Yahweh's Holy Days

Summary

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25. "Passover: Celebrating the Events & Chronology of the Crucifixion & Resurrection"

24. "Yahweh's Holy Days"

A tightly-argued case for exactly when the crucifixion and resurrection actually happened — built entirely around the sign of Jonah's "three days and three nights."

- The case for a Wednesday crucifixion and Saturday-sunset resurrection, working from Passover as the 14th of Abib (a Wednesday in A.D. 31).
- The third-century Didascalia Apostolorum cited as historical corroboration.
- "Easter" traced to the goddess Ishtar/Astarte.
- A closing affirmation that Yah'shua's New Covenant reaffirms, rather than abolishes, the Sabbath and Yahweh's annual Holy Days.
- (A condensed companion to Article 25's much fuller chronology.)

The full article begins on the next page.

Yahweh's Holy Days

Christians generally, accept and celebrate the "Good Friday" - "Easter Sunday" concept of the Messiah's crucifixion and resurrection. Was it really a Friday - Sunday event? What about 3 days and 3 nights? Does it Matter to Yahweh?

The Bible says "prove all things", and just as every other part of the Bible is alive and meaningful in our daily lives, so is the phrase "prove all things". The Bible provides all of the necessary resources to prove all things, to help motivate us to search the Scriptures diligently, and to meditate on them. In other words Yahweh really does want us to know the truth, not to simply "accept" what is palmed off as the truth by others - even *(and especially)* so-called "religious experts" and the "tradition of men" promoters, that call themselves "Christians"!

Yah'shua was asked point blank by the doubting Pharisees for a sign - proof of his Messiahship. Yah'shua answered, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the heart of the earth". *(Matt. 12:39-40)*

Yah'shua's statement has tremendous import - the significance is overwhelming. He declared that THE ONLY SIGN He would give to prove He was the Messiah was that He would spend "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth". The Pharisees demanded proof - Yah'shua offered but one evidence, which was not the fact of the resurrection itself, but the length of time He would remain in His grave, before being resurrected. Yah'shua staked His claim to being your Saviour and mine upon remaining exactly three days and three nights in a tomb. If He failed in this sign, He must be rejected as an impostor! No wonder Satan has caused unbelievers to scoff at the story of Jonah and the "whale" and set up a tradition that denies Yah'shua as the Messiah.

This one and only supernatural proof ever given by Yah'shua for His Messiahship greatly bothers "traditional" Christians. Any attempt to explain away this sole proof for the Messiah's divinity - deity - are ludicrous in the extreme, but explain them away they must, or their "sacred Good Friday - Easter Sunday" tradition collapses. Yah'shua does not lie - He said clearly there shall be no other sign for this proof, "but the sign of the prophet Jonah". And that's all that is really needed, because when read into context with all other scripture on the matter, it convincingly "proves all things" as it should.

Some "experts", according to various encyclopedia etc, imply that Yah'shua was only in the tomb half as long as He expected - or that three days and three nights really only means three "periods" of day or night -

or that being placed in the tomb "Friday" at sunset and rising "Sunday" morning, is 2 nights and 1 day, but that's what Yah'shua really meant! The Bible proves that Yah'shua knew exactly how long a "day" was and exactly how long He would spend in the grave. In John 11:9-10, Yah'shua said; "are there not 12 hours in a day - but if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth", and in Genesis 1:4, Yahweh, "divided the light from the darkness, and Yahweh called the light day and the darkness he called night. And the evening [darkness] and the morning [light] were the first day...and the evening and the morning were the second day...and the evening and the morning were the third day". The Bible defines the time required to fulfill "the third day". It ought to be conclusive - to anyone who actually READS the Bible!

How then do so-called wise and prudent "theologians" know that Yah'shua was crucified on "Good Friday" and rose "Easter Sunday"? They don't! Because it is not true. It is merely tradition, which we have been taught from childhood and excused throughout our adult years as something that's okay and really doesn't make any difference as long as we celebrate the "event" not the date. What poor Israelites we are when we have to "excuse" our Christian traditions. Yah'shua clearly and simply warned against "making the word of Yahweh of no effect through your traditions" in Mark 7:13.

