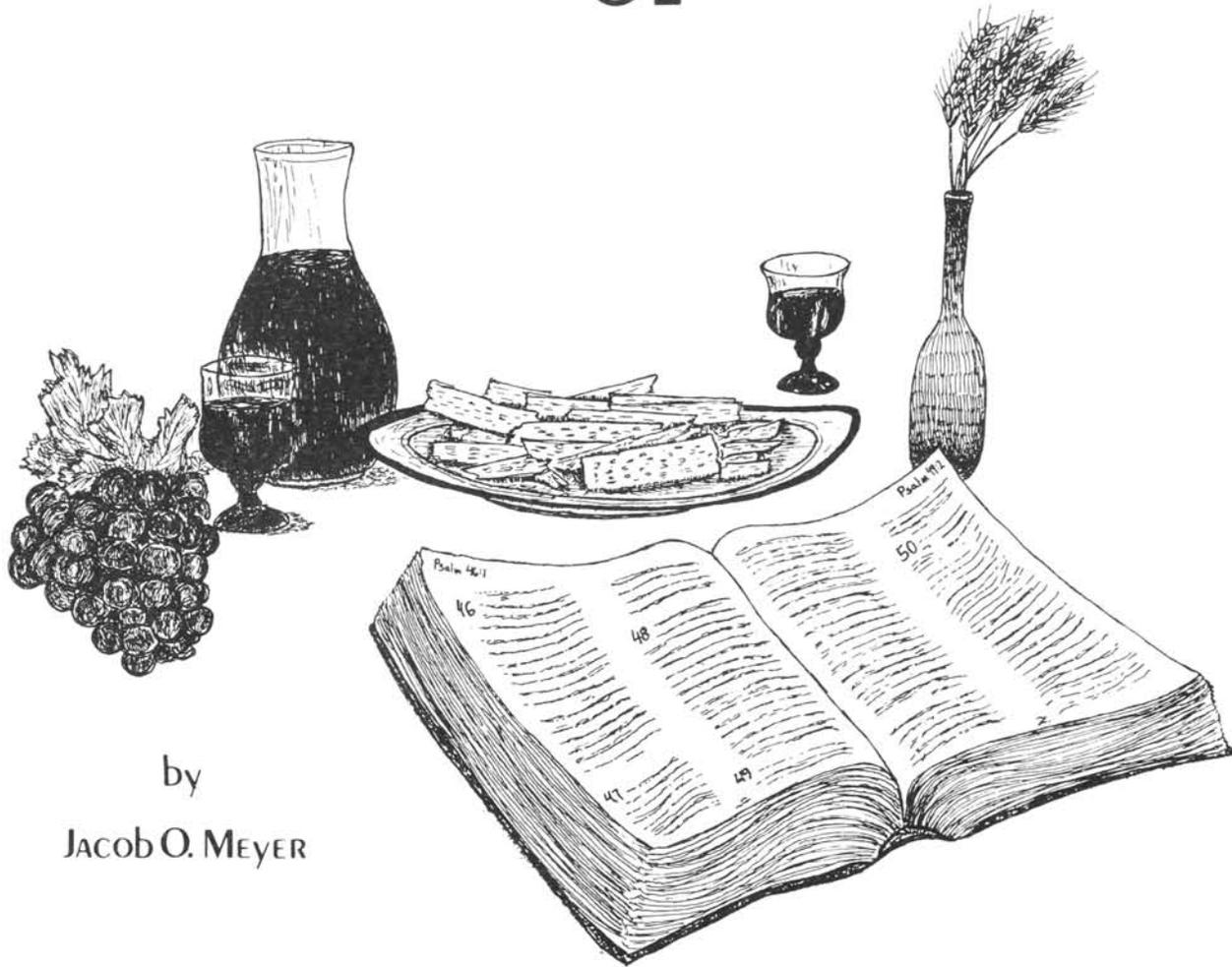


# EASTER

or



by  
JACOB O. MEYER

# PASSOVER ?

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*This garden tomb just outside of the walls of Jerusalem is probably where Yahshua was entombed. From these plainly recorded events has arisen a great controversy.*

# EASTER or PASSOVER ?

A peculiar phenomenon grips nominal Christianity. Having substituted different "holy" days for those which are legislated in the Scriptures, they nevertheless insist that their faith is Bible based. Sometime during the centuries intervening between the Apostolic era and our contemporary age an obvious change occurred as the True Worship which was founded by the Messiah took on many different characteristics.

The New Testament Apostolic faith began as a revival of Judaism, but it has culminated in the total alteration of appearance evident in the churches of the world today. When this fact is brought to the attention of the average church members, they often become indignant. Lacking any scriptural precedent for their religious practices,

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by JACOB O. MEYER

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they hastily appeal to the writings of the Apostle Paul, which they twist to their own destruction.

Second Peter 3:15-16, *"And account that the longsuffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction."*

Rather than taking a good hard look at the facts, both scripturally and historically documented, and then acting on what the tangible evidence shows; churchianity turns its head and continues espousing the popular

view which is held by the majority of people.

Let us never forget that the majority is not always right! We need to remind ourselves that Yahshua the Messiah and His disciples, although few in number, held the key to sound doctrine in the days when they walked on this earth. It is imperative that we return to the faith which they held if we wish to be in the truth.

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## New Testament Holy Days

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When we carefully examine the holidays which are observed by the people of nominal Christianity, we find included among them a spring festival called "Easter." A superficial examination of the time in which it

occurs reveals that it is usually observed in close proximity to Israel's Passover. Presumably everyone who has ever read the written accounts by the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) describing the suffering and death of Yahshua the Messiah, will recall that His death occurred in connection with the Passover, Matthew 26:2.

