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# RESTORATION TIMES



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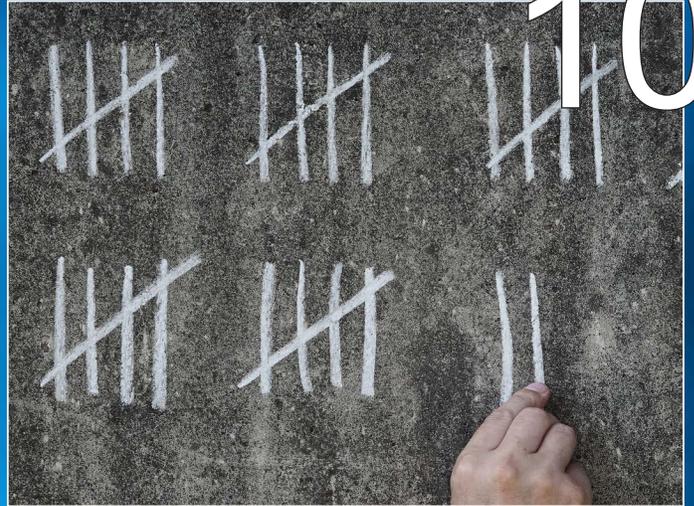
# RESTORATION TIMES

VOL. 9 | No. 2 | March-April 2019

8



10



## ARTICLES

12



17

**3 | Miracles of Creation and the Case Against Evolution**  
by Alan Mansager

**8 | Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit**  
by Joel Wirl

**10 | You Can Count on Pentecost**  
by Alan Mansager

**12 | Fossilized Traditions**  
by Randy Folliard

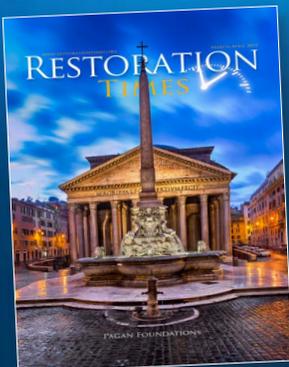
**17 | How Passover Went Easter-ly**  
by Alan Mansager

**20 | Q & A**

**23 | Letters**

Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

This publication is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.  
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**COVER:** Piazza Della Rotunda in Rome is a combination church and pantheon. At the pinnacle of an Egyptian obelisk in front sits a cross, a stark symbol of church and pagan amalgamation.

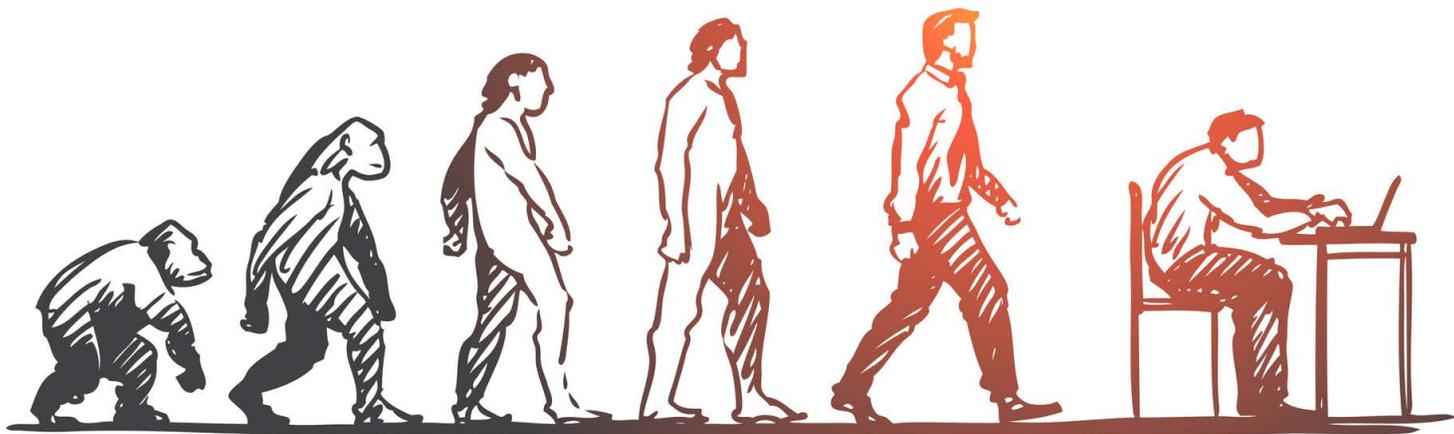
EDITOR **Alan Mansager**  
COPY EDITOR **Debra Wirl**  
GRAPHICS / LAYOUT **Ryan Mansager**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER **Randy Folliard**  
DIGITAL COPY **Lucas Cecil**



Yahweh's Restoration Ministry  
PO Box 463  
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Telephone: 573-896-1000  
Office hours M-F 8am-4pm  
[www.yrm.org](http://www.yrm.org)  
[info@yrm.org](mailto:info@yrm.org)

# Miracles of Creation and the Case Against



# EVOLUTION

by Alan Mansager

When we contemplate the wonders of creation, and really look deep, how can we not see Yahweh's hand? Although it is popular for academics to pooh-pooh the fact that creation began with a Creator, some of history's great scientists have the insight ... and humility ... to see Yahweh's creative hand in everything that exists.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of those intellectuals and has been called the father of modern science. He was a key figure in the scientific revolution.

You remember him, the fellow who discovered gravitational force when an apple dropped from a tree in his garden. The man was a genius who wore many hats: mathematician, physicist, chemist, astronomer, author, and theologian.

- Newton practically invented the science of physics.
- He discovered the laws of gravitational pull.
- He formulated the basic laws of motion.
- He was a developer of calculus because geometry and algebra were not powerful enough to deal with such things as motion and acceleration.

- He made the first precision telescope, with mirror optics that he invented and with a design still used today.
- He also fine-tuned understanding the nature of white light, and refined knowledge of the variable rates of heating and cooling of objects.
- In his work at the British mint, He invented raised edges on coins to stop counterfeiters from shaving the edges off to redeem the silver.

## Newton a Religious Man

In addition to his inventive genius, Isaac Newton was also a Bible believer, who knew that the Scriptures were Yahweh's very Word. Although the laws of motion and gravitation became Newton's best-known discoveries, he warned against using them to view the universe as a mere machine.

He said, "Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. [Yahweh] governs all things and knows all that is or can be done."

As a theologian, he rejected the Trinity doctrine, and therefore some called him a heretic. In the 1700s people thought the apocalypse was imminent, so he did his own

study into the books of Daniel, Revelation, and biblical chronology and concluded that the world would not end before the year 2060.

Newton was convinced that Yahweh created the universe with a mathematical structure and He gave us minds to understand that structure. The precise order and design of the universe spoke of Yahweh's awesome majesty and wisdom.

Paul wrote of it in Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Majesty; so that they are without excuse."

The miraculous and endless complexity and sophistication of creation, from our own bodies to the heavenly bodies, makes blind-chance-evolution not only impossible, but totally ludicrous.

Newton knew that nothing can come into existence apart from Yahweh. He understood that the greatness and power of Yahweh is beyond our finite comprehension.

He said, "I must confess to a feeling of profound humility in the presence of

a universe which transcends us at almost every point. I feel like a child who while playing by the seashore has found a few bright colored shells and a few pebbles, while the whole vast ocean of truth stretches out almost untouched and unruffled before my eager fingers.”

The Scriptures talk a great deal about the majesty of Yahweh. King David was continually in awe and humbled by Yahweh’s power. His Psalms cry out a deep love for Yahweh.

Let’s face it: most do not obey Yahweh because they don’t fear Him. To many He’s just an amorphous cloud. Or a caricature

HaSatan could bamboozle Eve by igniting her imagination and ego about an existence she had not heard of or even understood. And she wanted it. “Take a bite and be immortal and powerful like Yahweh,” he challenged her.

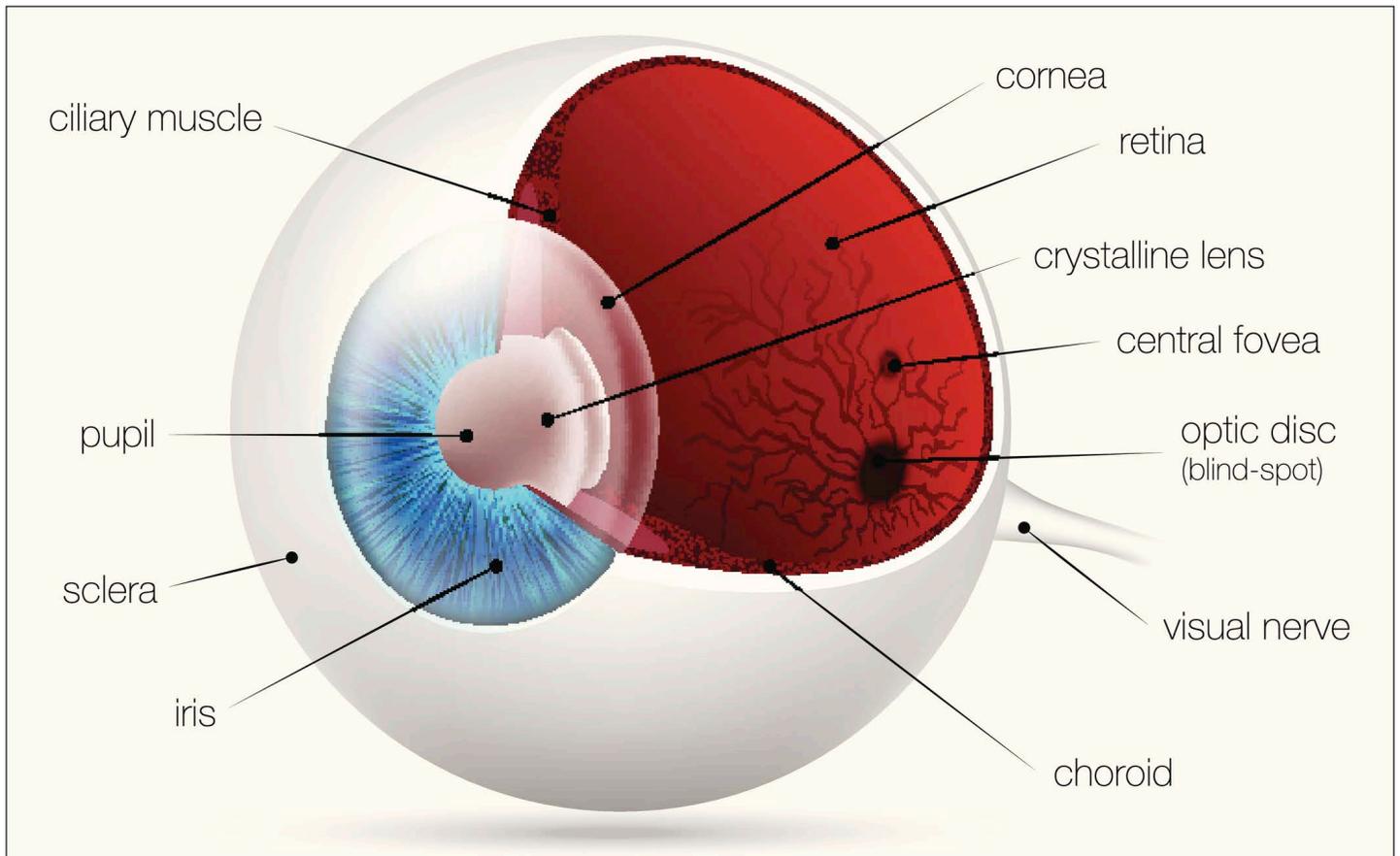
Yahweh gave us limitations, just as we put limitations on a toddler so he will learn to safely manage himself before he can move on to bigger things and more responsibilities. Yahweh gives us His laws to see how we handle them before we advance to greater accountabilities.

