

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of March 22, 2025 -

Sunday School .....	13
Sunday Morning Service .....	23
Sunday Eve. Service .....	18
Wednesday Eve. Service .....	11

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of March 22, 2026 -

<b>Undesignated</b> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 901.34
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer .....	\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/22/26:</b>	<b>\$ 1,146.69</b>

- Week of March 15, 2026 -

<b>Undesignated</b> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 2,530.85
Missionary Daniel Charland .....	\$ 246.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/15/26:</b>	<b>\$ 2,676.86</b>

- Week of March 8, 2026 -

<b>Undesignated</b> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 872.53
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/08/26:</b>	<b>\$ 872.53</b>

- Week of March 1, 2026 -

<b>Undesignated</b> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 2,646.85
Nathaniel White Benevolence Fund .....	\$ 400.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/01/26:</b>	<b>\$ 3,192.20</b>

- Week of February 22, 2026 -

<b>Undesignated</b> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 883.85
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/22/26:</b>	<b>\$ 1,029.00</b>

Average amount of **Undesignated** Offerings needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK**, as a minimum - \$1,700.00



**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.

**LISTEN TO -**



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**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:**

**Sundays -**

- 9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. .... Morning Service
- 6:30 p.m. .... Evening Service

**Wednesdays -**

- 7:00 p.m. .... Evening Service

**Bi-Monthly -**

- 11:00 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. .... Ladies Bible Study  
 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White .....	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell .....	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly .....	Greeter
Shirley White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly/Larry Byars .....	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars .....	Outreach
GinaMarie Shufelt .....	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White .....	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery .....	Trustees

**REMINDER**

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK - APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

**TO HEAR AN EXPOSE' ON :  
 THE GROWING DANGER  
 OF ANTI-SEMITISM**



**TOPICS COVERED:**

- Sunday School, April 5: *"What Is Replacement Theology?"*
- Sunday Morning, April 5: *"One Gospel For All Men"*
- Sun. Evening, April 5 @ 6:30 PM: *"God's Purpose For Israel"*
- Mon. Evening, April 6 @ 7 PM: *"God's Eternal Covenant with Israel"*
- Tue. Evening, April 7 @ 7 PM: *"Israel's Cycle of Judgment & Restoration"*
- Wed. Evening, April 8 @ 7:00 PM: *"Antisemitism in the Bible & History"*

**PRESENTED BY:**

**Dr. Phil Stringer**  
 Vice President  
 Dayspring Bible College & Seminary  
 Mundelein, Illinois



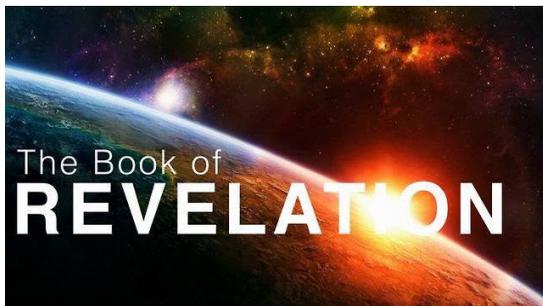
**DON'T MISS THIS!**

Everyone Welcome. Nursery Provided For Children Through Age Three.

**LiveStreaming:**

[www.facebook.com/pg/SouthHeightsBaptistChurchOfSapulpa/video](http://www.facebook.com/pg/SouthHeightsBaptistChurchOfSapulpa/video)

**DON'T FORGET TO BE HERE TONIGHT  
 AS WE CONTINUE TO STUDY -**



For the past few weeks, I have been sharing with you some things that God has laid on my heart about the current condition of Christendom, the condition the church will be in immediately prior to the Rapture, and how Satan is preparing mankind for his one-world religion under the Antichrist as found in the Book of The Revelation.

Last week, I spent the bulk of the space here talking about the attacks of the enemy on the Word of God, starting with how Satan began his attack amongst men by questioning it in the Garden of Eden. I could also have gone into the numerous times he has attempted to destroy it over the centuries, how he's tried to get it banned, etc., but the point is that the Word of God endures forever (I Peter 1:25), no matter how he tries, even though he doesn't give up.

