

Understanding Easter and Spring Feast

- ▶ The origin of Easter dates back to ancient times, not long after the [global Flood](#) recorded in [Genesis 6-9](#) of the Bible. **Nimrod, a grandson of Noah, had turned from following his grandfather's God and had become a tyrannical ruler.**
 - ▶ Nimrod created Babel, Ninevah, Asshur, Calla and other cities, all known for lifestyles that promoted unspeakable evil and perversion.
 - ▶ When Nimrod died, his wife, Queen Semiramis, deified him as the Sun-god, or Life Giver. Later he would become known as Baal, and those who followed the religion Semiramis created in his name would be called Baal worshippers. They became associated with idolatry, demon worship, human sacrifice and other practices regarded as evil.
 - ▶ Semiramis convinced the people that Tammuz (illegitimate son) was Nimrod reborn.
 - ▶ Since people had been looking for the promised savior since the beginning of mankind (see [Genesis 3:15](#)), they were persuaded by Semiramis to believe that Tammuz was that savior,
 - ▶ the people also w
 - ▶ Worshipped Semiramis herself as the goddess of fertility. In other cultures, she has been called Ishtar, Ashtur and yes, Easter.
 - ▶ Contemporary traditions such as the Easter Bunny and the Easter egg can also be traced back to the practices established by Semiramis.
 - ▶ rabbits have long been associated with fertility and its goddess, Ishtar.
 - ▶ Ancient Babylonians believed in a fable about an egg that fell into the Euphrates River from heaven and from which Queen Astarte (another name for Ishtar or Semiramis) was "hatched."

7 Feast to Celebrate – Appointed Times - Leviticus 23

Spring Feast - forever in Hebrew means olam or futurity, or eon never ending.

- ▶ **Feast of Weeks or First Fruits April 12, 2020** was celebrated 7 day with giving and thanksgiving; was fill by the Resurrection of the Messiah. Lev 23:10-14 & 21 (A Permanent Feast)
 - ▶ The Feast of Firstfruits is a celebration of the barley harvest which begins in the month of Nissan. It was required of the Israelites to bring the first sheaf of their harvest to the Temple as a wave offering. Feast of Firstfruits also begins the counting of the Omer leading up to Shavuot. Firstfruits is not a “no work” holiday.
 - ▶ The entire spring religious season of Israel, from Passover to Pentecost, speaks of God’s plan to harvest a holy people for Himself. First, Yeshua died as the perfect, sinless sacrifice. Then, He arose and became the Firstfruits from the dead as described by the apostle Paul in [1 Corinthians 15:20](#) fulfilling the law.

- ▶ **Passover (Pesach) April 9 & 16, 2020** meaning freedom and was celebrated when the Jews was delivered from Egypt; they painted the blood of an unblemished lamb over their door posts.
 - ▶ Passover today is celebrated sometimes before, during or after Easter. It was fulfilled by the death, burial and resurrection of Messiah (Matthew 5:17, 19, Lev 23:5 & 14 (Pesach is a forever/permanent feast).
 - ▶ Jesus obey and fulfilled the moral laws by living a perfect life
 - ▶ Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial laws through his death and burial.
 - ▶ He came to finish the old Covenant and establish the new (Luke 22:20)
 - ▶ When Jesus died His blood became the blood that washed our sins away. He is the unblemished lamb that was sacrificed so that death may Passover us today.
 - ▶ Just as the Hebrews believe the blood on the posts would protect them from angel of death, so we now believe that Jesus' death and blood protects us from everlasting death; only if we believe He is the Passover blood, the savior of the World.
 - ▶ Passover is the fourteenth day of the month Nissan. Passover is celebrated in Jewish homes or synagogues with a special meal known as a Seder. The story of Passover is often recounted during the Seder and read from a Haggadah. Traditionally symbolic foods like Charoset and Horseradish are eaten. The symbolic foods are placed on a specific plate called a Seder plate/tray. No leavened (bread made of yeast) foods are eaten during Passover. Leaven bread is made of yeast, which makes bread rise. The unleavened bread reminds us to remove sin from our lives, especially the sin of pride which rises within our flesh.
 - ▶ The Passover Seder is a reminder to the families celebrating of their ancestors suffering in Egypt and of the miraculous deliverance from their bondage. Passover also reminds believer of Yeshua today how He died and became a sacrifice so that death Passover us forever. Passover is not a "no work" holiday.
 - ▶ Seder – is the Passover meal. Usually held the first of the week or the last of the week or both. Christians and Jews alike share in a Seder meal. The Passover meal was the last supper of Jesus Christ -- Matthew 26:15. Today the Seder is eaten with bitter herbs, unleavened bread, egg, wine, and meat; it is a festive occasion.
- ▶ **Unleavened Bread – April 9 - 16, 2020** fulfilled meaning be rid of sin. Last 7 days and is celebrated as part of Passover known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. One of the traditions of celebrating the feast of Passover, is the cleaning of one 's house of all bread made with yeast. The house represents our body where our souls live and reminds us to also clean our physical bodies of sin. This feast was fulfilled by the righteous character and sinlessness of Christ and the blood offered upon his death. Leviticus 23:14 (forever/Permanent feast)

- ▶ The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the fifteenth day of Nissan and lasts for seven days. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, no food with leaven is eaten. In the days leading up to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread Jewish families clean their homes of any leaven so as not to cause defilement during the feast. The unleavened bread eaten during the feast is called Matzo. Matzo is pronounced like “Ma-tzah”. The first and seventh days are Holy Convocations in which no work is permitted.
 - ▶ Now we clean our physical bodies from the yeast of pride, haughtiness, and all those things that makes us puffed up. This is a time to remember Jesus humbled himself when he took the whips, spit, cursing, mocking and hung on the cross for our sake.

- ▶ **Counting of the Omer – April 9 - May 28, 2020.** Leviticus 23:15-21. Also known as Shavuot is to take place exactly seven Sabbaths and one day or fifty days total from Firstfruits. In Hebrew Shavuot means “weeks”. Shavuot is often called Pentecost which means “fifty” in Greek. Shavuot, like Firstfruits, is a harvest festival in which the Israelites were to present an offering of new grain (in this case wheat) to the Lord in the Temple. Today Shavuot is celebrated in Israel by reading the account of the giving of the Law in Exodus chapters 19 and 20. The book of Ruth is also read because it is a book of harvest and redemption. It is customary to eat dairy foods like cheese during Shavuot. Shavuot is a Holy Convocation in which no work is permitted.
 - ▶ The Israelites counted the Omer to remind them of the Covenant God made with them at Mt Sinai.
 - ▶ Today Jews and Christians alike count the Omer to remind us of the new Covenant through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the first fruit and he fulfilled the Feast of weeks through his resurrection and sending the Holy Spirit. During this time, we are to count out loud everyday and thank God for Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Being reminded that we can count on Jesus to save us from all. Jesus did not replace the law; He fulfilled the law.

Join us this April 16, 2020 at 6 pm as we celebrate Passover!