Psalm 33 tells us to fear Yahweh. That is the beginning of spiritual growth and life. If

worship Yahweh in all of His magnificence. He showed us the way to be like Him; He did this by sharing His code of ethics and conduct with us, known as His laws. In case we needed help in understanding and applying them, He sent His Son to show us the way.

When He gave His laws at Sinai Israel didn’t appreciate their significance. Many saw them as chastisements or penalties from a demanding Mighty One, as many do today.

His statutes are a priceless gift. They are the avenue to knowing the mind of Yahweh and finding salvation, and Yahweh



like Father Time with a long white beard and holding an old-fashioned scythe. Most never stop and seriously appreciate His breathtaking power and mind-blowing magnificence far beyond our understanding.

We humans are small and finite. We can’t comprehend infinity, eternity, omnipresence, and the reality of no beginning or ending. We cannot think outside this box because our whole existence is *in* the box. We are hamstrung with physical limitations and boundaries we cannot see past.

you can’t do that you aren’t going anywhere.

We are less than a molecule in His sight. But to Him the believer is far greater than the grandest star in the universe. We are His children.

Your child is a very part of you. You have grand hopes for your child to have a good future and be a blessing. Yahweh wants you to have a perfect, eternal life with Him. But it is up to you. Your decisions and actions now have eternal consequences.

We are here every Sabbath and Feast to

gave this awesome gift to them because He wanted Israel in His Kingdom family.

He offers the same to us.

### The Eyes Have It

Let’s talk about your eyes. Eyesight is a miracle that only a great, higher Power could create. The eye is among our most valuable of organs.

When the eyes look at an object, light rays are changed into electrical signals sent to the brain. The brain then interprets those impulses as visual images. The eyes

are just the camera. Your brain is what actually sees. Because of the refraction of light waves through the lens in your eyes, you see everything upside down, but your brain turns it all right-side up.

Everything involved in vision is extremely complicated and nothing but miraculous. Anyone who thinks the eye can develop all by itself by freak chance is delusional.

And that is what Yahweh thinks of evolutionists. Thinking they are wise, they become fools, He says in Romans 1:22.

Have you ever thought about the staggering miracle of being able to see, let alone all of the other amazingly complicated and wonderful ways our bodies function?

### **A Real Eye Full**

First, we have a protective cone-shaped cavity in the skull, called an orbit or socket that holds the eyeball in place. Layers of soft, fatty tissue line the eye socket not only protecting it but enabling it to turn easily by six muscles attached to the eyeball.

How long did it take the eye to blindly realize that it needed such support and protection for the delicate eyeball, and how did it figure out just how to turn the eyeball by coordinated muscles attached at strategic places? Ask your neighborhood evolutionist to explain.

The most important parts of the eye are the iris, cornea, lens, pupil, retina, conjunctiva, the macula, and the optic nerve. All are necessary for sight. Each is a marvel of engineering and all need to be in place and functioning at the same time or we don't see. The same is true for all the body's complex systems. That fact alone complicates things a billion-fold for the evolutionist.

### **Just Blind Chance?**

After looking at how the eye is made and how it functions, how did blind chance make it all come together to produce the marvel of vision with nothing but caprice behind it?

With no intelligence guiding it, how did blind chance understand mathematics, electricity, and the sciences of physics and chemistry to make it all work? A plan had to be in place beforehand or nothing would have happened even after a billion years of trial and error development. And that requires intelligence.

An infinite mind must orchestrate it in

all its amazing complexity and interactivity. How did it know how to heal itself from injury or illness? Without being fully functional the first time, the eye and every other system in the body would fail and so would life itself.

Odds makers say that the chances are so astronomical for even one organ in the body to come into existence and function so flawlessly that it would never happen by itself no matter how much time elapsed.

Left to themselves physical things deteriorate, not become more sophisticated. A big pile of aviation junk doesn't turn into a Boeing 787 Dreamliner even over billions of years. It just keeps deteriorating. Living organisms don't advance into more complex species over time. They eventually die and turn to dust.

During partial development when the evolving human was stumbling around blind and half developed, he would die of starvation or from falling off a cliff or from a wild animal attack or any of thousands of causes – and that would spell the end of the evolution of humans.

### **Incomprehensible Array of Challenges**

How external influences produce internal changes at the cellular level remains a mystery for the evolutionist.

How did the developing body part know how to encode its changes on the DNA strand found in each of billions of cells in the body to preserve the modifications for the next offspring?

What's DNA, anyway, and how did the body know that it even had a genetic code in every cell, let alone proceed to modify it somehow to preserve the evolving changes?

How did the eyeball even know what vision was and why it was necessary? Even if the mind stumbled on a way to cause it, which evolutionists say is not how it happened, it wouldn't matter anyway because the human mind has nothing to do with causing evolution.

For evolution to work evolving systems and organs must work toward a goal for the whole process, otherwise not even trillions of years of trial and error will matter. There must be a reason for the development of each change and advancement. At every stage mistakes would happen and that would end the evolutionary process in that person. All it would take is for one part of the eye to fail to evolve and the eye would

be useless.

Science says that eyes formed from freckles. We have freckles all over our bodies. How did eyes end up in the front of our faces and not at the other end producing hindsight?

What blind influence guided the skeletal system to make sockets just the right size in our skulls to fit the eyeball, and make all the attachments and holes in the bone for the different eyeball nerves, muscles and blood vessels? And then duplicate it all exactly the same in each human being!

For that matter, how did the skull know how and why to encase the brain without any designer or driving intelligence? How did the miraculously complex brain develop to control all the bodily systems and functions, including thinking, learning, sensing, seeing, hearing, speaking, as well as serving as the seat of the spiritual that makes us who we are?

### **A Look into the Miraculous**

The eye somehow had to know that the lens needed to thicken when looking closeup to and stretch for distance. While it was doing the trial and error of evolving, the human was not equipped to focus close and miscalculated the distance of the cliff in front of him, so he steps off, falls hundreds of feet and dies. The process ends.

Same result with the blood clotting mechanism that had not yet evolved, When the cave man cut his hand on a sharp rock, he bled to death. Meeting his end, so did evolution.

What came first, the eye or the part of the brain that processes sight? Obviously there would be no point or purpose for either to evolve independently. And that goes for all those specialized areas of the brain that control hearing, thinking, balance, movement, and more.

Why do our eyes always stay round and inflated? Because of vitreous humor, a clear fluid that fills the eyeball and through which light passes undistorted onto the retina at the back of the eye. If the fluid were not there our eyeballs would go flat and we would go blind.

How did blind chance manage that? What mindless unintelligence realized that the eye needed fluid for sight and if that fluid is not replenished and maintained at the right pressure that we would be blind? And how did it develop the complex mechanism

to ensure that?

We could ask the same questions for the thousands of systems in the human body. Evolution is about unguided development, the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. It just happened by influences acting on it over eons of time, the evolutionist says.

What if the body's blood pressure increases to the danger point as the cave man is doing cardio, won't that potentially damage the delicate parts of his eye and brain itself? Why doesn't high blood pressure reach the danger zone and blow out the small vessels everywhere in the body and kill millions?

What regulates blood pressure and how



## **Left to themselves, systems become less orderly and deteriorate, not become more complex and sophisticated.**

did the body know what to do before high blood pressure blew out blood vessels and small capillaries? Oops. Too late.

The questions are endless and impossible for the evolutionists to answer in the "real world" of practical existence.

Six muscles control the movement of the eye. These muscles are attached at strategic locations on the eyeball to turn the eyeball certain ways so that we have complete control over every angle we look.

We can look up, down, sideways and follow moving objects, making driving a car possible. It is amazing that the eye thought of that as it was evolving. Good work, eyeball! Your foresight is miraculous.

Then we have real-time processing of what we see. If we didn't we would be very limited in what we could do. Example: A batter could not hit a fastball being pitched toward him. A one-second delay and the ball would be in the catcher's glove before he could start to swing.

Split-second reaction times while driving a car would not happen, but many accidents would.

We see shapes and colors, light and dark, by means of light impulses detected by rods and cones. What unintelligence conceived of these sophisticated components?

Two eyes synchronized and focused on one image give three-dimensional depth. That's the physics of light.

Why don't we just have one eye like a cyclops? Or a hundred like a housefly?

The eyeball is protected by eyebrows, eyelids, eyelashes, and lacrimal glands. A limitless mind thought of everything. Guess Who.

### **Unanswered Questions for Evolutionists**

In the evolution of the eye, how did the optic nerve know to send its light impulses to the brain and to a specific region of it? Why not to the ears or the heart? Why send them at all?

How did the cerebral vision center of the brain even know what to do with the electric impulses coming from the optic nerve? And why would it do anything with them without intelligence telling it to?

In the evolution of the eye, how long did it take before it became a functional organ (in other words, how long was the eye useless and humans blind)?

How did I, now sighted, know how to pass on this miracle of vision I just developed to the next blind generation?

More than 40 different parts must work together for the eye to function properly. In what sequence did these parts of the eye evolve?

Which evolved first? The eyeball or the muscles that hold it in place and the nerves that control sight?

Did we first see in color, or black and white? How did color vision win out and for what reason?

The eye produces tears that have antiseptic properties. How did total ignorance anticipate germs and know how to make tears germicidal to protect eye health? How many millions of years

did that take to develop? In the meantime all humans long since died of bacterial infection spreading from the eyes.

Tears also flush foreign objects from the eye. How did the "blind eye" know how to keep clean in this way? Tear glands and ducts would have had to evolve simultaneously with the eye and know their purpose and how to do it at the very moment that the eye needed them. Or the eye would dry out and blindness would result.

