

# Easter

Easter celebrations date back into remotest antiquity and are found around the world, as the blossoming of spring did not escape the notice of the ancients, who revered this life-renewing time of the year, when winter had passed and the sun was "born again". Easter is about the Passover, and Jesus represents the Passover Lamb ritually sacrificed every year by a number of cultures, including the Egyptians, possibly as early as 4000 years ago and continuing to this day in some places.

The Easter celebration was so ubiquitous prior to the Christian era that any number of sources are probable for its inclusion in Christianity. In Anglo-Saxon, Easter or Eostre is goddess of the dawn, corresponding to Ishtar, Astarte, Astoreth, and Isis. The word "Easter" shares the same root with "east" and "eastern", the direction of the rising sun.

## Who Wrote the gospel of Matthew?

The following helps explain why the gospel Easter narratives are a jumbled mess. Christians don't know who wrote the gospel of Matthew. It was certainly not written by Matthew the apostle, and it was certainly not written by anyone with a first-hand knowledge of the Easter events.

Although it was claimed by later Christian writers to be a translation of a manuscript written in Hebrew by the apostle Matthew, the Gospel of Matthew did not exist prior to the end of the second century and was originally written in Greek. The Gospel of Matthew is particularly noteworthy in that it contains the interpolation at 16:17-19 not found in either Mark or Luke that gives authority to the Roman Church. The appearance of this gospel determining Roman dominance corresponds to the violent schism of 180-190 between the branches of the Church over the celebration of Easter.

## Easter Deja Vu

As was admitted by the early Christian doctor Jerome, the "little town of Bethlehem" was a sacred grove devoted to the solar-fertility-savior god Adonis (Tammuz), who was born hundreds of years before the Christian era in the same cave later held to be that of the birthplace of Jesus. Like Jesus, Adonis was born on December 25th of the Virgin Myrrha, who was identified with Mary by early Christians. Syrian Adonis died at Easter time; he died and rose again in periodic cycles, like all gods of vegetation and fertility. He was also identified with the sun that died and rose again in heaven.

-- D M Murdock, *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold*

## Playing the Easter Dating Game

Everyone knows that Easter is a roving date in the calendar, since it is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox (the beginning of Spring). Easter, therefore, cannot be the date of the death of any historical personage. Two dates are given in the New Testament for the time of crucifixion, namely: the 14th and the 15th of the month of Nisan.

-- John G Jackson, *Christianity Before Christ*

## Easter Astronomy

The Synoptics say that Jesus was crucified on the 15th of the month of Nisan. John affirms that it was on the 14th of the month. The crucifixion (or crossing) was, and still is, determined by the full moon of Easter. This in the lunar reckoning, would be on the 14th in a month of twenty-eight days; in the solar month of thirty days it was reckoned to occur on the 15th of the month. Both unite, and the rift closes in proving the Crucifixion to have been

astronomical, just as it was in Egypt, where the two dates can be identified.

-- Gerald Massey, *Ancient Egypt: Light of the World, The Egyptian Book of the Dead, The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, and Gnostic and Historic Christianity*