Now, while it *is* true that God's Word will always be with mankind - He preserves it for us - it is *also true* that not everyone has His inspired, infallible, inerrant, preserved Word in their hands. Since his failure to eliminate the Word of God completely, Satan has, I am convinced, been on a mission to denigrate, dilute, and minimize the degree to which the true Word of God makes it to the peoples of the world. His efforts are paying off, too. Many, if not most, of the professing Christians in the world today have now placed their faith in books that claim to be bibles but actually aren't. These books, instead, are merely partially accurate - they **contain** the Word of God, but are not **THE** Word of God.

Everywhere you look - from the pulpit to the pew, from the students in the classrooms of Bible colleges and Christian universities to the teachers and professors in those schools, from every shelf in the Christian bookstores - well-meaning believers are accepting as authoritative corrupted - versions of the Bible to their detriment and, in some instances, the very salvation of their souls.

For example, our daughter went to a "Christian" university in Arkansas, which was supposed to be one of the finer ones to be found anywhere. Yet, while there, she was prohibited from using her King James Version of the Bible by the teacher of her Bible class. When I asked why, this teacher parroted the answers she had been given by the pseudo-intellectuals as to why our daughter couldn't use the KJV in the class:

\* *That the students can't "hear" the New Testament from the King James Version.*

\* *That "it's hard for most students to also get this 'aliveness' in Elizabethan English..."*

\* *That trying to get the students "...to fight through old language forms is unnecessary."*

\* *That the KJV isn't as accurate as the "older" manuscripts*

now available to us.

These are but a few of the fallacious arguments used against the KJV and other translations that have the Textus Receptus as their basis.

Now, let's talk for a moment about -

## **HOW THIS RELATES TO THE ONE-WORD RELIGION OF THE ANTICHRIST**

When the Man of Sin is revealed following the Rapture, he will have many tremendous tasks at hand, the most important of which, for he and his master, Satan, will be the setting up of a one-world religion (*again - time and space do not permit a dissertation on that here: if you want to know how all of this will come together, visit the church website at <https://southheightsbaptist.com/series/book-of-the-revelation> and listen to the lessons on it from the Book of the Revelation that are there. If you're more of a reader, let me know and I can loan you some books on the subject*).

In order for this false religion to be accepted, as I have mentioned, the **foundation** for true faith *has to be eliminated* from the minds of mankind, and that foundation is the Word of God - the Bible. As long as the Bible stands in the minds of the lost world for what it really is - the Eternal Word of God - convincing mankind to accept the false christ will be much more difficult. BUT - if the Bible is relegated to the ash heap of history as a book of fairy tales, myths, fantastic imaginative storytelling, and plain old man-made conniving, then the job will be much easier.

**SO** - knowing all of this (he's a pretty smart guy), Satan starts with mankind in the Garden of Eden, working on people to try to get them to ignore, or, in the very least, doubt the veracity of God's words. Since he has been unable to eradicate it from the face of the earth (he's not as smart as he thinks he is), and since he knows that the time for the Rapture is steadily advancing, he got busy several hundred years ago working on ways to accomplish his goal working on this project, not only from the **outside** of the church, but from the **inside** of it, too.

Today, as I have mentioned so often, and repeat often for emphasis, he's pretty much succeeded in:

- A. Convincing the average lost person that the Bible isn't relevant to mankind today.
- B. Convincing the average lost person that the Bible is a mythical book which, at best, contains fanciful storytelling from whenceone can draw a "moral".
- C. Convincing most professing Christians that the Textus Receptus and the Bibles translated from it are not THE Word of God.

**THEREFORE** - I believe that Satan's **NEXT BIG STEP** in removing all doubt as to the veracity of the Bible will be to demonstrably prove to the people of the world that the "Bible" is a man-made book. If he can convince them of **THAT**, then he will have effectively created a spiritual vacuum that he can fill with HIS Man, and the WORDS of His Man.

To do this, he will most surely have to use the secular scholastic world - he will probably help some group of archaeologists and scientists discover "irrefutable proof" that the Bible is a man-made book. Of course, they will be talking about the "bible" as it came

through the corrupted versions descending down through Alexandria, but no one - including most church members - will know anything about the preservation of God's Word by Him through Antioch, so the lie will be accepted, hook, line, and sinker.