Yahshua and His disciples observed the Passover, Matthew 26:19-20 and Mark 14:16-17. Luke 22:13-16 explains, *"And they went, and found as he had said to them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: for I say to you, I shall not eat it, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of Yahweh."*

The Passover Memorial is to be observed forever, Exodus 12:24, *"And you shall observe this thing for an ordinance to you and to your sons forever."*

Yahshua the Messiah is our Passover sacrifice for us; therefore, we are

commanded upon Apostolic authority to keep the feast, even in this New Testament era. Let us notice 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, *"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah: therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."* If you have never before seen the necessity of keeping the feasts of Yahweh, you should study this vital subject immediately! We have free literature available on the subject. Write today to: Assemblies of Yahweh; P.O. Box C; Bethel, PA 19507.

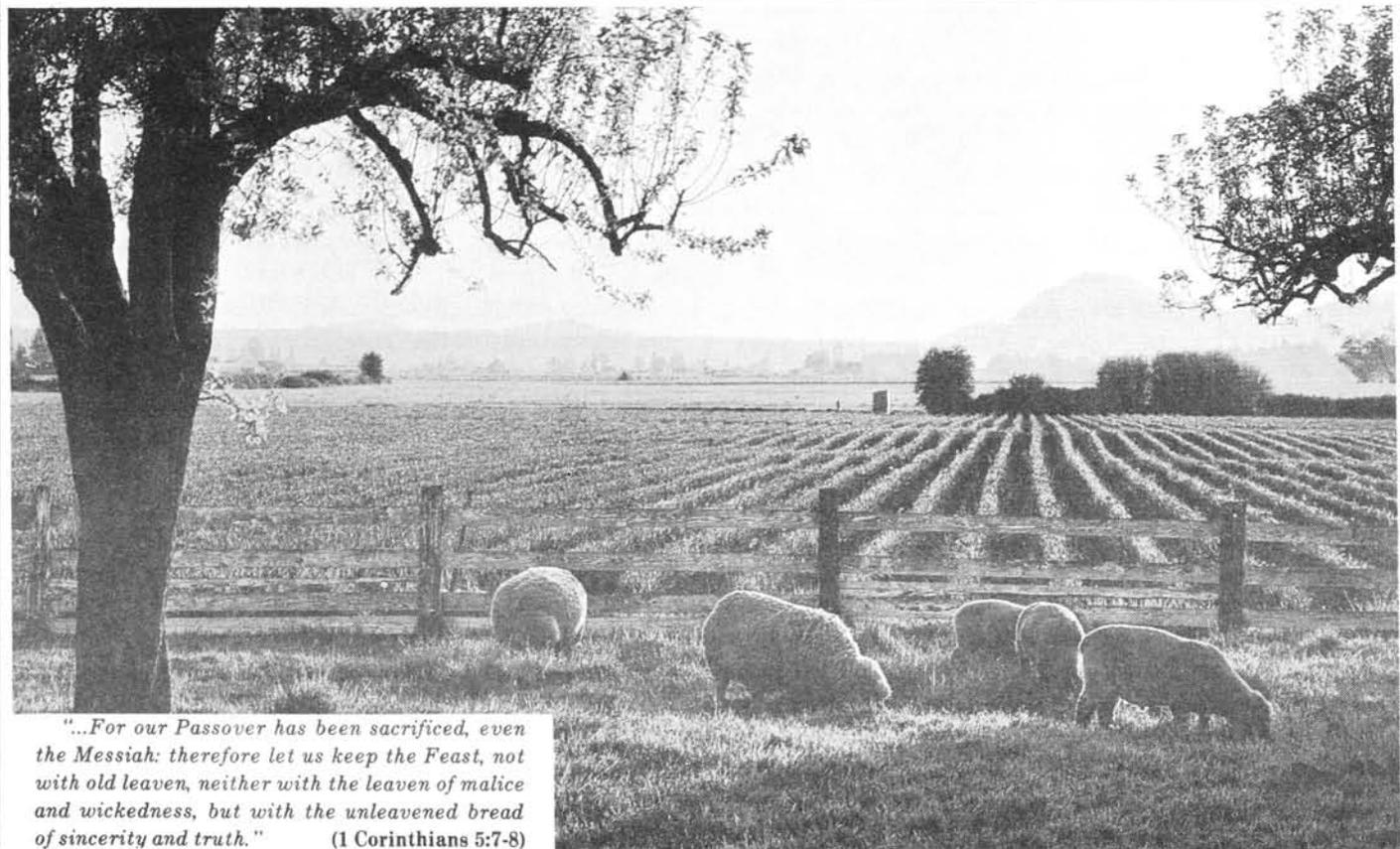
### Passover Not Easter in the New Testament

If we peruse a concordance to locate the word "Easter" in the Bible, we

learn that it is found only one time in the **King James Version**, in Acts 12:4. A close examination of the Greek text yields the fact that the word "Easter" is not found there! Neither is it found in the Aramaic (Syriac) New Testament. Both texts read "pascha," which is derived from the Hebrew word **pesach**. It means **Passover**.

History reveals that the primitive Apostolic assembly kept the Passover rather than the spring holy days which are currently observed by nominal Christianity. Additionally, the sects that trace their history to the Apostolic assembly also kept the Passover Memorial of the Messiah's death. It was only after pagan corruption had thoroughly permeated these groups that Good Friday and Easter were substituted for the observance of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Please read the following enlightening quote carefully. This quote is taken from **Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History**, chapter XXIV, p. 208, which may be found in almost any library.



