

# A Brief History of Easter

## ⌘ Origin of the Term - Easter

- ⊞ Mis-translated only in KJV in Acts 12:4 because it was already being used to designate the “Christian Passover” (see Note 1)
- ⊞ The word Easter is derived from the Chaldean goddess Astarte, queen of heaven (see Notes 2&3)
  - ⊞ Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25

## ⌘ Origin of the Feast - Easter

- ⊞ It was originally a continuation of the Jewish Passover feast and referred to as the “Christian Passover” but later the Pagan Easter feast was introduced in Western Europe when they attempted to convert people to Christianity, they would adapt local religious customs to Christianity. (see Notes 2&4)
  - ⊞ 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

## ⌘ How Easter Grew Out of O.T. Passover

### ⊞ Prior to Jesus' Death

- ⊞ The Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread
  - ⊞ Matthew 26:17-19; Exodus 12:1-20; 23:14-15

### ⊞ Beginning of the church - 70 ad

- ⊞ Acts 21:18-25; Romans 14:5-6

### ⊞ 70 ad - 325 ad

- ⊞ The Destruction of the Temple widens the gulf between Jew & Gentile. Jewish religion turns to the home and the synagogue with the temple gone, and Christians are excluded from the synagogues. (see Note 13)
- ⊞ Meanwhile Christians in 2nd Century begin the debate over when the Pasch (Easter) should be observed, same as Jews or first Sunday after Passover. (see Notes 4-11)

### ⊞ After 325 ad

- ⊞ Emperor Constantine supported a meeting to decide the debate, it was ruled first Sunday after Passover, later it became first Sunday after first full moon in spring and has continued this way till today in Western “Churches” (see Note 6,8,10,11)