Now - once Satan "proves" these books that purport to be the Bible to be what they really are - forgeries and fakes - he will use the vacuum he creates by doing so to his own advantage, ultimately placing the Antichrist in the place of THE Christ and His Word.

### **HOW IT'S BEING SET UP RIGHT NOW -**

There are manifold ways that mankind is being "prepped" for the Man of Sin and his religion in so many ways that to tell it all would fill many volumes, but here are a few that you might not have thought of:

□ **The Incredible Number of Occultic and Occult-based Cartoons, TV Programs, Movies, & Games for Children Available Today** - one of the things that Satan is aware of that we tend to forget is that, following the Rapture, there will be a large number of young people left behind who were past the Age of Accountability when the Church is removed and heard the Gospel at least once before it happened. They will be ripe for recruitment in the Antichrist's religion, and to have them ready to accept his signs, wonders, and miracles (see Rev. 13:14; 16:14; and 19:20), will be important. The occultic cartoons, games, television programs and movies aimed at children (and adults) are part of this.

□ **The Rapid Increase In "Fantasy" Motion Pictures That Have Characters That Are Part Human, or Not Human At All** - Another method of preparing mankind for the false religion of the Antichrist is to get people used to the idea of "**alternate life forms**": creatures that are sometimes part human, part animal, monsters, people transforming into other types of beings, etc. One of the Antichrist's tools for conquest will be his henchmen, the demonic hoards. These vile, deformed creatures, twisted by the results of their choice to rebel against God, will be his messenger boys - his emissaries. In order for people not to be repulsed by them, Satan has to get folks used to them, and the movies and television are great tools for this. Have you noticed how many movies, for example, are coming out lately that are just downright demonic? There's a reason for that - to get people used to seeing them so they will not be afraid of them when they see them in real life.

□ **The Acceptance Of EXPERIENCE Over And Above All Else In Matters Of Faith** - one of, if not THE, biggest tricks of the Devil is to get people to place their faith in their spiritual experiences over and above anything else, including the Inspired Word of God. For many professing Christians, this has been common practice for decades - the modern neo-Pentecostal Movement, often called the Charismatic Movement, is based, not on the Word of God, but upon the **experiences** of people as they (supposedly) relate to God. In other words, the Bible and what it says have been placed in a subservient role to the experience of the person in this movement. The classic modern-day example of

this is when I heard Jim Bakker, then a prominent Charismatic Televangelist, say on live TV, "***We don't care what the BIBLE says - we've had an EXPERIENCE!***"

The perpetual willingness on the part of mankind to accept signs, wonders, and miracles as proof of the power of the person performing them (even if it is demonic), and, therefore, to be followed, is seen all through history. Suffice to say that the Man of Sin and his False Prophet will do a good job of foisting their religion on the world, and the emphasis on experience over the Word of God is going a long way to make it easier for them to do so. (Note: for more information on this subject, go to our MediaMinistry page and listen to the messages of George Gardiner:

<https://www.southheightsbaptist.com/podcasts/messages-by-dr-george-e-gardiner>

□ **The Rapid Rise And Acceptance Of The "Emergent Church" Movement Among Churches Today** - this movement is another of the enemy's tools to get man ready for the Man of Sin and his one-world religion. If you don't know anything about the Emergent Church, you need to! Check out our friend Eric Barger's website for excellent information on the subject at:

[ericbarger.injesus.com](http://ericbarger.injesus.com).

□ **The Numerous "Historical Fiction" Novels, TV Shows, and Movies** - One of the more subtle ways, I think, that people are being prepared for the announcement that the Bible has been supposedly proven to be man-made is the popularity of "historical fiction". Television shows like "Bonekickers", and movies like "National Treasure", not to mention the hugely popular "DaVinci Code" books, etc. - all of these nudge people to accepting an "alternative" to the established facts. Personally, I can easily see how a person with an impressionable mind (or one that is without Christ, especially) could be led into accepting new "discoveries" as true, such as the "proof" that the Bible is a man-made book, for one...