The eyebrow keeps forehead sweat from reaching the eye. How did the eye know how to fix the problem of sweat stinging the eyes on hot summer days? How many millions of years of stinging eyes did humans suffer before eyebrows evolved?

The deeper we probe the more ridiculous it gets to believe things advance on their own with nothing or no one at the helm—no direction, no intelligence, no thinking, and no planning and preparing all the miraculous mechanisms of creation! It all happened by blind chance...over millions of years.

Left to themselves, systems become less orderly and deteriorate, not become more complex and sophisticated.

Systems rely upon one another and must come into existence at the same time. If one part was slow to evolve, the system failed.

Evolutionists say it is just chemicals reacting to their environment producing extremely complicated solutions that work harmoniously with other complex chemicals to make the wondrously intricate and highly complex bodies we live in.

The enlightened person with his eyes wide open knows better.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the miraculous creation that evolution can't answer. When you get down to the nitty-gritty and ask the simple, logical, common sense questions, the evolutionists will hide behind billions and billions of years of evolving.

### **Never-Never Land of Evolution**

The evolutionist lives in a land of generalities, where a specific challenge is given a mile of wiggle room for the evolutionist to squirm out of.

The evolutionist can't answer the fact that living systems and their food sources had to have come into existence at the same time or not survive. Many animals

are very restricted in what they eat, and if that food source wasn't there, neither was the animal.

They can't answer the simple, logical, and logistical questions when you get down to specifics. Instead of addressing the problem of missing links where one organism supposedly changes into another, they answer with generalities.

They start with the premise of evolving and go from there, when the premise itself is impossible. They assume that primitive creatures were first in evolutionary development because they are primitive, rather than simpler creatures existing at the same time as complex ones.

### Yahweh Responds

As our Creator, Yahweh is far beyond our understanding. "Great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable," Psalm 145:3.

In Job 40:2 Yahweh answers the evolutionists: "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct [him]? he that reproveth Yahweh, let him answer it."

Psalm 139:14—"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The Hebrew says that what is made evokes fear and wonder in us.

Psalm 92:5 exalts Him—"O Yahweh, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this."

Yahweh asks the critical questions of creation and ourselves in Job 38:4: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if you have understanding."

He continues in Job 38:5-7—"Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner

stone thereof. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Elohim shouted for joy?"

Then in Job 40:2 Yahweh directly answers the evolutionists: "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct [him]? he that reproveth Yahweh, let him answer it."

Let the evolutionists answer all the millions of impossible scenarios and questions that their theory generates—and explain how the universe functions by natural laws, and how the universe came about and is kept in order... all through a mindless, roll of the dice!

### Everything Came from Nothing?

The biggest conundrum of all is, how did nothing create everything? They give the most harebrained response imaginable—it happened all by itself! It's the only explanation they have when they remove

Yahweh. And they call evolution "science"!

Evolution teaches that creation is fiction. Still, even the most ardent evolutionists, like Charles Darwin himself, have monumental doubts that the complexity of creation just happened by itself:

"To suppose that the eye with all of its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree," *The Origin of Species*, p. 179.

Yahweh says the wise become foolish in their pomposity, Romans 1:22.

Humility is a key to the Truth of Almighty Yahweh. 





# Blessed Are the **Poor** in Spirit

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven,” Matthew 5:3*

by Joel Wirl

If you were to take a step back mentally and think about how others see you, or even how Yahweh sees you, would you still have the same mental picture of yourself? Let me put it another way. Do we truly see ourselves for who we are?

Many times we deceive ourselves about ourselves. We think we’re smarter or better than what we really are. All of us are prone to think like this from time to time.

All of us at some time have played the part of the Pharisee in the parable Yahshua spoke of in Luke 18:9-14, “...The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, Elohim, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I possess.”

It’s sad that for all the righteous deeds this man had done, he didn’t see the arrogant darkness in his heart.

## **A Publican’s Humility**

It is a weakness we all face, the weakness to deceive ourselves. And if we don’t face this ugly truth about ourselves, we will act out our lies.

Yahshua wants us instead to be the publican in that parable. “And the publican,

standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, Elohim be merciful to me a sinner.”

You can almost feel the pain in this man, the anguish he felt for being a sinner. He is pleading for mercy. His eyes cannot even look upwards from the shame that weighed on his heart. He saw his weaknesses and flaws, and he saw that he was nothing before Yahweh. And because he was honest with himself, Yahshua said,

“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

## **End the Cycle of Self-delusion**

We are no different from or better than either one of these men. We all have the choice to deceive or to be honest with ourselves. The ironic thing is that if we criticize the Pharisee for how he acted, and rightfully so, but don’t see that we all have acted like that too, then we are acting just like the Pharisee we’re criticizing.

The only way to break out of this cycle

of delusion is to confront our evil nature like the publican did and see ourselves for who we are.

This is what it means to be poor in spirit. It is how you feel when you read in the Bible of the goodness and perfection of Yahweh, and then compare that to your life.

If you’re honest with yourself, your spirit will feel impoverished. You will feel weak, because He is so strong. You will feel corrupt, because He is so pure. You will feel sinful, because He is so righteous. You will feel like Isaiah did when he had his vision of the heavens as recorded in Isaiah 6.

As he saw all heavenly wonders around him, all he could say was, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts.”

To be poor in spirit is to first recognize that we all struggle with sin and that we are all weak. No one is immune from this. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of Elohim.

To think that you are immune to sinning like David when he committed

adultery with Bathsheba, or sinning like Ananias and Sapphira who sold a possession for Yahweh but kept back some for themselves, or sinning as Peter when he denied Yahshua three times – is to deny your human nature.

Paul said in 1Corinthians 10:12, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

### How to Be Poor in Spirit

John said in 1John 1:8, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

To be poor in spirit is to empty oneself of sin and pride and to repent. You can’t refill a cup unless first you empty it. You cannot be filled with the spirit of Yahweh unless first you empty all lofty and self-inflated ideas you have of yourself.

This is what happened to Paul in Acts 9. He was not always the devout follower of Yahshua, but instead devoted himself to destroying the followers of Yahshua. As Paul traveled to Damascus to imprison the assembly there, “...suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying

unto him, Saul (Paul), why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Master? And the Master said, I am Yahshua whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Master, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Master said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink,” Acts 9:4-9.

After the three days, Paul did receive back his sight and the Holy Spirit, but Paul had to destroy his old self and his old ideas first before he could be renewed.

### Facing Up Is Hard to Do

I don’t say that repentance is an easy thing to do. It’s not an enjoyable experience to analyze one’s flaws and weaknesses and then change.

None of us really likes to hear that we’re wrong. But if we want to become better, if we want to gain the kingdom of heaven that is given to those who are poor in spirit, it is the only way. You can’t put new wine into old wineskins as Yahshua said in Matthew 9:17. We can’t take our old selves into a new future.

This destruction of our sinful selves is not for our harm, but ultimately for our benefit. The thing that can be gained in this type of destruction is life itself. Yahshua said in Matthew 16:25-26 - “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

The sin within us is usually the thing we protect the most. When we are corrected about our wrong actions, do we say, “Oh yes,

you’re quite right; I will change immediately.” No, what we do say is, “You’re wrong about me. I’m not like that at all. You don’t see me at all.”

We make excuses for ourselves because



**You cannot be filled with the spirit of Yahweh unless first you empty all lofty and self-inflated ideas you have of yourself.**

we are unwilling to sacrifice ourselves. And because we are unwilling to sacrifice those dark parts of ourselves, we continue in them.

What are we willing to sacrifice to have life? What is it in us that is holding us back from moving forward in our spiritual walk? Is it the sin of pride, or hypocrisy, or false virtue, or evil jealousies, or a lying tongue that lurks within you? Remove it and cast it forth. Do not wait one second more.

Humble yourself before your Creator and seek for His will to be done in your life. It is the poor in spirit that are blessed because they are the ones who stop lying to themselves and see the truth. We are all sinful creatures who need help, who need a Savior.

Yahshua loves you dearly. He died a cruel death so that you might have a chance for life. Don’t waste that sacrifice by hanging onto your sins. Destroy them, be humble, and be renewed. “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

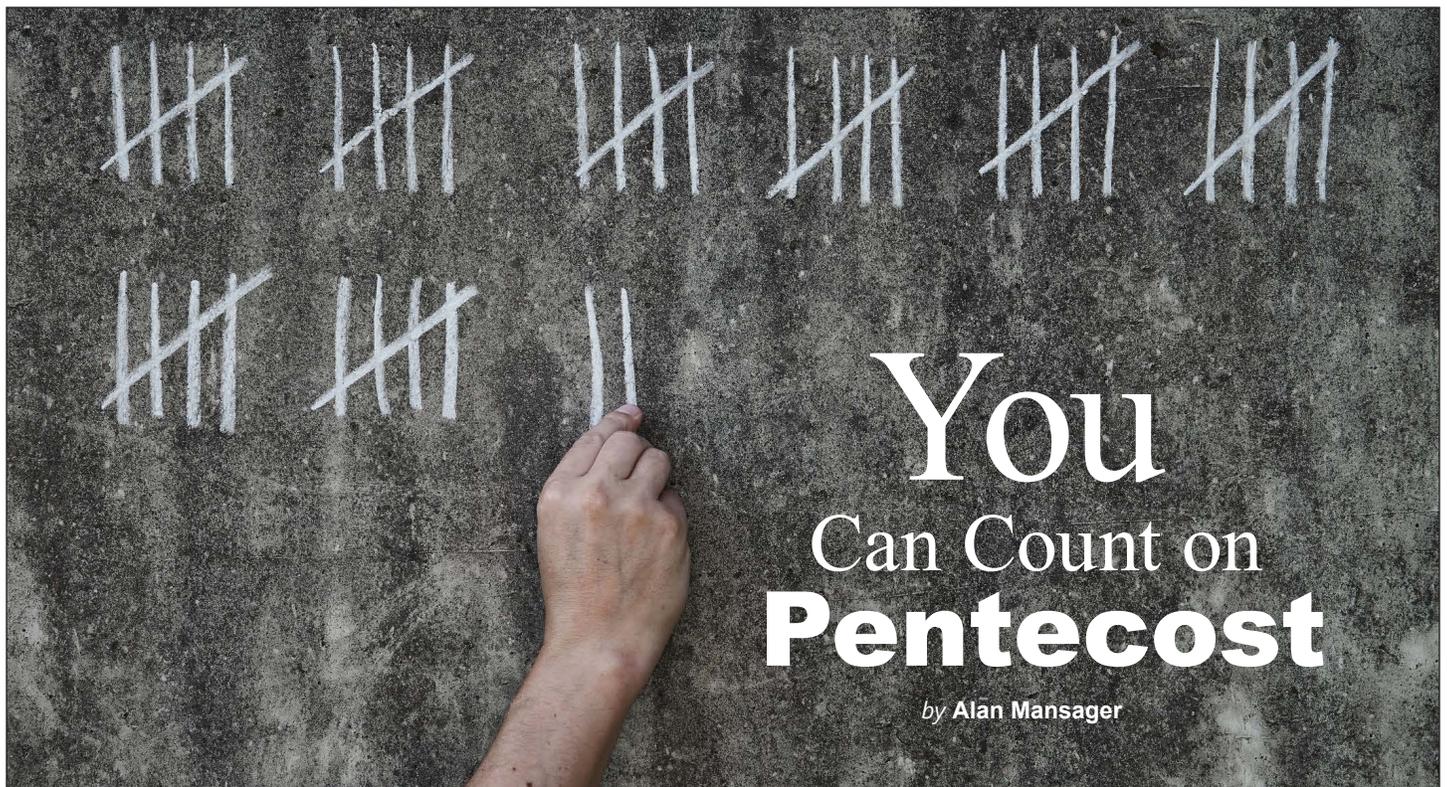


**TIPS  
for a Happier  
LIFE**

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Israelites were agricultural people and they understood planting, growing, and reaping. All of Yahweh’s annual Feasts are harvest-based, both literally and metaphorically. Yahweh set His calendar and special observances by harvest cycles.