Friday to Sunday just does not make 3 days. 3 days must be important or Yah'shua would not have said so. In Mark 8:31, Yah'shua, "began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things ...and be killed, and AFTER 3 days rise again". And in Mark 9:31; "they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day". And in Matthew 27:63 "After 3 days I will rise again". And in John 2:19-21; "destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up".

The Crucifixion day was called "the preparation" or day before the Sabbath. This day ended at sunset according to Bible reckoning - Lev. 23:32. Yah'shua cried out soon after the "ninth hour" or 3 o'clock in the afternoon on the preparation day - Matt. 27:46-50, Mark 15:34-37, Luke 23:44-46. Yah'shua was laid in the tomb just before this same day ended - just before sunset - Matt. 27:57-60. And John 19:42 adds, "There laid they Yah'shua Therefore because of the Jew's preparation day". The Jewish custom was all dead bodies had to be buried before the beginning of a new day, and, according to the Bible He was - just barely before sunset as the scriptures prove.

This leads to an intriguing conclusion. Three full nights and three full days after that preparation day sunset, brings us to sunset. Which means the resurrection occurred at sunset not sunrise! If Yah'shua rose at any other time of day He could not have been 3 days and 3 nights in the grave and He would have failed to prove by the sign He gave, His Messiahship. The "preparation day" for the Sabbath is defined by John 19:14,31: "...for that Sabbath day was a high day...It was the preparation of the Passover".

Any Jew can tell you what a "high day" is. There are seven each year - all called Sabbaths, and each year they fall on different days of the week. *(Leviticus 16:31, 23:24, 26-32 and 39 refers to all these annual holy days as Sabbaths.)* Matthew 26:2; "Ye know that after 2 days is the feast of the Passover and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified".

All Bible texts say Yah'shua was crucified on the Passover. The Bible in Num. 28:16-17, defines the Passover; "And in the 14th day of the first month *[called Abib] i*s the Passover of Yahweh. And in the fifteenth day of the month is the Feast". The Hebrew calendar shows that in A.D. 31, the year Yah'shua was crucified, the 14th of ABIB which was the Passover, which is always the preparation day for the annual high day Sabbath, was on Wednesday, and the High Sabbath was on Thursday.

There were 2 Sabbaths that week - the annual high Sabbath, and the weekly Sabbath which was the day of the resurrection. *(Saturday using standard weekly Roman traditions.)*

Yah'shua rose from the dead as He said He would in John 2:19, 3 days and 3 nights later, at or near sunset on the 2nd Sabbath of that week - to bring light into darkness. It was Saturday night, not Sunday morning. I Corinthians 15:3-4; "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that the Messiah died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures". If we look at a calendar for that year, it is quite easy to figure out that the preparation day; the crucifixion day was on Wednesday, and that 3 days and 3 nights after that, was near sunset on Saturday. It is also significant that as Daniel's prophecy in 9:24-27 says, Yah'shua was to be cut off "in the midst of the week". This prophecy uses the day for a year symbolism so that the "70 weeks" became a literal 7 years, with the Messiah being "cut off in the midst", *(after only 3 1/2 years of teaching)* and also in the middle day of a literal week. There is one more final proof in the Bible. In Mark 16:1, Mary Magdalene and her companions did not buy their spices to anoint Yah'shua until after the Sabbath was past. They could not prepare them until after this, yet after preparing the spices they rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment *(Luke 23:56).*

These scriptures seem to contradict themselves unless you accept the only possible explanation: After the annual high Sabbath, which was Thursday, the women purchased and prepared the spices on Friday, and then they rested on Saturday - the weekly Sabbath.

The fact is that Yah'shua was crucified on a Wednesday *(14th of ABIB, A.D. 31)* and was resurrected on a Saturday *(17th of ABIB, A.D. 31)*, placed in the tomb near sunset, and rose out of the tomb near sunset. "Good Friday" and "Easter Sunday" are pagan myths; traditions of men, adopted by the early Roman Christian church and accepted as "okay" by almost all Christians today.