*"...For our Passover has been sacrificed, even the Messiah: therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)*



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"Watch for the new moon of Green Ears, and keep the passover to Yahweh your Elohim; for in the month of Abib Yahweh your Elohim brought you forth out of Egypt by night." (Deuteronomy 16:1)

Notice that all the primitive Apostolic believers faithfully kept the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, just as Yahshua the Messiah had taught them.

"The bishops, however of Asia, persevering in observing the custom handed down to them from their fathers, were headed by Polycrates. He, indeed, had also set forth the tradition handed down to them, in a letter which he addressed to Victor and the [assembly] at Rome. 'We,' he said, 'therefore, OBSERVE THE GENUINE DAY; NEITHER ADDING THERETO NOR TAKING THEREFROM. For in Asia great lights have fallen asleep, which shall rise again in the day of the [Master's] appearing, in which He will come with glory from heaven, and will raise up all the saints; Philip, one of the twelve apostles, who sleeps in Hierapolis, and his two aged virgin daughters. His other daughter, also, who having lived under the influence of the Holy Spirit, now likewise resides in Ephesus. Moreover, John, who rested upon the bosom of our [Master]; who also was a priest, and bore the sacerdotal plate, both a martyr and teacher. He is buried in Ephesus; also Polycarp of Smyrna, both bishop and martyr. Thraxas, also,

bishop and martyr of Eumenia, who is buried at Smyrna. Why should I mention Sagaris, bishop and martyr, who rests at Laodicea. Moreover, the blessed Papirius; and Melito, the eunuch, whose walk and conversation was altogether under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who now rests at Sardis, awaiting the episcopate from heaven, when he shall rise from the dead. ALL THESE OBSERVED THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE PASSOVER ACCORDING TO THE [GLAD TIDINGS], DEVIATING IN NO RESPECT, BUT FOLLOWING THE RULE OF FAITH. Moreover, I, Polycrates, who am the least of all of you, according to the tradition of my relatives, some of whom I have followed. For there were seven, my relatives, bishops, and I am the eighth; and my relatives ALWAYS OBSERVED THE DAY WHEN THE PEOPLE (I.E. THE JEWS) THREW AWAY THE LEAVEN. I, therefore, brethren, am now sixty-five years in the [Master], who having conferred with the brethren throughout the world, and having studied the whole of the sacred Scriptures, am not at all alarmed at those things with which I am threatened, to intimidate me. For they who are greater than I, have said, 'we ought to obey [Yahweh] rather than men.' ' (Emphasis ours.)

How perfectly clear that the early Apostles followed the example of the Messiah and observed His death upon the 14th of Abib, just as do the brethren in True Worship today who are joined in one Body in the Assemblies of Yahweh. But what was the reaction of Victor, bishop of Rome, and his congregation? Did they accept the admonition of the elder Polycrates? Let us again quote from this same chapter of Eusebius. "Upon this, Victor, the bishop of the [assembly] of Rome, forthwith endeavored to cut off the [assemblies] of all Asia, together with the neighboring [assemblies], as heterodox, from the common unity. And he publishes abroad by letters, and proclaims, that all the brethren there are wholly excommunicated. But this was not the opinion of all the bishops." Apparently some of the assemblies of primitive Apostolic True Worship were still holding tenaciously to the faith which was once and for all time delivered to the saints, Jude 3. They

were obedient to the commandments of Yahweh and they held a faith in Yahshua the Messiah. Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 are similar in thought content. The following quote is Revelation 12:17, "And the dragon became exceedingly angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and hold the testimony of Yahshua."

The following quote comes from the writings of Dr. Solomon Zeitlin, found in the *Jerusalem Quarterly Review*, Vol. LX, January 1970, article "The Origin of the Term Edom for Rome, and The Roman Church." "During the first three centuries of the Christian era many Christians, particularly in Asia, celebrated Pascha (Easter) on the 14th day after the new moon of Nisan. Hence they were called **QUARTODECIMANS**. At the Council of Nicea, 325 C.E., those **WHO CELEBRATED THE 14TH DAY OF NISAN WERE DECLARED HERETICS**. The Christians were prohibited from celebrating Pascha at the time the Jews were celebrating Passover. The Emperor Constantine, who presided over the Council, said, 'Let us have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd.' Epistles were sent to the [assemblies] with the warning not to celebrate Pascha on the 14th day of Nisan. Eusebius refers to these epistles as 'Festals Epistles.'" It is important also that we remember that the Nazarenes kept the feasts of Yahweh as has been shown in previous articles published in the **Sacred Name Broadcaster**. Those Nazarenes were the continuation of the Apostolic Assembly which has come down to our day. (If you would like copies of these articles, write to the Assemblies of Yahweh; P.O. Box C; Bethel, PA 19507.)

Further evidence linking Sunday Easter observance to the Council of Nicea may be found in **How It Started** by Webb Garrison. In the section entitled, "Easter, Festival of the Moon," the author explains the Council's decision, and one sentence in particular proves very significant. "Anti-Jewish sentiment to the contrary, Easter occasionally falls on the 14th day of

*Nisan, the holiday that Fathers of the Church were trying to avoid.*" Time and time again we see the examples of men who apparently think they can designate dates for Yahweh's Holy Days using their own methods while totally disregarding what He says in His Word. Would it ever be right in the eyes of Almighty Yahweh to make these changes? "I am Yahweh, I change not," Malachi 3:6.

World Dictionary of the American Language shows that this modern form traces to the Anglo-Saxon dawn g-ddess!

It is imperative for us to realize that all the writings which have associated Messianic Worship with mythology would crumble immediately if we adhered strictly to the Scriptures. Yahshua the Messiah was prophesied to live on this earth, to die for our sins and then to rise again, all **according to the Scriptures**, Luke 24:44-46, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. The Apostolic Assembly used the Old Testament in this instance—to prove the veracity of the Messianic worship. By rejecting the corrupting influences of paganism, we may return to that sound Messianic doctrine which was held by the Nazarenes who faithfully followed the Lamb in their faith.

