

Here comes Peter Cottontail,
Hopping down the bunny trail,
Hippity hoppity, Easter's
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These words do not come from a spiritual hymn that the Holy Spirit inspired the church to sing on Easter Sunday. Nor does God look with any amount of pleasure at our chocolate bunnies and colored eggs. God only accepts religion that keeps us from the pollution of the world.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27

We have forgotten that God does not desire for the church to learn the ways of other religions. The true church of Jesus totally destroys all other religions, customs, and ways of worship, and replaces them with the good news of God. Time and time again God would destroy, judge, and reject His people because they adopted the customs of other nations. They mixed their idols with the worship of Him, just as we combine today an Easter Bunny with the resurrection of Jesus.

They did not destroy the peoples as the Lord had commanded them, but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. Psalms 106:34-35

The church, publishing houses, ministries, and pastor after pastor embrace Easter as if it were God's holiday. But as Nelson's Bible dictionary informs us, "Easter was originally a pagan festival honoring Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of light and spring. The only appearance of the word Easter (KJV) is a mistranslation of pacha, the Greek word for 'Passover' (Acts 12:4)." Which brings us to our main point, Jesus rose from the dead after the Passover, not on Easter

day. Easter originates from the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, honored on the day of the vernal equinox (spring). Contrary to what we want to celebrate and believe, Christ did not resurrect on "Easter" morning. Traditions such as the Easter rabbit, symbols of fertility, and colored Easter eggs come from this pagan worship.

First Fruits

Jesus rose from the dead on the day of First Fruits. Passed down from Old Testament times, this Jewish holy day gives Christians not something to obey as Law, but to rejoice in. In other words, Jesus rose from the dead and offered God a first fruit sacrifice. Jesus, first risen from the dead, offered God a first fruit of the resurrection that will occur at the end. As the scripture below demonstrates.

The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. Matthew 27:52-53

The feast of Unleavened Bread proceeds the day prior to First Fruits. A very important point because unleavened bread symbolizes in Scripture an offering without the yeast of sin. When we combine colored eggs, chocolate bunnies, fun, and games with God's holy days we add in the yeast of sin. And it is impossible for those in Christ to carry their cross and feed their flesh at

the same time. The cross demands a killing of all the flesh and sin. Christians must be a people crucified to the world. In other

words, Christians cannot drink the cup of demons and the cup of God at the same time. Why the church thinks it is stronger than the Lord is amazing.

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

1 Corinthians 10:21-22

The cross does not work out a compromise with the world, especially in the matters of worship. To teach children to search for hidden Easter eggs, eat chocolate bunnies, and marshmallow chickens in the name of Jesus only serves to blaspheme the holy name of God. This especially becomes clear when we read in the New Testament that we should be a people separate from the world—especially in matters of worship.

Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. 2 Corinthians 6:17

First Fruits is one of the most exciting days God gave us. Jesus rose from the dead yet the church defiles it with food and fun, treating the blood of Jesus in a contemptible way. Repeated yearly by Christians, it reflects the golden calf worship that Moses so thoroughly judged Israel for celebrating. Notice that Moses' brother, Aaron, fashioned a golden calf, just as we fashion a hopping bunny today, and then he announced a *festival to the Lord*. There is no difference between the two concepts, except the church of today should act wiser because we can read in the Bible about Israel's golden calf idol worship.

He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a *festival to the Lord.*" Exodus 32:4-5 (emphasis added)

Violent Preachers

How literally astonishing that with all the Bible schools, colleges, commentaries, and ministries the Christian community cannot even set one simple fact straight—Easter is a pagan holiday and First Fruits is a Christian one. This ignorance occurs only because our flesh still loves the party atmosphere of the world. We love the world with its fun times of Easter egg hunts, cheesy songs, and of course food. Our hearts remain hard toward the Word of God and we would rather express spiritual truths with worldly words than the way God commands we should speak and worship (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Violence rages from the pulpits of today. Preacher after preacher rips and shreds the Bible, tearing it to pieces to justify anything as coming from the Lord. The most worldly of movies are made to seem as reflecting Jesus. Books written about finding Jesus, fashioned in the latest fad and entertainment of the world, fill the Christian stores. The real violence in the land is the

fact that there is no difference between the holy and the common, in the church. The church is so cold it cannot tell the difference between a bunny and a risen Christ, between the word Easter and First Fruits. Between the world and worship.

Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Ezekiel 22:26

This profaning of God's Word and holy things certainly sells the merchandise and draws the crowds, but God will destroy churches that hold Easter egg hunts. This violence against God knows no limits. A recent children's book in the Christian market depicts a picture on its first pages of a grouchy, unloving Christian telling others that the Easter bunny is wrong. A church stands in the background, while puzzled Christian adults scowl and children leave in fear and dismay. The book continues expounding whitewash to combine the Easter Bunny with the resurrection of Jesus.



If such a justification is possible then Christians might as well smoke pot during church. After all, God gave us the marijuana plant and it can help everyone to relax and feel more freedom in Christ. This book ends with the children's father eating a chocolate bunny and stating, "And since God made both bunnies and food, I think I'll have a little bite too."

Can you hear the echoes of Aaron and the golden calf? "Yes," Aaron agreed. "And since God made both cows and food, I think I'll have a little bite, too.' And he did."

Think of how Satan mocks Peter the great apostle with the song, "Here comes Peter cottontail hopping down the bunny trail." Children hear this song and then hear hymns of the cross. Have we forgotten the words of Jesus to guard against causing little ones to stumble? Let the church regain its saltiness and rebuke those attending church only on this day, allowing no mocker to enter into the church on that most holy of days.

Kill the Easter Bunny

Let us zealously kill the Easter Bunny and replace it with the wisdom and purity of God. Let us grow in the knowledge of the Lord, full of wisdom about the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the First Fruit of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your

houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat—that is all you may do. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Exodus 12:12-17

Let us surpass Moses whom God commanded to build the Tabernacle exactly according to His plan and will.

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. Hebrews 8:5

Jesus, not a bunny, provides the "exact representation of his being." Let us love God enough to display and worship the Majesty of heaven in complete holiness. Let us do so in the richest of love, for we lose nothing in giving up the idols of the world. After all, when we enter heaven we shall see the radiant face of the Son of God, not a bunny rabbit.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

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