- more next week



## **WHAT DAY WAS CHRIST CRUCIFIED?**

(Original by Grady Daniel, edited and updated  
by Cooper Abrams)

*N*o one disputes that Jesus arose on Sunday morning, but there is much debate as to what day He was crucified. Most of us were taught Friday was the day Jesus was crucified and this has been widely accepted as the traditional day of crucifixion. But if Christ was crucified on Friday, how was He in the grave for three days and three nights as Jesus said in Matthew 12:40 He would be?

The key to understanding the day of the week on which Christ was crucified lies in Matthew 12:38-40, where He specifically states He will be in "**the heart of the earth**" for "**three days and three nights.**"

The traditional explanation mistakenly says that Jesus was

crucified on Friday. Trying to justify that Friday was the day of the crucifixion those that whole this view say that the Jews counted any part of a day as a full day. That is, part of Friday is day one; Saturday, day two; and if arose sometime Sunday morning = day three.

This explanation has some serious problems, for the Jews did not reckon time the way we do. This is one of the first considerations

1. The Jewish day ended at sundown (6:00 PM) and the new day began at sunrise (6:00 AM).

2. Their Sabbath Day began at sundown Friday (about 6 p.m.) and ended at sundown Saturday. In Genesis 1:5 after the first day of creation, God said “. . . **the evening and the morning were the first day.**” After the completion of each day of creation the Lord states the “. . . the evening and the morning were the \_\_\_\_\_ day.”

3. The word “day”, when used by itself, always and only refers to a period of time. The word has to be modified to specify what period of time it means. For example, in Acts 10:40, the Bible says, “**Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly.**” The word day, there, is modified by the word “third”, and, therefore, we know it refers specifically to only the third day (see also Acts 20:7 which refers to Sunday...the “first day” of the week). Romans 2:16 says, “**In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel**”, referring to the Judgment Day).

The modifier makes it specific as to the period of time. Grammatically, three days and three nights means three twenty four hour periods of time.

If Jesus was crucified on the traditional Friday and rose again anytime after 6 p.m. Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath), He could not have been in the tomb (“heart of the earth”) three full days and three full nights as He said He would be. Some might try to dismiss the importance of Jesus’ statement, but He said it would be a sign to the Jews that He *was* the Messiah. If He was not actually in the grave three full days and three full nights, there would be no way to authenticate the sign, so He had to be in the tomb the full time as He stated.

In the Jewish way of reckoning time, from Friday at 6 p.m. to Saturday at 6 p.m., only twenty-four hours would have passed if Jesus had been buried before 6 p.m. on Friday. From Saturday at 6 p.m. until Sunday morning at day break, it would have been a maximum of twelve hours. That gives a total of only thirty-six hours, not the seventy-two hours the Bible records that He was in the grave. Jesus said He would be in the grave for seventy-two hours and therefore He could not have been crucified on Friday.

Friday afternoon to Saturday 6 PM = 24 hours.

Saturday, 6 PM to Sunday, 6 AM = 12 hours.

Total = 36 hours (not enough time)

#### □ **WERE THESE THREE LITERAL DAYS/NIGHTS?**

Some mistakenly refer to the passage where in John 11:9 Jesus asked, “**...are there not twelve hours in the day**” to explain away the problem with the time. In creation, God divided the day and night. The evening and the morning = 1 day. If there were twelve

(12) hours in a day, then there must have been twelve (hours) in a night and the total would be twenty-four hours.

Also, anytime in the Bible when the word “day” is preceded by a number, it means whatever number of days is denoted by that number. “Day” can also be used in the Bible to mean an unspecified period of days such as Day of the Lord.

Dr. Charles Halff, Director of the Christian Jew Foundation, in writing “The Fallacies of Easter” stated: “*Sometimes people ask, ‘Didn’t the Jews count part of a day as a whole day or part of a night as a whole night?’ Let me say this, beloved. Whenever you have the expression ‘day and night’ mentioned together in the Hebrew Scriptures, it always means a full day and a full night...For instance, if you will turn to Esther 4:16; 5:1; I Samuel; 30:12-13, and of course Jonah 1:17, you will find the expression ‘three days and three nights.’ And in every instance it means full days and full nights - not part of a day and part of a night.*”

From Friday to Sunday is not three 24-hour days. Jesus said He would be resurrected after three (3) days. In Mark 8:31, the Bible states, “**And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.**” Counting backwards from Sunday three days, you will not arrive at Friday. You have to count the way the Jews did.