## The Name "Easter" of Pagan Origin

By checking various scholarly material, you will learn that the word **Easter did not originate in the True Worship**, but from paganism. The Messianic True Worship meant the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh and holding the faith of Yahshua the Messiah, Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. But soon pagan influences crept in as the message of the Messiah swept across the ancient world. Rather than accepting the Bible teaching literally and exclusively, and then allowing it to direct them into a way of life, people have always sought to interpret it in some manner. Here we find the difficulty with which carnal people cannot cope. **So ultimately theological interpretations take pre-eminence over the Bible. Conversely, in the Assemblies of Yahweh we accept the Word of Yahweh as supreme over our lives, finding the entire Bible to harmonize.**

The Inspired Scriptures explain that in the spring of the year is the Passover of Yahweh, Deuteronomy 16:1. This observance marks the memorial of Israel's exodus from Egypt. When the people of the nations later accepted the Messianic truth, they quickly associated the resurrection of the Messiah in the spring at Passover with the spring festival common to paganism. This spring festival was called Easter. The Concise, Second Edition of Webster's New

## Easter Is Incorrect

The above caption is a quote from the **Wycliffe Bible Commentary**. Every available Bible dictionary or encyclopedia will freely acknowledge this error. Most of the references are quite dogmatic on this assertion. The following quote is taken from the renowned work of Albert Barnes in **Barnes' Notes**. The commentary on Acts 12:4 reads, "**There was never a MORE ABSURD OR UNHAPPY TRANSLATION than this. The original is simply after the Passover. The word Easter now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honor of the resurrection of the Savior. BUT THE ORIGINAL HAS NO REFERENCE TO THAT, NOR IS THERE THE SLIGHTEST EVIDENCE THAT ANY SUCH FESTIVAL WAS OBSERVED AT THE TIME WHEN**

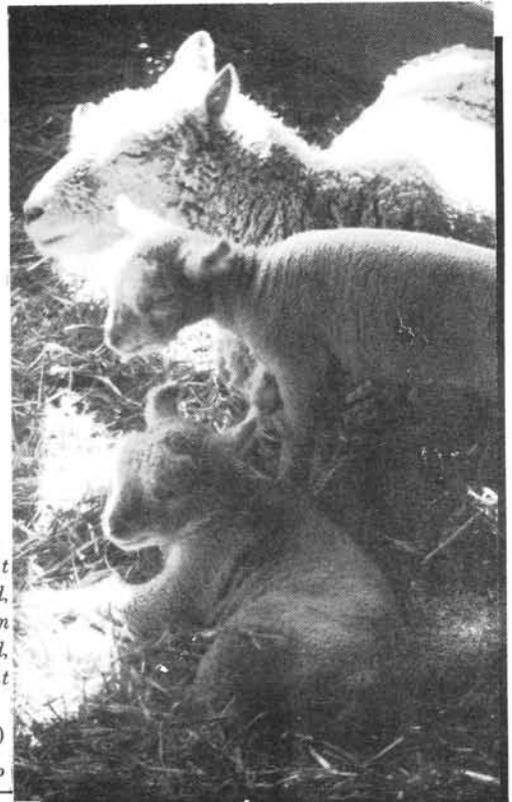
*'Knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of the Messiah.'*

(1 Peter 1:18-19)

SNB photo

**THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN.** *The translation is not only unhappy, IT DOES NOT CONVEY AT ALL THE MEANING OF THE ORIGINAL, but because it may contribute to foster an opinion that such a festival was observed in the time of the apostles. The word Easter is of Saxon origin, and is supposed to be derived from Eostre, the [deity] of love, or the Venus of the North, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated by our pagan ancestors in the month of April (Webster). As this festival coincided with the Passover of the Jews, and with the feast observed by Christians in honor of the resurrection of Messiah, the name came to be used to denote the latter. IN THE OLD ANGLO-SAXON SERVICE-BOOKS THE TERM EASTER IS USED FREQUENTLY TO TRANSLATE THE WORD PASSOVER. In the translation by Wickliffe, the word paske, that is, passover, is used. But Tindal and Coverdale used the word Easter, and hence IT HAD VERY IMPROPERLY CREPT INTO OUR TRANSLATION.*" (Emphasis ours.)

Do you suppose that it is acceptable to Almighty Yahweh to mix truth with error? Turn to Exodus 22:20. Can Almighty Yahweh be pleased when someone uses the name of a pagan idol in worship? "**I am Yahweh, that is my name; and my glory will I not give**



to another, neither my praise to carved images," Isaiah 42:8. Will Yahweh smile benignly on worship which is offered to Him on a day that was once holy to pagans, rather than to worship on the Holy Days He Himself has sanctified? *"Has a nation changed its elohim, which yet are no elohim? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be astonished, O you heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be very desolate, says Yahweh. For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water,"* Jeremiah 2:11-13.

Let us bow submissively to His law and worship the Almighty and His Messiah in their true Names, and on the days when He directed us to gather in congregation to praise His name, whenever they may fall on the Roman calendar. The scriptural calendar will be recognized as the authentic one in the Kingdom of Yahweh, and it will direct the True Worshiper today. The common calendar tainted with paganism will be forgotten.

### Was the Messiah Raised on Easter Sunday?

Your Bible declares that the only sign proving Yahshua was the true Messiah is that He would be raised from the dead three full days and nights from His death. Yahshua Himself said, *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth,"* Matthew 12:40. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish, so the Messiah would be entombed for three days and three nights. Please refer to Jonah 1:17. *"And Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."* Let us carefully consider the steps in the sequence of events relative to the Messiah's death, burial, and resurrection.

