية 2: 20)