Key among these criteria is the firstfruits of the grain, which is the grain cut first at the very start of the harvest. We see it in the wave sheaf of barley to establish Abib, the first month of the year, and again with the firstfruits of the Feast of Weeks (Feast of Firstfruits) or Pentecost.

In the New Testament Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the archetypal Firstfruits in the spiritual harvest of souls.

After His Passover impalement and resurrection, the Savior appeared to His disciples and told them to remain in Jerusalem until they had been given special power from on High, Acts 1:4.

They obediently remained in Jerusalem where they observed the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. It was on that holy day that the Holy Spirit came to earth and empowered the assembled disciples with boldness as well as wisdom to proclaim the Good News of the coming Kingdom.

Before that time the Holy Spirit was given to certain individuals and was taken away when the task was completed. This

can be seen in Judges where “the Spirit of Yahweh came upon” certain people from time to time, enabling them to perform certain deeds. Then it apparently was removed.

Yahshua would no longer be physically present among the disciples to guide and teach them great spiritual truths. Therefore the guiding influence of the same Spirit or power that He possessed would be with them and remain with them forever.

The Holy Spirit came to this earth on that Pentecost day to abide with the assembled disciples (Acts 2:1-8), giving them special power and discernment.

This was the promise Yahshua the Savior made to His disciples in John 14:16-17 just before He was impaled.

#### **Tongues Were Actual Languages**

The gathered Israelites were amazed that they heard the message of the wonderful works of Yahweh in their native tongues—16 different languages!

This miracle of speaking in tongues was prophesied to die out (1Cor. 13:8-13) and cease with the death of the Apostles.

From the day of Pentecost in 31 C.E., the truth of the Messiah and the coming Kingdom was preached by Peter and the other Apostles. From that point onward,

the disciples were sent with a mission to teach all nations and baptize them into Yahshua’s Name. They were no longer disciples (learners, students)—now they were Apostles, ones sent with a mission.

Pentecost or Firstfruits deals with the harvest season and comes some 50 days after Passover. It is the third of the seven annual Holy Days, the first two being the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, Abib 15 and 21.

Because Israel was an agrarian economy, they would identify with agriculture and could easily see the analogy between growing and harvesting crops and the maturing and redeeming of the believer.

#### **Feasts Are Part of Active Worship**

Also known as the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits (of wheat) harvest is a time of holy convocation; no servile work is to be done, Numbers 28:26.

It has been said that Pentecost, like all of Yahweh’s Festivals, is a living experience. Obedience through action. It signifies not just the confirmation of the Covenant with Israel, but with all Israel forever as well.

Pentecost is an annual reaffirmation of the bond or covenant between the chosen people and their Elohim. Known by the Jews as “Shavuoth” (weeks), Pentecost

commemorates the arrival of the Israelites at Mount Sinai after seven weeks of weary wandering, the giving of the law, and the conclusion of the Covenant between Yahweh and His people.

It was on Pentecost that Israel ratified the proposed Covenant Yahweh had offered them. “All that Yahweh has said we will do and be obedient,” vowed ancient Israel, Exodus 24:7.

It was on Pentecost after Yahshua had ascended to the Father that the Holy Spirit was given to enable Yahweh’s people to keep the law.

### Seven Weeks Plus a Day

The Feast of Weeks is counted from the day after the weekly Sabbath within the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Leviticus 23:15. The Pharisees held that it meant Nisan 15, the first High Day. But the Sadducees and later the Karaites held that it meant to count from the weekly Sabbath (Strong’s Hebrew 7676, *Shabbat*, “weekly Sabbath”) not the first high day (7677, *Shabbathown*) during Unleavened Bread.

The Septuagint translates the phrase in support of the Pharisees’ interpretation (“on the morrow of the first day”), and Talmudists substituted the word *azaret* (solemn assembly) for “Shabbat.” Thus, modern Jews always observe Pentecost on Sivan 6, and it never falls on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. That being the case, there is no need ever to count out the weeks as commanded, Leviticus 23:15.

The problem is that the rabbis begin their count with the 16th of Abib, which is the day following the first High Sabbath, but they neglect to count the 21st, which is the second High Sabbath of the feast!

How can they include one annual Holy Day Sabbath and not the other? Where is the consistency? Further, we are to celebrate Pentecost when “the weeks are out.” Is not the Sabbath the seventh day and then a new week begins? How can a week be out on Tuesday? Or Wednesday?

Being that Pentecost is also called “Feast of Weeks,” Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10, 16; 2Chronicles 8:13, it must be counted by seven complete Sabbaths. Note the following:

“Also in the day of the first-fruits, when you bring a new meat offering unto Yahweh, after your weeks be out. . .” Numbers 28:26. “Seven weeks shall you number unto you:



## Pentecost is an annual reaffirmation of the bond or covenant between the chosen people and their Elohim.

begin to number the seven weeks from such time as you begin to put the sickle to the corn,” Deuteronomy 16:9.

“And you shall count unto you from the

morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number fifty days. . .” Leviticus 23:15-16.

We are to begin our count from the morrow after the weekly Sabbath that falls within the days of Unleavened Bread. We begin with a Sunday, and end up with a Sunday. A week is out when the Sabbath ends.

While some may object to observing Pentecost on a Sunday, reasoning that it is a pagan day named after the sun, it is in reality no more pagan than other weekly days like “Moonday,” “Tuesday,” “Wodensday,” “Thursday” or “Friesland,” all of which ultimately derive from pagan origins. Even the Sabbath is called “Saturn’s Day” and was so named by pagans.

May you be obedient in following all of Yahweh’s commands wherever it takes you as a seeker of the one true Creator who established His own way of worship that He expects all of His faithful to honor – for the sake of salvation itself.



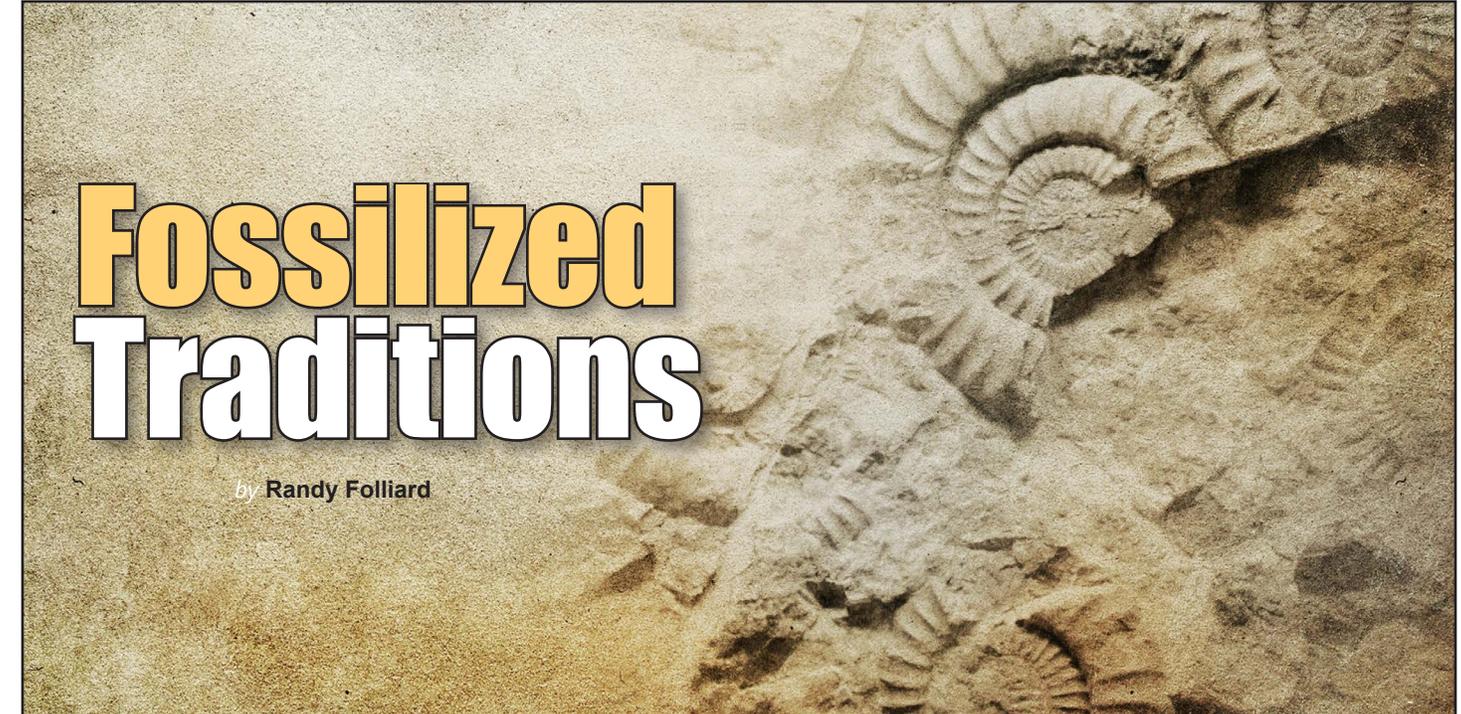
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# Fossilized Traditions

by Randy Folliard

Over the last 2,000 years of church history sound biblical teachings have been abandoned and distorted. The reason for this reckless abandonment is quite simple – to grow the church at whatever the cost.

In contrast, Yahweh’s Restoration Ministry is dedicated to the restoring of the pure and unadulterated Word regardless of popularity or numbers.