Centuries' old documents exist that evidence the Wednesday crucifixion and Saturday resurrection. A document entitled the "*Didascalia Apostolorum*", dating from around the year 200 A.D., mentions the last Passover Supper of Yah'shua and His disciples was on a Tuesday evening. It should be noted that the timing mentioned in the document also corresponds with the Biblical method of reckoning the week as starting with Sunday as the first day with the days beginning at sunset. The document states: "*For when we had eaten the Passover on the third day of the week at even [Tuesday evening], we went forth to the Mount of Olives; and in the night they seized our Lord Yah'shua. And the next day, which was the fourth* [day] *of the*

week [Wednesday], *He remained in the house [arrest] of Caiaphas the high priest*". Clearly He was crucified that following Passover day of Wednesday.

"Easter", from the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian goddess "Ishtar" is from old Teutonic mythology where it is known as "Ostern". The Phoenician name of the goddess was "Astarte", consort of Baal, the sun god, whose worship is strictly forbidden and denounced by the Almighty Yahweh of the Bible as the most abominable of all pagan idolatry. Yahweh condemned Solomon and took away the kingdom of Israel from his son for offering sacrifice to Molech - also Baal, the sun god.

Yahweh commanded His people to observe Passover forever in Exodus 12:24. This was commanded to the Israelites prior to the Old Covenant Law of Moses, when they were still in Egypt. Yah'shua did not abolish Passover, He merely changed the symbolism used from the Passover lamb whose blood was shed, to unleavened bread and wine.

It is now a memorial to the Messiah's sacrifice, reaffirming year after year on its anniversary, the 14th of ABIB thru 17th of ABIB, the TRUE Israelite's faith in the broken body of the Messiah for our physical healing, and His blood for the remission of sins.

Satan has deceived all western nations into discarding Yahweh's forever ordained festival to commemorate the death of the true Saviour of our sins, and substituting it with the pagan counterfeit Easter! Scores of millions are deceived into observing this heathen idolatry under the delusion they are somehow honouring the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh. Like blind sheep they observe the traditions and customs of men. Yahweh says in Acts 17:30; "the times of this ignorance Yahweh winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent". The Bible accurately predicts this in II Thess. 2:7; "The mystery of iniquity doth already work". And that was only 20 years after the Congregation began!

Yah'shua kept the Passover, Yah'shua taught the Passover, and Paul said in I Cor. 5:7-8; "The Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven... but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth". Even Yah'shua commanded; "this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me". We are to do it in remembrance of Yah'shua's death as a memorial. The Apostles all kept the Passover and documented it long after the Messiah had risen.

Does Yahweh care? Can we use ancient pagan festivals to honour the Messiah? Let Yahweh, as He has in the Bible answer the questions.

Deut. 12:30-31: "Take heed...that thou enquire not after their gods, saying; `How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise'. Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy God; for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hateth, they have done unto their gods'".

In other words, Yahweh calls these customs abominations because they commemorate false ideas. Can you worship the Messiah or Yahweh in vain? The very words of the Messiah: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Yahweh, ye

hold the tradition of men...Ye reject the commandment of Yahweh that ye may keep your own tradition" *(Mark 7:7-9).*

Assembling for worship of Yahweh under the guise of "Good Friday" and "Easter Sunday" is nothing but the tradition of men - and pagan tradition which Yahweh hates at that. Those who do so, disobey Yahweh's commandment to "worship Him in spirit and in truth" and such worship is utterly in vain - Yah'shua said so!

Yah'shua's New Covenant did not in any way, imply to do away with the Old Covenant Commandments. Yah'shua reassured that we all should keep the Commandments - all of them. Yah'shua did do away with all of the old rituals and traditions in favour of faith - but all of the commandments remain. Yahweh commanded His people to keep His 7 annual high Sabbaths forever. Years later He gave His people *(us)* the 10 commandments, one of which reaffirmed the keeping of the Sabbath; the weekly Sabbath and the annual high Sabbaths, including the Passover - not Easter.

