



Easter is celebrated all over the world by Christians and non-Christians, even atheists. But, is Easter a Biblical celebration? **“Jesus”** was **“resurrected”** by **“God”** (**Acts 2:32 HCSB**). But are we commanded to celebrate it? Was Easter celebrated by early Christians? How about Easter bunnies, baskets, bonnets, etc.? How about Easter egg hunts?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historically, was Easter celebrated by 1st century Christians?

“Easter, a much earlier development than Christmas, was simply the gradual Christian reinterpretation of Passover in terms of Jesus’ Passion. Its observance could even be implied in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 5:7-8: “Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the festival...”); it was certainly a distinctively Christian feast by the mid-second century C.E., when the apocryphal text known as the Epistle to the Apostles has Jesus instruct his disciples to “make commemoration of [his] death, that is, the Passover.”—Biblical Archaeology Review, December 17, 2024

No, historical records show no celebration of Easter for at least 120 years after Jesus’ death.

“‘This do in remembrance of me . . . This cup,’ He said, ‘is the new Covenant ratified by my blood which is to be poured out on your behalf’” (Luke 22:19-20 Weymouth New Testament). Jesus commanded one celebration, called **“the Lord’s Supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20 NIV).**

No, Easter is not a Biblical celebration. It is nowhere mentioned in the Koine’ Greek text that the New Testament was originally written in. The 17th century King James Version mistranslates the Greek word for **“Passover”** as **“Easter”** at **Acts 12:4**, but even the New King James Version accurately translates this Greek word as **“Passover”** at **Acts 12:4**. Additionally, it is historically well documented in numerous reference works that many of the customs associated with Easter are drawn from paganism, with Christ’s name and resurrection tacked onto them. Ancient pagans often worshipped earth’s star, the sun, in various ways. Easter is built upon many such customs, as well as pagan early spring fertility rites, with modern-day sunrise services, being one result. Rabbits and eggs were often viewed as symbols of fertility by pagans. Other customs, such as Easter baskets and bonnets,

and hot cross buns, had their origins in paganism. We can draw a principle to apply from something Jesus said on a different subject: **“the pagan world runs after all such things” (Luke 12:30 NIV).**

There is no documented evidence that early Christians celebrated Easter until the 4th century. What they did definitely observe was **“the Lord’s Supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20 NIV)**, which was actually commanded by Jesus to be celebrated.

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes”—1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV

What Christians are commanded to observe is, not Easter, but **“the Lord’s Supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20)**. That the **“bread”** is not literally Jesus’ physical **“body”**, as some claim, but symbolizes it, is proven by the fact that Jesus said, **“this cup is the new covenant in my blood”**. Thus, In a similar way, the red wine symbolizes Jesus’ **“blood”**, as he said, which symbolizes **“God’s new covenant sealed with my blood” (Luke 22:20 GNB)**. This is the only celebration that Christians are Biblically commanded to celebrate.

“Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures”—1 Corinthians 15:3 NIV

This is the crux of Christianity: **“Christ died for our sins”**.

Let’s make no mistake, however, the resurrection of Jesus, is important, in fact, vital:

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your

faith”—1 Corinthians 15:14 NIV

“That water is picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ”—1 Peter 3:21 NLT

However, we’re not commanded to celebrate **“the resurrection of Jesus Christ”**. The only thing that Christians are commanded to celebrate is **“the Lord’s death.”** Celebrations of other events may fall under principle described by Paul as:

“You are scrupulously observing special days and months and seasons and years. I fear for you that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you”—Galatians 4:10,11 NIV

However, just because people claim that a celebration is **“in Yahweh’s honour” (Exodus 32:5,7 NJB)**, doesn’t guarantee that it is. Christians are advised to, **“Carefully determine what pleases the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10 NLT).**

On the other hand, we certainly should be very cautious in regard to adversely judging others about matters that are not specifically mentioned in the scriptures:

“Accept the one who is faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters”—Romans 14:1 NIV

“One person considers one day more sacred than another; another person considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord”—Romans 14:5,6 NIV

“You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat . . . so then, we will

each of us give an account of ourselves to God”—Romans 14:10-12 NIV

CONCLUSION

After carefully examining the question, “Is Easter a Biblical celebration?”, according to the scriptures, we find that Easter is not a Biblical celebration. On the other hand, we do well to not judge what others may do regarding celebrating Jesus’ resurrection.

For information about “Christian” celebrations, please see:

<https://bibleauthenticity.org/is-christmas-a-b...tian-celebration/>