While we could write volumes on the many changes and traditions introduced by the church, we will focus on the following: the pagan roots of Easter, Halloween, and Christmas; the misnomer that the Messiah died on a “cross” and also its pagan origins; and the derisive etymologies of some of the most common words in mainstream worship.

## The Goddess of Spring

First in our analysis is Easter. As confirmed by scholarship, Easter was borrowed by the ancient Anglo-Saxons. According to *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, “The word Easter is of Saxon origin, Eastr, the goddess of spring, in whose honor sacrifices were offered about Passover time each year. By the eighth century Anglo-Saxons had adopted the name to designate the celebration of Christ’s resurrection.”

The Anglo-Saxons inhabited England between the 5th and 10th centuries CE. According to the *Encyclopaedia*

*Britannica*, they represented a mixture of Germanic peoples along with Britain’s preexisting Celtic inhabitants and subsequent Viking and Danish invaders. This diverse population shared a common thread, an acceptance of paganism.

By the 8th century the church adopted Easter from the Anglo-Saxons to represent the Messiah’s death. This process is called syncretism and refers to the blending of different ideas or in this case, the blending of Yahweh’s worship with paganism.

Israel was warned not to worship like those around them. Jeremiah 10:2 admonishes, “...Learn not the way of the heathen...” There is no admissible reason to add to or remove from our Father’s Word; we are to worship Him just as He defines it.

The worship of the ancient Anglo-Saxons involved honoring the goddess of spring, which goes back to Nimrod or Tammuz. According to mythology, Tammuz was reborn as the sun. The other connection with this day is fertility or rebirth, seen in springtime, and which Easter bunnies and eggs symbolize.

The church adopted this day simply to grow the church by “converting” the pagans. However, this practice goes against the clear teachings of the Bible. We are commanded from Genesis through Revelation to come out of idolatrous worship. This is why Abraham had to leave Ur of the Chaldees. This is also what motivated John of Patmos

to write, “Come out of her my people.”

Derived from the Celts, Halloween, like Easter, was adopted to convert the pagan population. From the *Encyclopedia of Religion* we learn, “...the British church attempted to divert the interest in pagan customs by adding a Christian celebration to the calendar on the same date as the Samhain [pagan festival of the Celts]. The Christian festival, the Feast of All Saints, commemorates the known and unknown saints of the Christian religion just as the Samhain had acknowledged and paid tribute to the Celtic deities” (1987, vol. 6, p. 177).

## A Ghoulish Truth

Halloween was adopted from Samhain. According to history.com, “Samhain is a pagan religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. In modern times, Samhain... is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in ‘the dark half of the year.’ Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld.”

It was a time to welcome in the harvest and usher in the winter. It was also believed that during this time the dead were able to walk among the living. To deceive the spirits of the dead, the celebrators would put on costumes representing the deceased,

from which comes the tradition of dressing up in ghoulish apparel customary during Halloween. According to some historians, human sacrifice would also take place during this time.

Based on what we know about this day, our Father in heaven would never permit such worship.

### All Hail the Sun

The paganism of Christmas can be traced back to multiple traditions in the Roman culture. It's associated with Saturnalia, a week-long feast in honor of Saturn. It also has connections to Mithraism, a mystery religion that celebrated their deity's birthday on December 25, as well as Sol Invictus, the "Open and Unconquered Sun."

According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "During the later periods of Roman history, sun worship gained in importance and ultimately led to what has been called a 'solar monotheism.' Nearly all the gods of the period were possessed of Solar qualities, and both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities. The feast of Sol Invictus (unconquered sun) on December 25th was celebrated with great joy, and eventually this date was taken over by the Christians as Christmas, the birthday of Christ" ("Sol Invictus," vol. 11, p. 390).

As with Easter and Halloween, solar worship was adopted by the church to convert the pagans. Instead of worshipping the S-U-N, they would worship the S-O-N in similar ways.

Not only was Christmas clearly assumed from paganism, but many of those borrowed traditions continue to this day, including the use of evergreens and the giving of gifts.

As believers, we must make a distinction when it comes to proper worship. We have an obligation to worship Yahweh as He alone defines it. This means that we're not to add to or remove from His Word.

### Cross: Symbol of Tammuz

Let's transition now to some of the symbols and etymologies we find in nominal worship today, the first being the cross.

What if you were told that the Messiah never died on a cross and that this symbol has a long-standing connection with heathenism?

The word "cross," as seen in most English Bibles, derives from the Greek

word *stauros*, which doesn't mean a cross but an upright pole or stake. The tradition of the cross originated in Chaldea, also known as Babylon. It was a symbol of the deity Tammuz and began with Nimrod, the founder of pagan Babylonian worship.

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* confirms, "stauros NT:4716 denotes, primarily, 'an upright pale or stake. On such malefactors were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb *stauroo*, 'to fasten to a stake or pale,' are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed 'cross.' The shape of the latter had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt. By the middle of the 3rd cent. A. D. the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system pagans were received into the churches apart from regeneration by faith and were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the 'cross' of Christ.... As for the Chi, or X, which Constantine declared he had seen in a vision leading him to champion the Christian faith, that letter was the initial of the word 'Christ' and had nothing to do with 'the Cross.'"

Let's assume against fact that the Messiah DID die on a cross. As believers, why would we choose to embrace an ancient pagan symbol that was used to murder our Savior as a symbol of our faith? If Yahshua were killed by an automatic weapon, would we be wearing symbols of AK-47s around our necks and placing them in our places of worship? The whole idea is very absurd!

In addition to *Vines*, the *Companion Bible* in Appendix 162, also verifies that the Greek *stauros* refers to an upright pole or stake.

"In the Greek New Testament two words are used for 'the cross' on which the Lord was put to death. 1. The word *stauros*; which denotes an upright pole or stake, to which the criminals were nailed for execution. 2. The *xulon*, which generally denotes a piece of a dead log of wood, or timber, for fuel or for any other purpose. Is it not like *dendron*, which is used of a living,

or green tree, as in Matthew 21:8; Revelation 7:1, 3; 8:7; 9:4, etc.

"As this latter word *xulon* is used for the former *stauros*, it shows us that the meaning of each is exactly the same. The verb *stauroō* means to drive stakes. Our English word 'cross' is the translation of the Latin *crux*; ...but the Greek *stauros* no more means a *crux* than the word 'stick' means a 'crutch.' Homer uses the word *stauros* of an ordinary pole or stake, or a single piece of timber. And this is the meaning and usage of the word throughout the Greek classics. It never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone. Hence the use of the word *xulon* in connection with the manner of our



## The church adopted this day simply to grow the church by "converting" the pagans.

Lord's death, and rendered 'tree' in Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29. Galatians 3:13. 1Peter 2:24. This is preserved in our old English name *rood*, or *rod*....

"The Catacombs in Rome bear the same testimony: 'Christ' is never represented there as 'hanging on a cross,' and the cross itself is only portrayed in a veiled and hesitating manner. In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, borrowed by the Christians, and interpreted in the pagan manner." (*The Cross and Crucifixion*)

The *Companion Bible* confirms that in classical Greek, *stauros* meant a single piece of timber or pole or stake.

Another point made in the above quotation is the reference to the Roman Catacombs. Most scholars believe these

catacombs were used between the 2nd and 4th centuries CE and served as an underground burial for early Christians. Interestingly, the Messiah is never depicted in the catacombs as “hanging on a cross.”

Wouldn't you think that if the cross were in use in the early Church that we would see the evidence in these ancient catacombs? The cross was also a pagan symbol of life in the Egyptian churches and it was borrowed from paganism and reinterpreted for the Messiah. Even the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* verifies the undeniably pagan nature of the cross:

“From its simplicity of form, the cross has been used both as a religious symbol and as an ornament, from the dawn of man's civilization. Various objects, dating from periods long anterior to the Christian era, have been found, marked with crosses of different designs, in almost every part of the old world. India, Syria, Persia and Egypt have all yielded numberless examples, while numerous instances, dating from the later Stone Age to Christian times, have been found in nearly every part of Europe. The use of the cross as a religious symbol in pre-Christian times, and among non-Christian peoples, may probably be regarded as almost universal, and in very many cases it was connected with some form of nature worship.” (11th edition, p. 506).

The fact is, the cross was used by pagans long before the church adopted it for the Messiah. Remarkably, the symbol of the cross is used almost universally, found in nearly every part of the world, including India, Syria, Persia, and Egypt, and in many cases was used in nature worship. It was even popular in Nazi Germany in the form of the swastika or broken cross.

### Questionable Etymology

Another fossilized tradition is the etymology of the word “church.” While billions of people use this word as a place of worship, it is not a term suitable for true believers. As with “cross,” this word is connected with paganism.

As evidence, *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary* provides this

etymology: “ME. *chirche*, *cherche*; AS. *circe*, *cyrc*; Late Gr. *kyriakon*, a church, from Gk. *Kyriake* (suuply, doma, house), the Lord's house, from *kriiakos*, belonging to the Lord or Master; *kyrios*, lord, master; *kyros*, supreme power, authority.”

Two important points to note here. First, the word as used today primarily



Basalt standing stone with horned sun disk (cross) at center. From Orthostat Temple, Hazor, Israel, 15-13th century BCE.

refers to a house or building. As we'll see, this doesn't convey the meaning of the word as found in the Greek of the New Testament. Second, one of the etymological roots of “church” is from the Anglo Saxon “*circe*” or “*kirke*.” “*Circe*” was a goddess in Greek mythology who could turn humans into animals.

From the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* we learn, “*Circe*, in Greek legend, a sorceress, the daughter of Helios, the sun god, and of the ocean nymph Perse. She

was able by means of drugs and incantations to change humans into wolves, lions, and swine.”

Time and again the Bible shows that as believers we must worship in spirit and truth and show a distinction between truth and error. For this reason we should avoid the word “church” in conjunction with Yahweh's worship.

In the New Testament, the word for “church” comes from the Greek *ekklesia*. Church as a building is very different from the Greek *ekklesia* or its Hebrew equivalent, *qahal*.

*Thayer's Greek Lexicon* defines *ekklesia* as “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly.” Notice that the emphasis is on the assembly and not the building.

A similar definition is found for the Hebrew *qahal*. *Brown Driver and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* defines this word as, “an assembly, a company, a congregation, a convocation.”

Both the Greek *ekklesia* and Hebrew *qahal* refer to a body of believers and not to a building. In fact, Tyndale in his 16th century translation rendered *ekklesia* as “congregation,” with one exception and that was in Acts 19:37 in reference to a pagan temple.