Christmas: The words "Christ Mass" gravitated into the Congregation in the fourth century in the form of ordinances from the Roman Catholic church, copying former pagan rituals under the new name. The Catholic Encyclopedia says: "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Congregation...the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. Pagan customs, ancient, centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas". The Roman church ordered it to be celebrated as an official Christian festival in the fifth century.

The exact date of Yah'shua's birth is unknown, as all authorities acknowledge. Though there are many scriptural inferences suggesting sometime in the early fall, probably September. Encyclopedia Britannica says: "certain Latins may have transferred the birthday of the unconquered Sun from January 6th to December 25th which was then a Mithraic feast. This feast of Sun worship and idolatry is what the Latins *[Romans]* claimed was invented by disciples of Cerinthus".

Today, we have gotten Christmas from the Romans as set out above. They got it from paganism, originating in ancient Egypt in the days of King Osiris and Queen Isis, about 3000 B.C. After the death of King Osiris, his wife propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Osiris as a spirit being. She claimed a full grown ever-green tree sprang up overnight from a dead tree stump, which to her symbolized the springing forth of new life from the dead Osiris. On each anniversary of his birth, which was December 25th, she claimed that the dead king would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts on it. Yahweh warns us in Jeremiah 10:2-5; "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; For the customs of the people are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest...they decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it...so that it will not topple".

The queen, through her scheming, became "Queen of heaven" and Osiris became "divine son of Heaven". Through the generations Osiris became known as the "divine sun" and later the SUN GOD of Baal. The Phoenicians referred to them as the "Mother and Child" (Isis and Osiris) as chief objects of worship. The worship of this "Mother and Child" as Baal the sun god spread to many countries and languages.

The Roman Catholic church carried many of these old pagan customs and beliefs along with them into the new "Christianity", as the people were reluctant to give up their pagan traditions. Even the song "Silent Night, Holy Night" with its "Mother and Child" theme, stems in part from this era. Yahweh commands his faithful ministers; "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression"!

Among ancient pagans mistletoe was used at this festival of the winter solstice because it was considered sacred to the sun, due to its "miraculous" healing power. The pagan custom of kissing under the mistletoe was an early step in the night of revelry and drunken debauchery, celebrating the death of the "old sun" and the birth of the new at the winter solstice *(shortest day of the year)*.

Holly berries were also considered sacred to the sun god. The yule log is in reality the "sun log". "Yule" means "wheel" - the pagan symbol for the sun. Even the lighting of candles and fires as a Christian ceremony is merely the continuation of the pagan custom of encouraging the waning sun god as he reached the lowest place in the southern sky.

St. Nicholas, a Roman Catholic Bishop was a legend for his surreptitious bestowal of dowries on the three daughters of an impoverished citizen, secretly on the "Eve of St. Nicholas" December 6th, subsequently transferred to Christmas day as "Santa Claus", the English phonetic sounding equivalent to "Saint Nicholas". From the Adam Clarke Commentary, volume 5, "The people of the east never approached the presence of kings and great personages without a present in hand. The custom is often noticed in the Old Covenant and still prevails in the east...as a continuance of the ancient pagan customs". The custom of giving presents invariably retards Yahweh's work, often setting it back at the Christmas season every year, rather than honouring the Messiah. If you want to honour someone, would you lavishly buy gifts for everyone else, trading back and forth, while not providing any gift for the honoured one?

But even though the exact date of Yah'shua's birth is unknown, should we not select some date and celebrate His birthday? Absolutely NOT! The celebration of birthdays is another pagan custom celebrated by sinners! The Catholic Encyclopedia: "In the scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his birthday. It is only sinners like Pharaoh and Herod who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into this world".

Many modern Christians still reason that, even though Christmas and all its trimmings are pagan customs, honouring the false sun-god, we don't observe it to honour the false god - we observe it to honour the Messiah.

But Yahweh answers in His Word; "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them *[the pagans in their customs]*...that thou enquire not after their gods. Saying, `how did these nations serve their gods? Even so I will do likewise', thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy God: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods" *(Deut. 12:30-31).* And Yah'shua says plainly this form of worship is utterly in vain *(serves no purpose).*

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