

## Myth #7

“Easter and Christmas are Biblical”

# Easter



- Originally, the church was almost completely Jewish and celebrated Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. Passover is the day when Jesus/Yeshua died as the Passover Lamb to take away the sin of the world.
- As the church became more Gentile, it lost connection with the biblical calendar and had to find out from the Jews what day the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan was, which could be any day of the week. Asking the Jews which day to celebrate became awkward.
- So the mainly-Gentile church moved to a Sunday Easter instead. The date was fixed by the Roman/Gregorian calendar. Those keeping the biblical Passover were shunned or outlawed.



# Easter

- Easter in the church was meant to be a celebration of the resurrection of Yeshua from the grave. But as Easter lost its connection to Passover, it began to adopt ancient fertility rituals.
- The name Easter itself is derived from the ancient fertility goddess known by different names: Astarte, Ashtorah, Ishtar, Eostra.
- Fertility symbols include rabbits, lilies, and eggs.
- Easter is not a biblical feast in Leviticus 23. Passover is.



# Christmas

- Saturnalia was a pagan feast celebrated December 17<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Saturnalia included intoxication, license, and eating human shaped biscuits (the source for today's gingerbread men).
- The church adopted Saturnalia to bring the masses into Christianity.
- The Reverend Increase Mather of Boston observed in 1687 that “the early Christians who first observed the Nativity on December 25 did not do so thinking that Christ was born in that Month, but because the Heathens’ Saturnalia was at that time kept in Rome.”<sup>(1)</sup>
- The church’s celebration of Saturnalia has historically been a bad experience for Jews, especially in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>(2)</sup>



1. Increase Mather, *A Testimony against Several Prophan and Superstitious Customs, Now Practiced by Some in New England* (London, 1687), p. 35. See also Stephen Nissenbaum, *The Battle for Christmas: A Cultural History of America's Most Cherished Holiday*, New York: Vintage Books, 1997, p. 4.

2. David I. Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001, p. 74-75.

# Christmas

- Bringing a tree into the house and decorating it is an ancient pagan custom.
- “The use of evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands to symbolize eternal life was a custom of the ancient Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. Tree worship was common among the pagan Europeans...to scare away the devil...”<sup>(1)</sup>
- “For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.” Jeremiah 10.3-4

1. Christmas Tree, Encyclopedia Britannica, 2012



# Christmas



- Christmas is not a biblical feast.
- If you want to give gifts in the winter, try Hannukah. Jesus celebrated it, John 10.22-23: “Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade.”
- Better yet, consider keeping the biblical feasts of Leviticus 23...





# What are the Feasts of the LORD?

For about 1,800 years, the church replaced the biblical feasts of Leviticus 23 with manmade feasts of Easter and Christmas.

One result of forgetting the Feasts of the LORD is missing how Yeshua kept and fulfilled them. Most know that Yeshua is the Passover Lamb who fulfilled the first feast of Passover. But what about the rest? Yeshua fulfilled the first four feasts in order.

Trumpets, sometimes called Rosh Hashanah, is the next feast to be fulfilled and usually occurs in September or October.

Are you ready for the year of its fulfillment? Here is a chart of the feasts, chosen from the [web](#).

	PASSOVER			PENTECOST			TABERNACLES		
	PASSOVER	UNLEAVEN BREAD	FIRSTFRUIT	FEAST OF WEEKS	PENTECOST	NO FEASTS	TRUMPETS	ATONEMENT	TABERNACLES
TYPE				"WEEK of SABBATHS" OR "SEVEN SABBATHS"					
	14 <sup>TH</sup> DAY	15 <sup>TH</sup> DAY	16 <sup>TH</sup> DAY	(50 DAYS)	6 <sup>TH</sup> DAY		1 <sup>ST</sup> DAY	10 <sup>TH</sup> DAY	15 <sup>TH</sup> -22 <sup>ND</sup> DAYS
ANITYPE				DURING THIS SEVEN WEEKS THE HARVEST WAS GATHERED		THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERING THE CHURCH			
	1 <sup>ST</sup> MONTH	1 <sup>ST</sup> MONTH	1 <sup>ST</sup> MONTH	2 <sup>ND</sup> MONTH	3 <sup>RD</sup> MONTH	4 <sup>TH</sup> 5 <sup>TH</sup> 6 <sup>TH</sup> MONTHS	7 <sup>TH</sup> MONTH	7 <sup>TH</sup> MONTH	7 <sup>TH</sup> MONTH
LESSON	SALVATION	SEPARATION	RESURRECTION	"TARRY HERE"	BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT		COMING	CLEAN-SING	CONSUMATION
	ABIB APRIL	OR	NISAN APRIL	ZIF MAY	SIVAN JUNE	TAMMUZ-AB-ELUL JULY-AUG-SEPT	ETHANIM OCTOBER	OR	TISRI OCTOBER

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**BUSTED!**