The Messiah ate the Passover with his disciples, Luke 22:15. *"And he said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer."* This last supper (the night He was betrayed) was in the evening of the 14th day of Abib, just after sundown.

Then He went to the Mount of Olives and prayed. There the Temple Guard, directed by Judah Ishkerrioth (Iscariot), found Him and took Him into custody, Luke 22:51-53. *"But Yahshua answered and said, Permit them thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him. And Yahshua said to the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and elders, that had come against him, Have you come out, as*

**L**et us bow submissively to His law and worship the Almighty and His Messiah in their true Names, and on the days when He directed us to gather in congregation to praise His name, whenever they may fall on the Roman calendar.

*against a robber, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, you stretched not forth your hands against me; but this is your hour, and the power of darkness."*

Next He was taken to Pilate for judgment, who sent Him to Herod. He was then sent to the house of the High Priest, who brought Him before the Sanhedrin for trial.

After a verdict of guilty was reached, He went back to Pilate for final judgment by the Roman authorities in the morning of this same Passover Day. This day was termed as the preparation day for keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Luke 23:54

substantiates this, *"And it was the day of the Preparation, and the sabbath drew on."*

Yahshua was hung upon the torture stake between noon and three o'clock of Passover day, dying as our Passover Lamb, on that specific day which had been legislated in the Word of Yahweh when Israel was set free from Egyptian bondage by the blood of the Lamb, Exodus chapter 12.

He was placed in the tomb exactly at the end of the Passover day, just before the Sabbath, the annual Holy Day, the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread. John 19:42 makes this quite plain. *"There then because of the Jews Preparation (for the tomb was near at hand) they laid Yahshua."*

It was the succeeding day, the Holy Day of Unleavened Bread, the day which followed the preparation day, that the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and requested a special guard and Roman seal for the tomb, so that the disciples would find it IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN THE TOMB AND STEAL THE BODY OF THE MESSIAH. The burial of Yahshua had been with haste. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had interred it wrapped in a clean linen cloth and some spices. But time had not permitted them to do the adequate job of embalming which they desired to do. The manner of the Jews is to bury soon after a death is verified, but not on the Holy Days.

Therefore the women prepared some additional spices and ointments to complete the embalming process just as soon as the Holy Day was past. But alas, they learned of the Roman guard and the seal placed on the tomb. This made it *impossible to enter the tomb until after the third day of His death.*

Have you ever wondered why the women did not complete their mission *on the day between the Sabbaths?* Here is the answer! **THEY COULD NOT ENTER THE TOMB UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THIRD DAY AFTER THE SEALING OF THE TOMB.**

Please read Matthew 27:62-66 for proof. *"Now on the next day, which is the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together to Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while he was yet alive, After three days I rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest might his disciples come and steal him away, and say to the people, He is risen from the dead: and the last error will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them, You have a guard: go, make it as sure as you can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, the guard being with them."*

Now turn to Luke 23:55-56, *"And the women, who had come with him out of Galilee, followed after, and beheld the tomb, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. And on the sabbath they rested according to the commandment."* This fact proves the sign of the Messiah (three days and three nights in the tomb). It proves conclusively that Yahshua was raised in the end of the Sabbath and why the women only went to the tomb on the first day of the week. This fact of the posting of the Roman guard and seal until after the three full days of entombment had ended also reveals why the women could not do the embalming between the annual High Day and the weekly Sabbath day. Consequently, the women arrived at the tomb early on the first day of the week, since the seal was to be removed on that day (the third full day would have ended then).

But Yahshua had already been resurrected exactly three days after His death, in the end of the Sabbath, the weekly seventh day Sabbath, which immediately precedes the first day of the week. On this day the Wave Sheaf offering was cut, the beginning of the count toward the Feast of Weeks. This constitutes conclusive proof that Yahshua is the Messiah and that He was indeed in the tomb for three days and three nights. These witnesses are irrefutable.

Please see also Matthew 28:1 in the Greek text. *"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."* (The Greek word *"epiphosko,"* Strong's Concordance #2020, tracing to #2014 also has the connotation of *"drawing on, or to become visible, or known."* The biblical days begin at sundown and appear at dusk—not dawn.)

Since Yahshua the Messiah was not raised on the first day of the week but at the end of the Sabbath, why is it that churchianity keeps this day as the day of His resurrection? The world celebrates the resurrection *in the morning at the rising of the sun.* The Apostolic assembly observed the scriptural cutting of the wave sheaf in the evening of the first day of the week, at the beginning of the day,

## THE FEAST OF WEEKS

The Original Inspired Scriptures  
determine the correct day  
on which the Feast of Weeks  
should be observed.

Jacob O. Meyer

*The meaning of the wave sheaf has been lost by churchianity. A thorough study of the subject is important for every Bible Student.*

*The name Pentecost means to "count 50." The name for this feast in Hebrew means, "feast of Weeks." Why is this significant? Be sure to study this article and learn the reasons, and the meaning of this feast.*

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since scriptural days begin and end at sundown, Genesis 1. Leviticus 23:32 reads, *"It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall keep your sabbath."* Mark 1:32 confirms the beginning of the scriptural day. Note the context in which the verse is found. *"And at evening, when the sun set, they brought to him all that were sick, and them that were possessed with demons."*

Please turn to the book of Acts, chapter 20, verses 6-8. In this passage we see that Paul reached Troas in connection with, rather than "after," the Days of Unleavened Bread. The **Strong's Concordance** Greek Dictionary says in regard to the correct translation of the Greek word *meta*: *"properly denoting accompaniment; amid [local or casual]."*

The assembly of Troas had congregated to remember the wave sheaf offering during the Feast of Unleavened Bread by breaking bread (unleavened, of course). They remembered the resurrection of Yahshua and then they heard a sermon preached by Paul which lasted until quite late into the night. A young man became drowsy and fell asleep, falling from the third story window. Almighty Yahweh gave assurance and proof of the resurrection by allowing Paul to raise Eutychus from the dead. All of this happened long before sunrise, because Paul was to begin his journey to Assos in the morning (at dawn) to meet his traveling companions at the harbor.

