

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XII

April 20, 2003

No. 16

## WHY EASTER IS NOT OF GOD

By: Jerry Fite

**J**ust because men practice something in religion, it does not mean that such a practice originated with God, or that God is pleased with such practice. Jeremiah points out a religious practice of Israel: “And they have built high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded not, neither came it into my mind” (Jeremiah 7:31).

While we would not equate the practice of killing our children by offering them up in a fire to a false god with people celebrating the resurrection of Christ, we surely would not want to practice anything in honor to God which He commands not, nor has even entered into His mind?

Let us examine some facts about the celebration of Easter and the mind of God which lead us to conclude that Easter is not of God. First, God never commands Christians to celebrate Easter. It is true that the term Easter occurs in the King James Version of the Bible in *Acts 12:4*. Herod incarcerated Peter “...intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”

The word translated, “Easter”, is “pascha” meaning “passover”. The Jewish feast of the passover is under consideration here, not some practice of the first century church. The passover was a “set feast of Jehovah” (Leviticus 23:4-8). Herod was waiting until the Jews celebrated the week long passover feast before bringing Peter out to “the people” - the Jews. Nowhere in the Bible do we see that Easter is a “set feast of Jehovah”, or that it was being practiced by Christians under the guidance of the inspired apostles of Christ.

Celebrating Easter as a religious festivity among “Christians” was introduced by men to replace the feast of the Passover, celebrated by Jews. But this connection of Jewish practices with Christianity in observing days is another indication that Easter is not of God.

God clearly indicates that the Jewish practices under the Old Law were not to be added to the Christians’ practices under the New Covenant. For example, the inspired apostle Paul vigorously opposed including “circumcision” in the saving demands of the Gospel (Galatians 2: 3-6, 5:3-8, Acts

15, etc. ) Regarding Christianity including Jewish observances, Paul writes, “Ye observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain.” (Galatians 4:10-11).

No one is to judge the Christian in keeping the sabbath day holy because it is not part of the new covenant of God with the Christian (Colossians 2:14-16). Just like there is no authority from God to celebrate Sunday as the “Christian Sabbath”, there is no divine authority for replacing the Jewish celebration of the Passover into a time for Christians to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

God never blends pagan practices with Christianity either. The Catholic Encyclopedia, pointing to the work of Bede indicates that the word “Easter” has its etymology in a “goddess of the rising light of day and Spring...” (Vol. 5. P.230). Easter is a blending of paganism and man’s wisdom. Easter’s history and God’s ways indicate clearly that it is not of God.