### Teutonic Connection

The next fossilized tradition to examine is the etymology of the word “god.” Many use this term without realizing its origins. As we read in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1911, Volume 12, “god” comes from a Teutonic or Germanic word that may refer to a molten image:

“GOD, the common Teutonic word for a personal object of religious worship. It is thus...

applied to all those superhuman beings of the heathen mythologies who exercise power over nature and man and are often identified with some particular sphere of activity; and also to the visible material objects, whether an image of the supernatural being or a tree, pillar, etc. used as a symbol, an idol.

“The word ‘god,’ on the conversion of the Teutonic races to Christianity, was adopted as the name of the one Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe, and

of the Persons of the Trinity. The New English Dictionary points out that whereas the old Teutonic type of the word is neuter, corresponding to the Latin *numen*, in the Christian applications it becomes masculine...and that even where the earlier neuter form is still kept, as in Gothic and Old Norwegian, the construction is masculine....

“‘God’ is a word common to all Teutonic languages. In Gothic it is *Guth*; Dutch has the same form as English; Danish and Swedish have *Gud*, German *Gott*. According to the *New English Dictionary*, the original may be found in two Aryan roots, both of the form *gheu*, one of which means ‘to invoke,’ the other ‘to pour’... the last is used of sacrificial offerings. The word would thus mean the object either of religious invocation or of religious worship by sacrifice. It has been also suggested that the word might mean a ‘molten image’ from the sense of ‘pour.’”

Do we as believers really want to use a word for our Heavenly Father that has roots in worship that calls to a molten image, which He condemns? Some might argue that this isn’t the same meaning that the word has today. But, do we want to risk offending the most important Being in this universe with a term that originally was used in pagan worship? It may not matter to some, but it matters a great deal to the One they worship!

“And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other mighty ones, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth,” Exodus 23:13. Paul reminds us that these terms are still used by non-biblical religions as well.

“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many),” 1Corinthians 8:5.

When Israel made a molten image of a golden calf at Mt. Sinai, Yahweh saw it as a form of blasphemy and false worship. Moses destroyed the image and went so far as to even remove the ashes.

So again, we ask: Do we want to risk calling our Heavenly Father by a title that refers to a molten image? The answer should be an emphatic, No!

### ‘God’ Predates Christianity

Let’s take this a step further and investigate another possible connection this word has in the Teutonic and Germanic language.

Two references from the 1800s both reveal that this word was either a proper name for the Teutonic supreme god or possibly to multiple deities.

“It is much more difficult to trace the Teutonic word, ‘God,’ back to its origin. There is no doubt that the Supreme Being has always been called by this name in all German tongues.... We can only say, therefore, that ‘God’ was probably an old Teutonic word, used long before the introduction of Christianity, to signify either one Supreme Being, or gods in general. Indeed, we find that in the Old Norse, god in the neuter means a graven image, an idol...” *The Edinburgh Review (or Critical Journal)*, A. and C. Black, 1851, vol. 93-94, p. 170.

“In all Teutonic tongues the Supreme

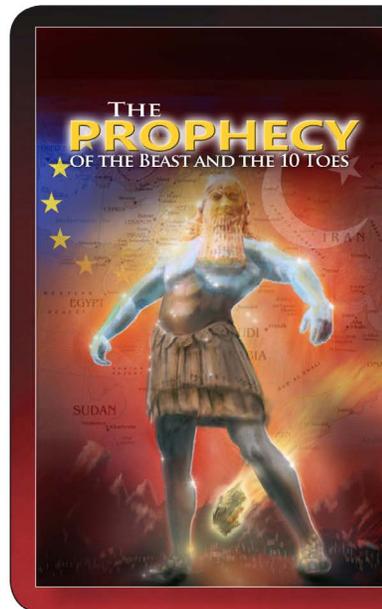
we use a title that’s connected with pagan worship, we’re not showing Him proper honor.

### Fulfilling End-Time Prophecy

The last fossilized tradition we’ll consider involves another common title, “Lord.” Did you know that the etymology of “Lord” is demeaning to Yahweh and is likely of pagan origin?

The *Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology* states: “lord. Before 1121 laved; loverd, lord (about 1250); developed from Old English hlaford master of the household, ruler, superior...literally one who guards a loaf or loaves....” (p. 442).

We see that the word “lord” originated sometime near the year 1250 and comes from the English “hlaford,” meaning,



## Who Is the Beast?

According to Daniel’s prophecy, the Antimesiah will arise from the territory ruled by Alexander the Great and passed on to his Seleucid generals. Many claim that the Antimesiah is the papacy. While there is more than one problem with this view, the greatest difficulty is found here. For *The Prophecy of the Beast and the Ten Toes*, see online or ordering information on the back cover.

Being was always with one consent called by the general name God.... Some remarkable uses of the word God in our older speech and that of the common people may have a connexion with heathen notions,” *Teutonic Mythology*, Jacob Grimm, 1882, pp. 13, 15.

Both of these references confirm that the word “god” in the Teutonic tongue was the proper name of their “Supreme Being.” This word was used long before Christianity existed, and the word “god” refers to a “graven image or idol” or to “heathen notions.”

Knowing this, how can we justify using this word in reference to our Heavenly Father? The Bible is clear that we’re to honor, hallow, sanctify, and praise the One we worship by using His Name. When

“master of the household,” and literally means, “...one who guards a loaf or loaves.”

Yahweh is so much more than this! To use a word that conveys the idea of guarding a loaf of bread in reference to the supreme Being of this universe seems very debasing! Beyond this obvious concern, there’s another reason why we avoid this word.

According to *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, one of the definitions for the word “Baal” is “lord.” “BA’AL (ba’al; Heb. ba’al, ‘lord, possessor’). A common name for god among the Phoenicians; also the name of their chief male god. See Gods, False. The word is used of the master of a house (Ex. 22:7; Judg. 19:22), of a landowner (Job 31:39), of an owner of cattle (Ex. 21:28; Isa. 1:3), and so on. The word is often used

as a prefix to names of towns and men, e.g., Baal-gad, Baal-hanan.”

There are several facts worth pointing out. First, the word “Baal” was a common name for Phoenician gods and it was also used in reference to their main deity. And second, similar to the English word “hlaford,” from where we derive “Lord,” the word “Baal” can also refer to a “master of a house.” Some might downplay the connection between Lord and Baal, but there is a clear link between the two.

The *NIV Study Bible* note on Judges 2:13 reads, “Baal. Means ‘lord.’ Baal, the god worshiped by the Canaanites and Phoenicians, was variously known to them as the son of Dagon...”

We find a prophecy in Jeremiah 23, verses 20 and 27 that shows that in the latter days, or end times, people would forget Yahweh’s name for Baal or Lord. “The anger of Yahweh shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly...Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.”

The fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy is everywhere in our day and age. The hiding of Yahweh’s Name in favor of “Lord” can be traced back to scribes called Masorettes between the 6th and 10th centuries CE.

During that time many Jews would not pronounce the name Yahweh. Instead they would utilize the Hebrew word Adonai as a replacement for Yahweh’s Name. Adonai can be translated “master,” “sovereign,” or as we often see, “lord.”

When scholars translated the Bible into English, they continued using this same nomenclature. Instead of using Yahweh, they used Lord as a replacement. As a result, the name Yahweh has been replaced by a title that has no connection to His Name.

To honor our Heavenly Father it’s important that we call Him by his personal and revealed Name, Yahweh, and not use substitutes that are demeaning and pagan in origin. Isaiah 52:6 states that His people will know His Name.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Thessalonians to prove all things and hold

fast to that which is good. These words are as relevant to us as to this ancient assembly.

As believers today we must abandon fossilized traditions that have solidified into the church’s structure in modern-day worship, and return to the clear teachings of Scripture.



Built by Antiochus I in 62 BCE., the head of Mithra (a.k.a. Apollo, Helios, Hermes) is located at Mount Nemrut, Turkey. Mithraism was a potent contender with Christianity, and Rome was a favorite seat of the religion. Mithras was born of a rock. His birth was witnessed by shepherds who brought him gifts. (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed)

### The Sun in Modern Worship Rites

In *History of Civilization*, Will Durant wrote, “... the cult of Mithra as a divine youth of beautiful countenance – with a radiant halo over his head as a symbol of his ancient identity with the sun – spread throughout the Roman Empire, and shared in giving Christmas to Christianity.

“Christmas was originally a solar festival, celebrating, at the winter solstice, the lengthening of the day and the triumph of the sun over his enemies. It became a Mithraic, and finally a Christian, holy day,” vol.1, p.372.

The leading gods of ancient Persia were Mithra, the sun god, Anaita the nature goddess, and her lover Haoma, who rose to

life again. Later, the dying-rising Haoma became transformed into the dying-rising Mithra, the savior god, who, in the hands of Satan, became the chief competitor to Christianity in the Roman Empire after the time of Messiah. Mithra worship was a carefully contrived counterfeit of Christianity, which Satan suggested to the minds of men over the centuries.

But then, in the fourth century CE, when Christianity won out over Mithraism, Mithraic and Ishtar elements of worship were incorporated into Christian worship. Just as Mithra was always shown with a solar halo around his head, portraits and statues of Messiah (and shortly, Mary and the saints) with halos around their heads became abundant.

Worshippers of Ishtar depicted her with two fertility symbols – eggs and bunny rabbits. These became part of the Christian Easter service.

Sunrise on Sunday morning at the beginning of spring was, besides December 25th, the holiest day in the Mithraic calendar. The practice continued on into Christianity in the Easter sunrise service.

Because Mithra was worshiped on the first day of the week, which the Persians and Romans called the sun-day, Sunday sacredness – which is nowhere to be found in the Bible – came into the Christian church.

Because Mithra the sun “died and rose to life” each year on December 25 (when the sun became lowest in the sky), the birth of Messiah began to be celebrated on that date (although it is reasonably clear from facts in the Bible that He was born in the fall of the year – the taxation census took place near the end of summer or early fall).

Because the Ishtar (Astarte, Ashtoreth, etc.) celebration was held each spring on a Sunday close to the vernal equinox, the resurrection of Messiah was changed to the 16th day of the first month of the Jewish calendar – three days after the beginning of Passover as told us in the Bible – to the annual Easter celebration. All of this began centuries before in paganism, with the Ishtar and Tammuz legend.

Paul in Colossians 2:8 warns about man’s traditions rooted in the “rudiments of the world” that can spoil the believer. Hold fast to that which is good, Yahweh’s Word. 



# How Passover Went Easter-ly

by Alan Mansager

A ritual as old as the hills is revisited once again as communities across the nation host Easter egg hunts in their homes, at parks, and on church lawns.

Asked why they indulge in this ancient spring ritual, parents will shrug and say, “It’s for the kids. We did it when we were young and it is just a fun tradition. We don’t ask why.”