#### □ **HOW COULD WEDNESDAY BE THE DAY BEFORE THE SABBATH?**

But if He was crucified the day before the Sabbath, how could He have been crucified on Wednesday? The answer lies in the fact that the Jews celebrated more Sabbaths than just the weekly Sabbath - they had a number of feast days that were called “High Sabbaths,” or high days. He arose on the first day of the week after the Sabbaths\* (plural). Sometime after 6 p.m. Saturday, end of the Jewish day, in Matthew 28:1 we read; “**In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.**”

Dr. C. I. Scofield states that the word, “Sabbath” in this verse is plural; from the Greek word “sabbata.” The day after the crucifixion was not the regular (Saturday) Sabbath but a Special (“High” - Greek, “megas”, large) Sabbath.

John 19:31 says, “**The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day,**” (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) “**besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.**”

The Jews observed several “high” Sabbaths (“holy convocations”) in their seasons. Leviticus 23:3-6 says, “**Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord’s passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.**”

The first Jewish month (Nisan or Abib) is our April. The Feast of the Passover (a high Sabbath) and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread (another high Sabbath) were celebrated on April 14th and 15th respectively.

The day Jesus died was the preparation day (Wednesday) for the Passover celebration that was to be held on Thursday - “**And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he (meaning Pilate) saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!**” (John 19:14). This was the morning of the crucifixion day. Verse 31 states, “**The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day,**” (for that Sabbath day was an high day.) “**...besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.**”

Therefore, Passover (Nisan 14) was on Thursday, that year, the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on Friday (seven day feast last to Nisan 21), and the regular weekday Sabbath was on Saturday. Jesus was crucified in the morning on Wednesday, and He was placed in the tomb before 6 P.M. that day. He arose from the grave sometime after 6 P.M. on Saturday, which would be early Sunday morning, the first day of the week, according to Jewish time-keeping. This explanation fits Jesus’ prophecy in Matthew 12:40 that He would be “**three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**”

#### □ **FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM THE BIBLE**

The women purchased spices “after the Sabbath” or the Passover (Nisan 14 - Thursday) which would have been Friday as Mark 15:42 and Luke 23:52-54 state. They would not have broken the Law and purchased anything on the Day of the Passover, or the regular Sabbath on Saturday. Luke 23:56 says they returned and prepared the spices and “rested on the Sabbath” which was the regular Sabbath on Saturday. Then on the first day of the week, Sunday morning they went to the tomb to prepare the body.

#### □ **CONCLUSION:**

This is the only view that fits the biblical account. Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and buried before 6:00 PM that day. The Jewish day, which began at 6:00 PM, was the Passover (Nisan 14). Therefore, the Passover began on Wednesday after 6:00 PM, which would actually be Thursday as the Jews reckoned time. The women, who brought the spices on Friday, rested on Saturday and went on Sunday morning after 6:00 AM, finding the empty tomb. This is the series of events and is accord with Jesus’ statement in Matthew 12:38-40. Hence, Jesus was in the grave three full days and three nights. Any other view violates the biblical account and the historical facts. ■



## **Should Christians Celebrate Easter?**

Many Christians are unaware of the origins of Easter, which is actually a pagan festival held in honor of idols. In fact, Easter was celebrated

hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus Christ. It wasn’t until at least 300 years **after** the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the establishment of Roman Catholicism that the official celebration of his resurrection began to be intermingled with the pagan practices of Easter.

