

The pagan holiday Easter, or Astarte, One of the titles of Beltis, the QUEEN OF HEAVEN

KJV ERRORS: Easter/Passover

Many claim that the King James Version has serious '**errors**' in it. The most quoted '**error**' concerns the use of the word **Easter** in Acts 12: 1-4. The original word, these believers maintain, should have been translated as **Passover** - not **Easter!** Let us now examine the passage concerned and see if that argument holds water.

Acts 12:1-4

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the **days of unleavened bread**.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; **intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people**.

To properly understand the sequence of events described above I will briefly explain some facts about the sacred calendar.

- The first **Passover** occurred in ancient Egypt when **Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews** spared the lives of Israel's eldest sons and slaughtered the firstborn of Egypt. That event took place on the evening (night) of the 14th Abib (Nisan), the first month in the sacred calendar. The Passover which is an event rather than a day, is now commemorated each year on the evening of the same date. The story IS well known and is recorded in Exodus chapters 11 and 12.
- **After the Passover came the seven days of Unleavened Bread**. The week of unleavened bread begins on the evening of the 14th Abib and finishes on the evening of the 21st Abib. This whole week is sometimes referred to as the Passover week: but, strictly speaking, its proper name is Week of Unleavened Bread. When the Passover and the days of unleavened bread are mentioned in the same passage, as in Acts 12: 1-4, we can be certain that the Passover refers to the event which occurs on the evening of the 14th Abib and the days of unleavened bread refer to the week that follows. (i.e. 15th-21st Abib or Nisan).

The events recorded in Acts 12:3-4 *occurred during the days of unleavened bread*. In other words, the Passover in that particular year had passed, it was history, it had gone. Why, then, would Herod wait for an event which had already passed? Surely Herod knew that the Passover had passed and that the days of unleavened bread were in progress. What, then, was Herod really waiting for before releasing Peter? The answer is: **Herod was waiting for Easter to come and go just as the King James Version says**. We can be confident that the translators of the KJV knew full well why in this passage they rendered the word '**Pesah**' as '**Easter**' and not '**Passover**' as at other times. Their combined knowledge of Hebrew and Greek and the vast amount of manuscript evidence before them (thousands of copies, versions, and church-father citations etc.) were all used to arrive at **every word** in the King James Version. Are we, whose knowledge of these languages is microscopic by comparison, to challenge their judgment? The fact is that Herod, **during the days of unleavened bread**, was not waiting for the Passover -which had come and gone; he was waiting for Easter just as the KJV says.

The events in our story tell us that:

- The **Passover** in that particular year was history.
- The **Days of Unleavened Bread** (15th -21st Abib) were in progress.
- And **Easter** was approaching; after which Herod planned to bring out Peter.

The question now arises: Was the pagan festival of Easter known at that time? And were the Romans keeping **Easter**? The answer is - yes. The pagan festival of Easter, with its hot cross buns and Easter Sunday sunrise services was well known in ancient Babylon and Rome centuries before: the events recorded in Acts 12. Let me quote a short passage about **EASTER** from Alexander Hislop's book **The Two Babylons**. (ISBN I) 713604700

"Then look at **Easter**. What means the term **Easter** itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its forehead. **Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the QUEEN OF HEAVEN**, whose name as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments. is **Ishtar**. The worship of Bel and **Astarte** was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, '**the priests of the groves**' "(page 103)

No scholar doubts the fact that **Easter** is a pagan festival which came down from ancient times, long before the Christian era. The next question is: **Did some Israelites keep Easter and worship the QUEEN OF HEAVEN?** Did they bake hot cross buns for Ishtar -**Easter**? The answer, surprisingly, is again -**yes!** Ancient Israel worshipped the **Queen of Heaven - ISHTAR** and they paid her homage each year with special cakes (buns) and drink offerings. I quote Scripture:

Jeremiah 7: 18: The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to **make cakes to the queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Jeremiah 44: 18: But since we left off to burn incense to the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. 19: And when we **burned incense** to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we **make her cakes to worship her**, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men? 20: Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying, 21: The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into his mind? 22: So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day. 23: Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day. 24:

Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt: 25: Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the **queen of heaven**, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.

Oh yes, many ancient Israelites kept **Easter**. Modern Israelis still do. In summary we can say that when Herod, after the Passover and during the days of unleavened bread, shut up Peter intending to bring him out **after Easter**, Herod meant exactly what the King James Version is saying. He meant Easter not **Passover** which had already come and gone' This means that every translation which uses the word

Passover in Acts 12:3-4 is, strictly speaking, incorrect. **Easter** is the correct word, and the King James Version uses it.