## Lent

Each year forty days before Easter, nominal Christianity goes on a "fast." The members of many churches deny themselves some luxury over those forty days. Many church people view the Assemblies of Yahweh as being "kooky" for observing the seven annual Holy Days which Yahweh Himself

legislated in Leviticus 23, while they themselves "fast" for forty days!

Yahweh has only legislated one fast day each year, while the people of nominal Christianity are called upon to fast many more days. In reality, they do not fast at all, but they merely deny themselves some luxury, such as meat, or cigarettes, or alcoholic beverages. Many of these resolutions last only for a few days into the established time, however. Some of the things people deny themselves should actually be eliminated anyway.

No forty-day fast is commanded anywhere in the Word of Yahweh. The forty-day period of Lent is derived from the religion of pagan Babylon. Dr. Alexander Hislop has named ancient Babylon and Egypt among the ethnic cultures who have observed a 40-day Lent before their spring resurrection feast. The following is a quote from his book, **The Two Babylons**. *"Among the pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing, and which, in many countries, was considerably later than the Christian festival, being observed in Palestine and Assyria in June, therefore called, 'the month of Tammuz;' in Egypt in the Middle of May, and in Britain, some time in April."* Apparently this is the reason why Almighty Yahweh strongly condemned the practice of weeping for Tammuz in Ezekiel 8:14. Notice that this pagan custom had heavily infiltrated the pure worship of Yahweh. Notice from the context that it immediately preceded the worship of the rising sun! (Here is an obvious reference to Easter sunrise services, because on what other day do Christians worship facing a rising sun?)

It is imperative that we worship Almighty Yahweh in Spirit and in truth. His True Worshipers will observe the Passover just as did our Apostolic forefathers. On this day we remember the suffering and death of Yahshua the Messiah. When Al-

mighty Yahweh says, *"Learn not the way of the nations..."* (Jeremiah 10:2), He means exactly that! The Bible is true, and we must heed its message strictly so that we may stand approved in the sight of Yahweh. Let us prove where the holidays of churchianity originated and then reject them for what they are—a pagan derivative.

## Easter Sunrise Services

*"You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it, that you may keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim which I command you,"* Deuteronomy 4:2. Then where in the holy Scriptures do you find any commandment to keep Easter? There is none in evidence at all—and the word is not even mentioned—as we have already seen.

Neither is there mention of any of the customs which are associated with the holiday. Since Yahshua the Messiah did not rise from the grave on the first day of the week, why is it that ministers hold Easter sunrise services? These services are held throughout Christendom, but there is no commandment at all anywhere in the Bible to hold a service on a hilltop at sunrise on Easter Sunday morning. Evidently this custom must be **an addition to the Word of Yahweh by the Christians**, when such an addition to the Word is clearly prohibited in the above passage (Deuteronomy 4:2).

The worship of the rising sun was a common practice of ancient paganism. Today that sun worship has infiltrated nominal religion to the point of totally corrupting it so that it is difficult to recognize the Truth. Nominal churchianity has rejected the scriptural seventh-day Sabbath which was throughout the sacred Scriptures legislated to be observed forever (Exodus 31:17). Christian groups now worship on the first day of the week which they even call "Sunday," (the venerable day of the sun). They observe Christmas, which is merely a

camouflaged pagan observance derived from sun worship.

Easter is no exception! Making a journey to a hilltop and worshipping toward the rising sun is pagan throughout, regardless how much you may emphasize that you are worshipping the true Mighty One. In what way are you obedient to the commandments of the true Mighty One by engaging in such nature worship? When you sing praises to the true Mighty One from a **high place** facing toward the rising sun on Easter Sunday morning, are you calling the sun the true Mighty One? Did not the ancient pagan religions do the same?

Turn with me to Ezekiel 8:16. We read, "*And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house; and behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.*"

Let us dissect this verse to obtain a better understanding. Ezekiel was taken by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh for an inspection of the worship being conducted at the holy Temple in the city of Jerusalem. He was shown how paganism had crept into the True Worship, until in the minds of the people, they did not believe, but in their doubting attitude were worshipping many different pagan idols in their imagination (Ezekiel 8:12).

This degeneration of pure worship had infiltrated even to the very core of the worship of Yahweh. Ezekiel was taken into the inner court which faced toward the Temple (west), and standing between the porch of that Temple and the altar were twenty-five men with their backs to the Temple and **they worshiped the sun toward the EAST.**

First of all, let us get the overall picture. When someone enters the worship of Yahweh, he must turn his back on sun worship, absolutely and completely. The Temple in Jerusalem, as also the Tabernacle in the wilderness, was constructed so that it was

entered toward the west. Please see the description in Exodus 27:12-26.

Psalms 5:7 reads, "*But as for me, in the abundance of your lovingkindness will I come into your house: In your fear will I worship toward your holy temple.*" Worshipers of Yahweh had turned their backs to the rising sun. But Ezekiel describes how twenty-five men were standing between the porch and the altar, a **position which was occupied by ministering priests**, Joel 1:13 and 2:17.

Consequently, it was actually the ministers of Yahweh, His own chosen priests, who had turned their backs to pure worship in His Temple, and had **begun to worship the rising sun.**

What a horrible turn of events!