Some interesting facts -

#### **The word “Easter” and the goddess it represents -**

The word “Easter” is derived from “Eostre,” the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess, and/or “Eostare,” the Norse pagan festival of spring. When God gave the law to the Israelites in the Old Testament, He clearly instructed them to refrain from even uttering the name of other gods (**Exodus 23:13**). Names like Aphrodite, Asherah, Ashtoreth, Astarte, Diana, Eostre, Ianna, Ishtar, Isis, Ostara, Semiramis, Venus, . . . call her what you will, but she is one and the same - a false goddess, an idol, worshiped by pagans, and God declares that she is detestable.

Asherah is mentioned in the Old Testament quite frequently (**Ex. 34:13; Deut. 7:5; Deut. 12:2-4; Deut. 16:21; etc.**). Ashtoreth (the Babylonian goddess of the woods and nature) is also mentioned by name in the Bible (**Judges 2:11-13; I Samuel 7:3; I Kings 11:5, 33**). In every instance, she is an idol which greatly angers God. Inanna, the Sumerian patron of the temple prostitutes (also considered the merciful mother who intercedes with the gods on behalf of her worshipers), is represented with a star inscribed in a circle. There are several scriptures which clearly show that worship of any of the celestial elements (sun, moon or stars) is forbidden by God (**Deut. 17:2-5; II Kings 21:3-7, II Kings 23:4-15; Ezekiel 8:15-16**). Ishtar [pronounced “Aes-tar”] (the Babylonian/Chaldean goddess of love and war) and Semiramis (an Assyrian goddess) were both known as the “Queen of Heaven.” And the “Queen of Heaven” is specifically mentioned in the Bible (**Jer. 7:18; 44:19, 25**).

What, other than the obvious connection of the words “Easter” and “Eostre” does this goddess have to do with the modern celebration of Easter? Plenty.

□ **Spring and Nature.** Diana (the Ephesian goddess of sex, fertility, virginity and motherhood) was said to be the source of nature. Eostre (an Anglo-Saxon/Teutonic goddess) was the goddess of the sunrise and spring. Ostara (a Norse/Saxon goddess) was the maiden goddess of spring.

□ **Sunrise Services.** The book of Ezekiel shows rather clearly what God thinks of sunrise services: “. . . **there. . . were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east**” (**Ez. 8:16**). We know that the sun is only in the east at sunrise. God will not spare those who observe this practice, look upon them with pity, or even listen to them (**Ez. 8:1-18**). Besides, if it is the Christian’s intent to observe the resurrection of Jesus Christ, one should take note that he arose before, not during, sunrise (**John 20:1**)!

□ **Bunnies and Eggs.** According to Teutonic myth, the hare was once a bird whom Eostre changed into a four-footed creature. Thus, it can also lay eggs. The hare is also the sacred companion

and sacrificial victim of Eostre. Astarte (a Phoenician/Syrian goddess), on the other hand, was believed to have been hatched from a huge egg which fell into the Euphrates.



□ **Good Friday.** Did you ever wonder why Good Friday is recognized as the day Jesus died and Sunday as the day He arose, but yet had trouble explaining how he could thus be buried for three days and three nights (*Matt. 12:40; 27:63; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34*)? The answer is simple: He didn't actually die on "Good Friday." The Chaldeans offered cakes to Ishtar on the equivalent of the day we know as Good Friday. When the Roman Catholic Church wanted to appease the paganistic people in order to "convert" them to Christianity, they moved the dates accordingly! He was actually crucified on a Wednesday.

□ **Hot Cross Buns and Fires.** Cakes bearing a cross-like symbol representing the pair of cow-horns on the moon goddess, Isis, were offered by ancient Egyptians. The cakes which Greeks offered to Astarte and other divinities were called *bous* or *boun*, from which the word "bun" is derived. The Babylonians/Chaldeans offered similar cakes to the "Queen of Heaven." Fires were lit on top of mountains and had to be kindled from new fire, drawn from wood by friction. The fire was then used to bake cakes in sacrifice to Semiramis, the "Queen of Heaven." This practice, along with burning incense, was used in conjunction with baking the cakes and is mentioned specifically in the Bible (*I Kings 11:8; II Kings 17:7-16; 18:4; 23:4-15; Isaiah 17:8*). In addition to the cross imprinted on these cakes representing the horns of the goddess, it also sometimes represented the four seasons or four phases of the moon. Cakes were also offered to or eaten in honor of Apollo, Diana, Hecate, and the moon (also Diana's symbol).