But as followers of the Bible, we must ask. Isn’t Easter supposed to be a religious observance? Don’t even those who hardly ever attend church make it a point to worship on Easter Sunday? If it is religious, then why all the trappings of Easter eggs, rabbits, hot cross buns, and parades?

An encyclopedia’s candid statement should jar the sensibilities of every serious, Bible-professing person today: “Early Christians celebrated the Jewish feasts. The New Testament contains no reference to distinctively Christian festivals” (*Funk and Wagnall’s Standard Reference Encyclopedia*, 1966 ed., vol. 10, p. 3461).

## Follow the Bunny Trail

The questions begging for answers are, why did the early New Testament believers continue to keep the Old Testament holy days, and why don’t today’s churches do the same?

A common human desire is to tamper with what is well and good. In Exodus 12, Leviticus 23, and Deuteronomy 16, Yahweh gave man seven annual observances, beginning with the Passover. These were to be kept “forever, throughout your generations” as part of a covenant between us and our Creator.

But these observances did not gel with an evolving catholicism. They chose to fashion their own celebrations in their own image in trying to attract heathen converts in the process. “Jewish” days like the Passover became ignored, replaced with Easter.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* openly reveals: “Unlike the cycle of feasts and fasts of the Jewish Law, the Christian year has never been based upon a divine revelation. It is rather a tradition that is always subject to change by ecclesiastical law,” vol. 4, p. 601.

This source says about the Sabbath, “From the beginning, the church took over from Judaism the seven-day week. Before the end of the apostolic age (1st century C.E.), as the church became predominantly Gentile in membership, the first day of the week, or Sunday, had become the normative time when Christians assembled for their distinctive acts of worship, in

commemoration of the L-rd’s Resurrection” (*ibid.*).

As the early Romish church welcomed more and more Gentiles, it honored Sunday worship increasingly as the veneration day of the heathen who worshiped the sun deity. This church eventually switched over its observance of the Passover to Sunday as well.

“The earliest Christian celebrated the L-rd’s Passover at the same time as the Jews, during the night of the first full moon of the first month of spring (Nisan 14-15). By the middle of the 2nd century, most churches had transferred this celebration to the Sunday after the Jewish feast. But certain churches of Asia Minor clung to the older custom, for which they were denounced as ‘Judaizing.’” (*Britannica*, vol. 4, p. 60).

“Eusebius further says that the churches of Asia Minor derived their custom of observing the *pascha* [passover] from the Apostle John and Philip. Without a doubt Christian elements were incorporated into the celebration. It was not a question of whether a day corresponding to the Passover should be celebrated, but a



**This church eventually switched over its observance of the Passover to Sunday as well.**

question of the time at which it was to be celebrated,” *The New Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia*, vol. 4, p. 44.

## Solar and Lunar Calendars

To break clean from Jewish practice, the Roman Church took the first step down a long and twisted rabbit hole.

Two calendars were extant in the fourth century—the biblical lunar calendar and the Egyptian solar calendar. Judaism held to the lunar reckoning while Rome

adopted Egyptian calculations based on the sun.

Rome wished to replace the lunar calendar that established Passover with the solar calendar so that everyone could observe Easter on Sunday.

“Anxiety over the date of Easter was thus a reason why Constantine the Great in 325 A.D. summoned the famous council of Nicaea. It was decided that Easter must be celebrated everywhere on the same day and this day must be a Sunday. It must be the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox, March 21, with one reservation: In the English prayerbook it is stated thus: ‘and if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter-day is the Sunday after.’ The reason for this exception reveals the depth of the division between the Church and the Synagogue. For whenever the full moon fell on a Sunday, Easter would be celebrated on the same day as the Hebrew Passover. Hence, the postponement for a week, to avoid the coincidence,” *Encyclopedia Americana*, vol. 9, p. 507.

The Christian church wanted a Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, proceeding to Good Friday and ending on Easter Sunday, commemorating the supposed resurrection on Sunday. But there is no mention of any of these days in either Old or New testaments.

### A Basket Full of Curious Customs

Through the influence of converts from mystery religions, this newfound but ancient celebration of Easter took on abominable practices. The name Easter itself traces to Eastre or Eostre, a Teutonic dawn deity of love to whom sacrifices were offered in April. A related pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, was celebrated at the beginning of spring. Both trace back to the goddess

Inanna, daughter of Anu, the supreme mighty one in Sumerian times before the Old Babylonian period.

The Babylonians, mother of paganism, called her Ishtar, the goddess of love and fertility. The worship of Ishtar through fertility rites carries over to the egg and the rabbit rites of the modern Easter celebration.

Easter sunrise services trace directly to the worship of Eastre or Eostre, the dawn

they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them,” Ezekiel 8:16-18.

In Jeremiah 10:2, Yahweh warns us not to learn heathen ways. We must not borrow pagan customs and incorporate them into any worship of the only true Mighty One.

The hot-cross buns so popular at Easter also are a legacy of paganism, condemned in Jeremiah 7 when Judah was perpetuating the practice. “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other mighty ones, that they may provoke me to anger,” verse 18. “Cakes” is from the Hebrew *kavvan*, literally meaning bun.

The cross placed on today’s hot-cross buns is the symbol for woman. In hieroglyphics the cross means living or life. At Easter it symbolizes the worship of life and fertility through the queen of heaven. The rabbit’s high proliferation rate was used by the heathen as a symbol of fertility as well.

### Choose Biblical Worship

In a day when more and more churchgoers know less and less about the Bible they claim to follow, Almighty Yahweh gives us a choice. We can continue in darkness or we can leave the abominable customs of man and come clean, a pure bride to join the coming Savior for an everlasting life in His Kingdom.



Stained glass window depicting the Passover Lamb in the Holy Cross Parish Church.

deity. Ancient pagans worshiped the sun, which they saw as the sustainer of life. Solar worship got momentum in the spread of the religion of Sargon, a.k.a. Nimrod the Akkadian, from Babylonia westward to the Mediterranean, Genesis 10:8-10.

Yahweh has strong words against indulging in the only worship ceremony many ever attend—Easter sunrise services: “And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and



The goddess Ostara surrounded by light beams, Roman spired putti (chubby male winged children) a rabbit and various animals as Germanic people look up from earth. Johannes Gehrts, 1884.

A true follower finds mixing pure worship with ancient rites of mystery religions reprehensible. This conviction is upheld in the Word of Almighty Yahweh.

“And what agreement hath the temple of Elohim with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and

be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,” 2Corinthians 6:16-17.

Pure worship is described as a narrow, more difficult road, and few will be traveling it. It has been no different since Yahweh established His covenant with Abraham. Regardless of its popularity, the rewards for those who follow the Truth will be nothing but amazing. 

## Bad Hare Day

(from CountryLiving.com)

“The Easter Bunny seems to stem from early pagan celebrations around the vernal equinox, which just happened to occur around the same time as the Christian celebration of J-sus Chri-st’s death and resurrection, according to Professor’s House.

“The pagan traditions celebrated the springtime renewal of life and fertility as well as the goddess of dawn and spring. Eastre (or Oestre or Ostara) was associated with newborns, both human and animal, during the spring, and since rabbits are known to be rapid breeders, the concept of the Easter Bunny began to form.

“The legend is that the goddess Eastre came ‘late’ one year, causing a long winter, and saw a bird frozen in the snow. Eastre took pity on the bird and turned him into a snow hare who could lay multi-colored eggs on one day each year: the day that the festival of Eastre was celebrated.

“At some point, the pagan egg-laying bunny and the Christian holiday began to blend, starting in Germany in the 17th century, according to Mental Floss. As the Christian religion spread, missionaries would often ‘practice some good salesmanship’ by incorporating pagan ideas into Christian holidays, and this is likely what happened with the ‘Eastre’ hare.”



**Q** What's YRM's opinion about the ecumenical councils (the 7 universal councils)?

**A** Many Christians claim that the councils were Holy Spirit inspired just as the first council made by the apostles.

The 21 church councils that commenced three centuries after Yahshua's resurrection were doctrine mills tailored by the Roman Catholic Church. Most of the tenets that resulted from them, and which became formal church doctrine worldwide today, were contrary to the Scriptures.

The Sabbath was already established, no need to switch to Sunday worship; there is no Easter celebration in the Bible, but Passover; Yahweh is not a triune mighty one but has a "Father" who is greater than His Son, John 14:28. The Holy Spirit is the Father and Son in action, doing things by this power.

Many other teachings and rites were concocted to conform to the church's desire to attract pagan foreigners into its fellowship and to separate from the Hebraic

faith. Compromising with heathen worship was at the root of the biggest mistakes Israel made and which Yahweh condemned repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. That single fault also did more than any other to turn the Roman church, and her daughters, away from the Word.

gave to no man or set of men the right to form a creed, to legislate concerning things divine, or to intrude into those things which are not revealed...If man has the ability to clarify the teaching of Yahweh, to make it more understandable then he would be wiser than Yahweh...To affirm that creeds and confessions of faith are more easily understood than the Bible is to impeach the wisdom of Yahweh."

New doctrines were being advocated by those seeking prominence. Man has no authority to legislate where Yahweh has not legislated. That is adding to the holy Word, which is prohibited by that Word in a serious indictment, Revelation 22:18-19. Their guilt is proven by yet another violation of the Word in saying the church has more authority than the Scriptures.



**Q** I am still uncertain about the need to use the names Yahweh and Yahshua as well as correcting them in the Bible. I agree about not using the word G-d as it is used in all kind of references to man, beings, and false g-ds. Anyway, part of my uncertainty is that Yahshua never corrected anyone in the N.T. about this (that I could find). Being a devout Jew, Yahshua would have been using Adonai, as was taught and practiced. Also when teaching and praying, the Bible says he called Him Abba (Father); it is what the model prayer starts out with. Also, several Jewish/Hebrew sites that I went to, state that "Jesus" (the J should be pronounced as y, so it would be Yesus) is the "gentile" version of Yahshua, not a Greek/Roman version.

Following are excerpts about church councils from *History of the Church Through the Ages* by Robert H. Brumback. "Yahweh

**A** The Bible we have, including the New Testament, is a translation from the Hebrew. Language rules say that titles can be translated but names cannot because of the risk of changing inherent identity. Yahweh's Name defines Him as no title can. He is existence personified—*hayah*. *Abba* is Hebrew



**W**e sat down with Elder Don Esposito, from the Congregation of YHWH, Jerusalem and discussed the hybrid name Yehovah (Jehovah) and the current outlandish push to prove this impossibility.

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meaning father. It is a title without pagan connotations.

“God” and “Lord” are tainted titles used in reference to pagan deities. Paul condemns their use when he said there are many gods and lords, 1Corinthians 8:5. “Lord” comes from Baal, the chief deity of the Canaanites (*NIV Study Bible* note on Judges 2:13, 17). Knowing this, how can we use those titles in calling on Yahweh and Yahshua?