**T**aking a journey to a hilltop and worshipping toward the rising sun is pagan throughout, regardless how much you may emphasize that you are worshipping the true Mighty One.

The people of Yahweh had come out of pagan, sun-worshipping Egypt, and had endured trials and suffering to enter the Promised Land, only to fall prey again to the pagan influences of the nations around them and revert once more to sun worship, Judges 2:1-4.

It should then be candidly obvious that **a True Worshiper could not take part in an Easter sunrise service, which is a modern parallel to what took place in the days of antiquity in ancient Israel.** The worship of Yahweh is not nature worship. We worship the Creator and not the creation, Romans 1:25. Meditate on these things and then cleanse your heart, circumcising it to serve

only Yahweh by keeping His commandments.

## Easter Rabbits and Eggs

When the writer was a very small boy in elementary school, the teacher asked one day how many of the children thought rabbits laid eggs. We were all to make our own conclusions according to the traditional training which we had received and then whisper in her ear, affirmative or negative. A great majority of the children affirmed their belief that rabbits laid eggs! Such a belief originated directly with the Easter bunny myth! But where did that myth originate?

It has long been a tradition that rabbits were a fertility symbol. Due to their rapid rate of reproduction, rabbits were thought to possess special powers of fecundity. This is the reason why their tradition has adhered to the Easter festival, which was a holiday dedicated to Venus of the North (as shown previously). Venus was the pagan mighty one of love and fertility.

Eggs have also had a long history of veneration in paganism. As shown in **The Two Babylons** by Dr. Hislop, it was Venus, afterwards called Astarte (Easter), who came from an egg which fell from heaven. The fishes rolled it to the bank of the Euphrates and it was hatched out by doves. Interestingly, all of these symbols appear on cards which were once sent by people in love, to their friends. Eggs have always been construed as fertility symbols, and just one more step takes you to the cute little chicks which are colored and sold in the stores around the Easter holiday. Strangely, even the Jews place an egg on their Passover table, a traditional custom which is not scriptural, and which apparently assimilated when the nation went into Babylonian captivity.

We might ask ourselves why such pagan customs should adhere to True

Worship, when Almighty Yahweh has warned us so forcefully to avoid all forms of worship not found in His Word. Nevertheless, the human mind seems prone to deviation when it does not stick closely with the Inspired Scriptures. As stated previously, many cultures have traditions about the sacred egg. You may read more about them, if you wish, in the noted work by Dr. Hislop.

## Hot Cross Buns

What could buns have to do with Easter, or doughnuts either, for that matter?! Lent is always prefaced by an indulgent, riotous feast such as Mardi Gras, Fasching, etc. Every culture seems to have some kind of tradition along these lines. Interestingly, these feasts usually feature some kind of cakes or buns, possibly a doughnut.

Then on Easter Sunday one of the items which is featured along with the other traditional delicacies such as ham and colored eggs is "hot cross buns." Dr. Hislop states that buns (which were known by this identical

name), were once offered in worship to the queen of heaven. Apparently this custom originated over 1500 years before the common era. It was sacred bread which was offered to the deities and called "boun."

Almighty Yahweh warns His people in Jeremiah 7:17-20, "*See you not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings to other elohim, that they may provoke me to anger. Do they provoke me to anger? says Yahweh; Do they not provoke themselves, to the confusion of their own faces? Therefore thus says the Sovereign Yahweh: Behold, my anger and my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.*" The Hebrew word translated "cake" is "a sacrificial wafer." If these traditional observances and customs were repugnant to Almighty Yahweh in the Old Testament, do you suppose that He has changed His mind over the years? "*For I, Yahweh, change not...*" Malachi 3:6. We should be careful not to engage in any form of traditional

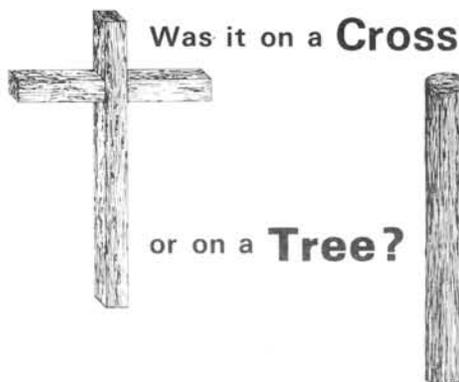
worship which once brought our rebellious, backsliding forefathers to a state of captivity.

## The Cross

Yahshua the Messiah did not die on a cross, but we find that in nominal Christianity the cross is venerated in worship. (If you have not as yet read our article, *Did the Savior Die on a Cross or on a Tree?*, please write in for it immediately.) In the Assemblies of Yahweh we do not revere the instrument of death and torture upon which our Savior was executed. We revere and praise Him, the Lamb of Yahweh, Who died for us.

The nations have revered wood and stone in their pagan worship (Ezekiel 20:32) from time immemorial, but **the people of Yahweh worship the creator rather than the creation.** As is proved in the article just mentioned, the cross was an article of sun worship in antiquity. It also memorialized sexual reproduction. We must zealously eliminate all mention of it from our worship, including the term "crucified," which should be translated

## THE DEATH OF THE MESSIAH



by  
Jacob O. Meyer

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## *Did the Savior Die on a Cross?*

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“transfixed,” “impaled,” or “executed.”