□ **Lent.** The word "lent" is of Anglo-Saxon origin meaning "spring." Lent developed from the pagan celebration of weeping, fasting, and mourning for 40 days over the death of Tammuz (one day for each year of his life). Tammuz (the son/husband of the Babylonian idol Ishtar) was killed by a wild boar and then allegedly resurrected. This mourning of Tammuz is specifically prophesied by Ezekiel in the Bible and is characterized by God Himself as being detestable (*Ez. 8:13-15*).

□ **Lily.** Asherah (a Sidonian goddess) was frequently represented as a nude woman bstride a lion with a lily (symbolizing grace and sex appeal) in one hand and a serpent (symbolizing fecundity) in the other.

□ **New Clothing.** The tradition of wearing new clothing for Easter comes from the superstition that a new garment worn at Easter means good luck throughout the year.

□ **The Festival.** The timing of the festival of "Eostar" (the festival of spring) predates the birth of Jesus Christ, and the festival was always celebrated in conjunction with pagan idol worship. In 325 A.D., it was conveniently linked to the full moon on or following the spring or vernal equinox, March 21, when nature is in resurrection after winter. This is also when Easter is celebrated in modern times. Of course, there isn't anything wrong

with remembering and observing the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

□ **Who celebrates Easter?** Witches, who base their celebrations (including Halloween) on the phases of the moon, celebrate Easter. Christians, however, are clearly forbidden from observing this pagan celebration (*Deut. 12:30-31; Luke 4:8; I Cor. 10:20-22; Eph. 5:11*). There is a good reason why the early church never spoke of Easter and why there is absolutely no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament (The only exception is a mistranslation in the King James Version of *Acts 12:4*, where it gives the word "Easter" instead of the correct translation "Passover").

Should Christians celebrate Easter? If it means having Easter egg hunts, bunnies, and such, **NO**. But we **CAN** use this specific day to remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In truth, we do that every time we get together on Sunday, **for EVERY Sunday is RESURRECTION DAY!**

Like Christmas, the Bible-believing Christian must be diligent to "**Abstain from all appearance of evil**" (*I Thess. 5:22*). Unlike Halloween, Christmas and Easter have almost totally lost their original, pagan meanings, and it would seem that if a Christian can keep things focused on the **real reason** for the celebration, there would be no need to "throw the baby out with the bathwater."

In a word, let we, as believers in the Risen Christ, **"Observe RESURRECTION SUNDAY, rather than Easter."** ■



## PRIORITIES

The greatest threat to our Christian homes is not always the trans/LGBTQ crowd, the drag queen story hours, or the liberal policies coming out of California & NYC... Often, it is the SIN of idolatry practiced by many conservative Christian families who say they "love Jesus", but are more faithful to the ballpark, little league, and the lake on Sundays than they are to God's house. Before you stand to sing "God Bless America" at the ballpark, stop to ask yourself if you have really given God anything to bless by your absence from His house...

Just a friendly reminder that, even with spring weather, our Lord and His church should still be the #1 priority for the Christian. God honors those who honor Him and strive to put Him first in all that they do!

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).*

### NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **U.S. ATTEMPT TO DEFINE GENDER ACCORDING TO BIOLOGY BLOCKED BY EU** - The U.S. standing alone for biological gender is a major sign of the lateness of the prophetic

times. "**Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us**" (*Psalms 2:1-3*).

The following is excerpted from "EU blocks US vote," *Fox News, Mar. 23, 2026*:

"The United States stood alone at the United Nations in early March after a European-led procedural move blocked a vote on defining gender in biological terms at one of the world's leading forums on women's rights. At the conclusion of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the U.S. was the only country to oppose the body's annual 'Agreed Conclusions,' citing concerns that the language departs from biological definitions of women and girls. No other member state voted with the United States. ... The U.S. introduced a resolution titled 'Protection of women and girls through appropriate terminology,' which sought to clarify how gender is understood across U.N. policy. The draft states that the term 'gender' should be interpreted 'according to its ordinary, generally accepted usage, as referring to men and women.' The proposal never reached a vote. Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Union, introduced a 'no action motion,' a procedural tool that blocks debate and prevents a proposal from being considered. The motion passed, halting the U.S. resolution before it reached the floor."