As to your other points, Greeks and Romans WERE gentiles, which is defined as anyone not of Israel. It is correct that the J should be a Y. The “e” in Jesus comes from the vowel pointing of the Masorettes who deliberately changed the “a” to an “e” in “Yah”shua to hide the Name. The hard “s” is from Greek, which lacks an “sh” sound. And the “us” ending is the nominative masculine singular ending in Greek.

Transforming the Hebrew Yahshua to the Greek Jesus is the result of language morphology, unwarranted substitution of letters, and dishonest scribal editing.

In the Hebrew our Savior used the Heavenly Father’s Name, Yahweh, even though it may not be found in our English text. The false pen of the scribe has been at work, Jeremiah 8:8.

For instance, read Luke 4:18-19, where Yahshua read: “The Spirit of Yahweh [is] upon me; because he has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of Yahweh.”

On numerous occasions Yahshua recited Old Testament verses where Yahweh’s Name was used. Following are some of those passages that Yahshua quoted in the New Testament:

- Matthew 21:42 (Psalm 118:22)
- Matthew 22:37 (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 30:6)
- Matthew 22:44 (Psalm 110:1)

- Matthew 23:39 (Psalm 118:26)
- Matthew 26:64 (Psalm 110:1)
- Mark 7:6 (Isa. 29:13)
- Mark 11:17 (Jer. 7:11)
- Mark 12:29 (Deut. 6:4)
- Mark 12:30 (Deut. 6:5)
- Mark 12:36 (Ps. 110:1)
- Luke 4:4 (Deut. 8:3)
- Luke 4:8 (Deut. 6:13; 10:20)
- Luke 4:12 (Deut.6:16)
- Luke 4:18-19 (Isa. 61:1-2)
- Luke 10:27 (Deut. 6:5)
- Luke 13:35 (Ps. 118:26)
- Luke 20:37 (Ex. 3:4-6)
- Luke 20:42 (Psalm 110:1)

**Q** Were the Old Testament and the commandments abolished upon Yahshua’s death and resurrection? My pastor says they were. I differ and think I should keep the commandments and worship on Saturday. I’m told I’m going back under the law, etc., if I do.

**A** Your New Testament pastor needs to reread the New Testament. He’ll see that Yahshua taught from the Old Testament as the only Bible there was, quoting it 84 times, while the apostles quoted the Old Testament 209 times. He’ll see John writing about the Old Testament and added nothing new: “Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.” 1John 2:7. Paul converted many to the Kingdom and Yahshua by preaching the Old Testament, Acts 28:23.

When the minister gets to the last book of the New Testament and the summation of everything relating to salvation, he must not overlook Revelation 12:17, which describes the New Testament True Worshipers: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of Yahweh, and have

the testimony of Yahshua Messiah.”

He needs also to re-read and ponder Revelation 14:12: “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua.” Finally, Revelation 22:14 puts the icing on the cake of salvation: “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

**Q** There seems to be a lot of people who have claimed to see “Jesus,” whether it be face-to-face, or while they were asleep. Or they died for a several minutes and went to heaven or hell. Or, “Jesus” came and took them to each place so the person could come back and tell us about it. Is this just demonic activity? I thought the Bible says no one has seen Yahweh or Yahshua after He went to heaven.

**A** These alleged contacts with Yahshua are dealt with in Yahshua own statement: “And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Messiah; or, lo, he is there; believe him not.”

Furthermore, if Yahshua is milling around on earth and contacting people today, then He was disingenuous when He taught about His second coming when all eyes shall see Him. It would then not be His second coming but His 10th coming or 35th coming or 100th coming.

The truth is He gave us His Holy Spirit in Acts 1 so that we would have a comforter till He comes back. No need for a comforter if He was going to do it Himself for a couple of thousand years.

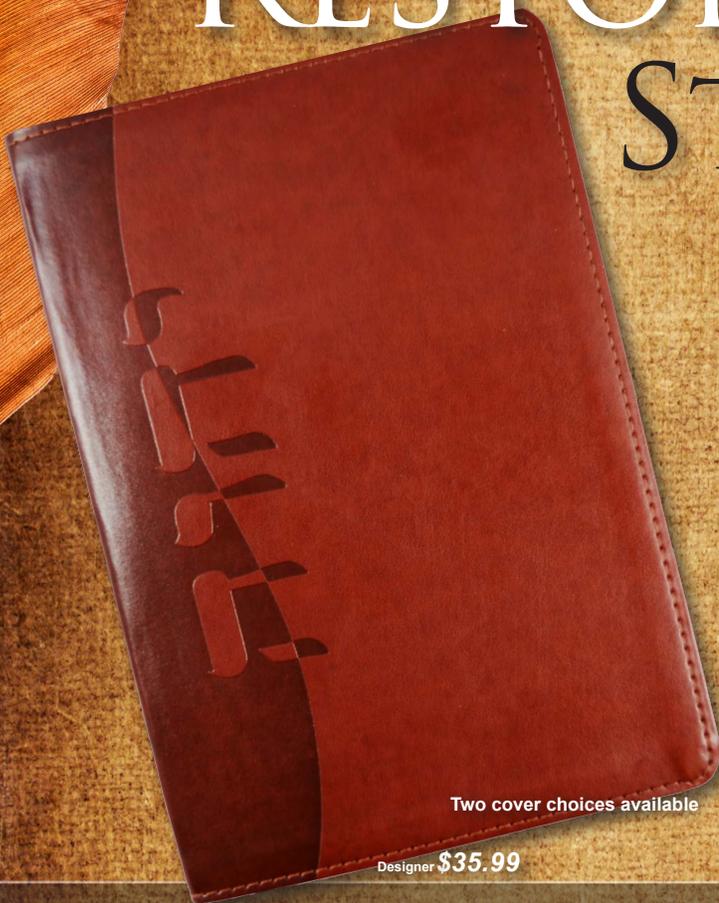
As for the Adversary impersonating Yahshua, it is doubtful that Yahshua would allow that. It more likely originates from big imaginations. Don’t be deceived about earthly contact with the Messiah. Yahshua warned about that in His Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24:4-5.

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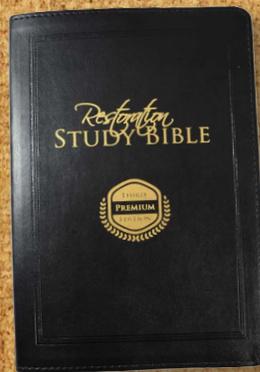
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"I found this site through YouTube. I'm writing from Bangladesh. I am a follower of Yahshua. First couple of years I've worshiped in a Sunday church. Then began to question myself about the Fourth Commandment, remembering the Sabbath day. After that I started praying at home, on Saturdays, with my wife.

I've an English Standard Version Bible, red letter edition. But comparing it to King James Version Bible, raises some questions, like the name Lucifer is missing from Isaiah 14:12. It's the same with all the Bengali versions Bible. I've felt the need of a true translation. I'm praying constantly since then. I believe that I've given the task from Yahweh to start the job of a Bengali translation free from all the pagan influences.

Since I don't know Hebrew and Greek, I'll do that from an English translation first. King James Version Bible seems legit to do that. Then I came to know Restoration Study Bible. Where can I find RSB in Bangladesh? I cannot send money through online of bank, but I can pay locally. Thanks." – HS

"I absolutely love the Restoration Study Bible. I love the videos you put out. I wish there was a local congregation in my area." – RJ

"This RSB Bible is a prayer answered! This is simply AMAZING. For years, we knew that Jehovah was the incorrect way of saying G-d's name, but could never find a Bible that was faithful to the name Yahweh, among many other things.

"I spoke with someone over the phone earlier today. Per my request, she said they would send us a couple of your publications, along with some other information I requested. Myself, my wife and 4 children recently left the Jehovah's Witness faith for a variety of reasons.

"The Bible they use is based on the manuscripts of Westcott and Hort, who were involved with the occult. They also consulted the works of Johannes Greber, who was involved with spiritism (you probably know about all of this). As a family, we've been doing the best we can--having a weekly Bible study, etc.

"We were looking for a genuine Bible that we could use in our public ministry. I had even thought about starting a blog to teach people what we've learned about the name Yahweh and that's how I found your website. I've been poring over it all day long and sharing with my wife and family.....every single thing you guys are saying has 'the ring of truth'. What you're teaching IS bible truth... this is amazing. You're bringing out things that are right in the Bible, have been right in our face, and for years we never saw it!

"I've been poring over your YouTube channel and every single thing you say is directing people to the Bible and Yahweh vs. JW.org who shoves an organization in people's faith. I called and spoke with a woman over the phone today because, as our family engages in the ministry, I asked if we could have permission to direct people to your website as a source of Bible truth. We plan on using your Bible in our ministry." – MB

"I believe in the Father, have backslid so many times, I remember praying to Him

when I was a child. He has never left me and this morning writing poems for my book I was looking up words and your site came on. I know that's of YAHWEH. I'm 50 years old and I thank Him for allowing me to be here." – L J

"I love this study. While reading about New Jerusalem my soul uplifted and tears filled my eyes. Yahweh bless you. I wish Yahweh will choose me, too, to be a citizen of new Jerusalem." – OA

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*No one is worthy of baptism, not even John the Baptist, Matthew 3:14. That is the very reason we need it. Those who seek Yahshua's forgiveness of sin, a new life, and the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives will seek immersion.* – ED

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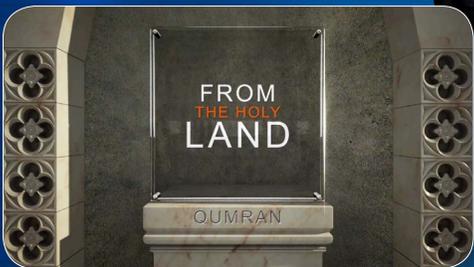
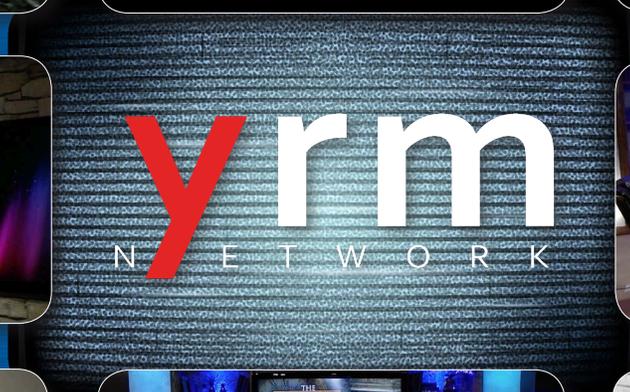
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