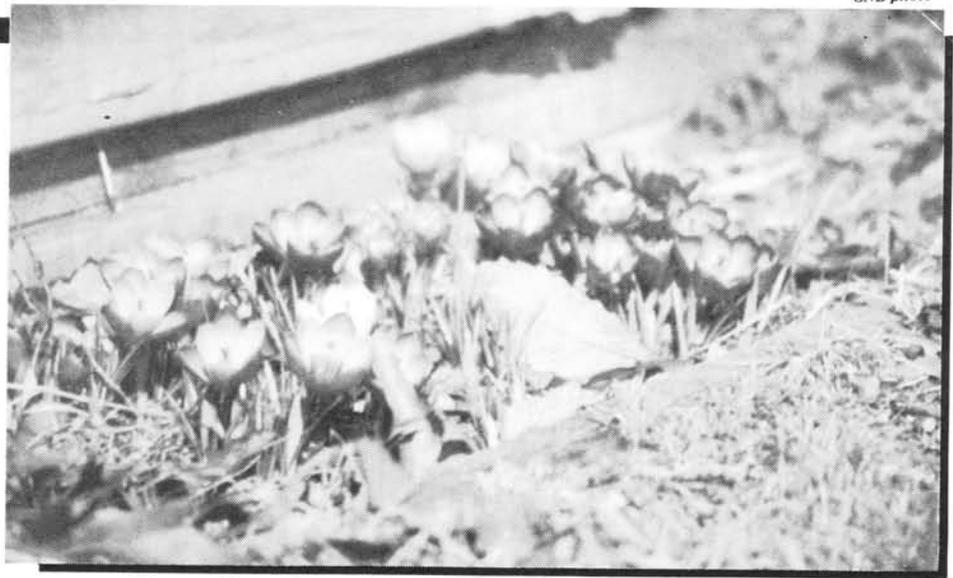
## Easter Parades

On Easter Sunday morning people gather in their churches dressed in their new spring finery. Afterward they generally stroll down the streets in town to show off their clothing. It is seemingly a time when people strive to be known as the best dressed person. Usually this day is the only time in the year when they attend “church.”

Parades and pageantry have always been a traditional pagan practice. There are no parades which were observed annually mentioned in the Bible. Anyway, it is the merchants who profit by an advertising campaign to force people to buy high-priced clothing before a deadline. Those merchants usually manage to extract top dollar prices for merchandise which would sell a lot lower, and often does, just one day after the holiday.

## Ham Dinners

Since the Assemblies of Yahweh keeps the Law of Yahweh, we eat meat only from scripturally approved animals. See Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. All True Worshipers have kept the dietary laws down through history. During the time when the Catholic Church persecuted the people of Yahweh for keeping the Law, it apparently became the accepted custom to eat pork on the Catholic holy days *to prove that you were not a Jew*. Pork has a long history of use in pagan worship, associated with holidays devoted to sun worship. For example, you can refer to the Apocryphal books of Maccabees. (If you have not yet read our free article on clean and unclean foods, we invite you to request it immediately.)



When spring arrives, with beautiful flowers and new vegetation, such as the crocuses shown above, will you express your appreciation to the Creator with a riotous fertility festival as did the pagan religions of old? Or will you please Him through obedience?

## Summary

We have examined the facts of the traditions and customs surrounding the observance of the Easter holiday. On every point the holiday fails the test of truth: scripturally, historically, traditionally. We have learned that the Apostolic Assembly kept the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Yet another quote which should have been included is found in a note at the bottom of page 106 in **The Two Babylons**, “Giesler, speaking of the Eastern Church in the second century, in regard to Paschal observances, says: ‘In it [the Paschal festival in commemoration of the death of the Messiah] they [the Eastern Believers] eat unleavened bread, probably like the Jews, eight days throughout...’” Here is just one more bit of evidence that the faithful remnants of the Apostolic Assembly continued to observe the Holy Days of the Scriptures and did not immediately turn to pagan practices.

Eventually it took a decree of Emperor Constantine, which pronounced death upon those who broke it, to force most of the Messianic believers to forsake the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh.

When Yahshua the Messiah died upon the tree of Calvary, He did not do away with the law of Yahweh, Matthew 5:17-20. He came to fulfill the prophecies and principles of the law and demonstrate its spiritual application, Isaiah 42:21. He became the sacrificial Lamb of Yahweh which was to accompany the law of Yahweh as the blood of the covenant.

Please read over 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 in your own Bible. *“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah: therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”* This passage is from the writing of Paul.

Will you believe it?

Will you obey it? We must keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but we must do so with all purity of heart and conscience, taking nothing with us from pagan backgrounds which could corrupt True Worship.

Which pathway will you take this year?

Why not associate yourself with the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh as we worship the Almighty in Spirit and in truth?

# Other Free Articles Explaining YAHWEH'S HOLY DAYS



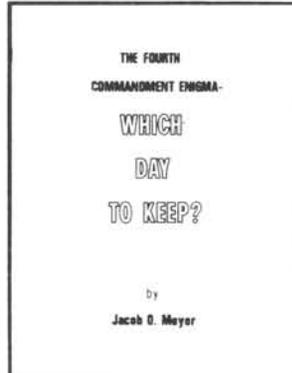
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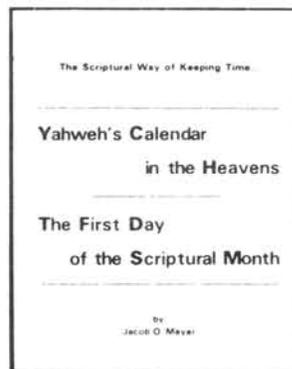
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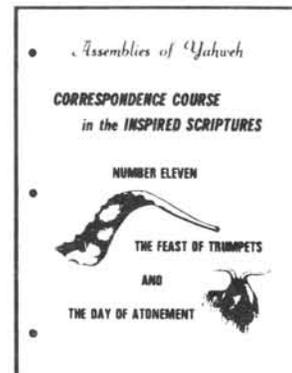
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