□ **CHRISTIAN PARENTS LOSE APPEAL TO REUNITE WITH DAUGHTERS** - The following is excerpted from "Sweden's Top Court Rejects," *Standing for Freedom, 3/1926*:

"The European Court of Human Rights has declined to hear a case brought by a Christian couple seeking the return of their two daughters, who were taken into state custody by Swedish authorities in 2022 following allegations of abuse and concerns about religious extremism. Daniel and Bianca Samson have spent more than three years attempting to regain custody of their daughters, Sara, then 11, and Tiana, 10. According to the family's legal representative, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) International, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the case was 'inadmissible' because the parents had not exhausted all available legal remedies in Sweden. ADF International disputed that conclusion, saying in a statement that 'there were no further options for domestic recourse.'

... The children were removed from the home after Sara told school officials that her parents had abused her. According to ADF International, she later withdrew the allegation, which the organization said stemmed from a dispute over her parents' refusal to allow her to have a cell phone or to wear makeup. Authorities opened an investigation into the family but later closed it after finding no evidence of abuse. ... Despite that evaluation and the closure of the abuse investigation, Swedish officials declined to return the children, labeling the parents as 'religious extremists' based on their frequent church attendance and household rules that prohibit their young daughters from wearing makeup or having their own cell phones.

... According to ADF International, the girls have remained

separated from their parents and from each other since December 2022, living in different foster homes. The arrangement has limited the family's contact to just a single supervised visit each month. ... This is the outworking of the progressive secular ideology that has taken root in many Western countries. This belief system is rooted not in tolerance but in permissiveness, and that puts it in direct conflict with Christianity, which teaches restraint, duty, self-control, obedience, and yes, regular church attendance and fellowship with other Christians."

□ **COTTON CANDY FAITH** - The following is excerpted from "Cotton Candy Faith: How Popular Women's Bible Teachers Are Leading Many Astray," *The Disnr, Apr. 7, 2025*:

"It's been said that if you want to see the theological temperature of the modern American church, you don't go to the pulpit--you go to the fellowship hall, where a circle of women sit cradling pastel-covered workbooks with Beth Moore's name stamped across the front like a branding iron. The giggles are warm, the tears are real, the coffee is mediocre, and the doctrine is nowhere to be found.

But this is not Bible study. It's emotional group therapy with a spiritual twist and a three-chord worship song humming in the background. And what passes for teaching in these circles is so syrupy and hollow, you'd think the goal was to disciple hummingbirds.

Welcome to the world of Evangelical ladies' Bible studies--where feelings are exegesis, self is savior, and God is little more than your best friend with benefits. At the center of this estrogen-fueled ecosystem are the usual suspects: Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, Christine Caine, Ann Voskamp, Kelly Minter, and a whole army of inspirational Pinterest prophets serving up spiritual soy lattes to a generation of theologically starved women. They call it empowering. We call it emasculating, effeminate, and utterly allergic to the sharp edge of truth.

Yet, these women didn't sneak into the spotlight--they were launched. Propped up by publishing houses like Lifeway and Christian conference circuits desperate to monetize female piety; they were gift-wrapped and shipped to churches with the promise of being 'safe' alternatives to dangerous, doctrinally robust theology. They were marketed as relatable, down-to-earth, and winsome--code, of course, for doctrinally neutered, emotionally indulgent, and conveniently soft on everything that matters. Their rise wasn't organic. It was orchestrated. If Christian publishing were a dating app, these lady-preachers were the algorithm-approved matches for a generation of women who think discernment is a spiritual gift for mean people.

At the heart of their collective teaching is a singular, unwavering false gospel: *You are enough. Not Christ crucified. Not sin repented of. Just you—flawed, fabulous, fiercely loved, and in desperate need of absolutely nothing but a slightly more poetic journal entry.* In fact, these women do not preach or teach the gospel at all. Instead, they preach therapeutic narcissism. And they do it with flair." ■