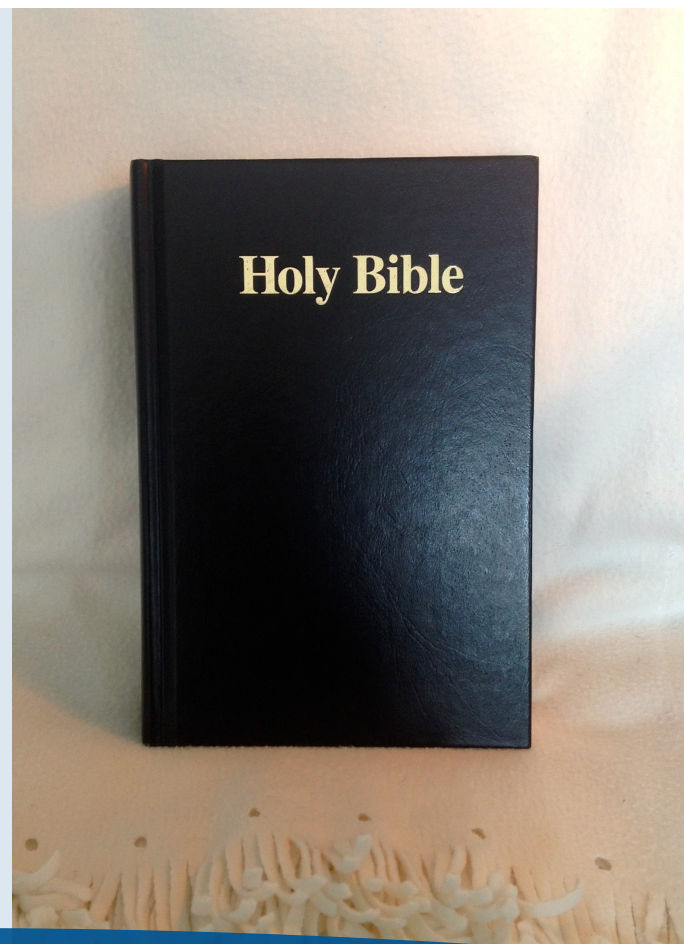


Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself

Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

CONSIDERING
EASTER
TRADITIONS



In the Authorised version of the Bible the word Easter only appears once in
Acts 12:4

“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. “

The original word here for Easter is PASCHA which is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew PEHSAKH meaning “exemption” and which is normally expressed in English as “PASSOVER”. In other words, Acts 12v4 is not referring to the Christian Easter but rather the Jewish Passover . In fact the preceding verse shows this

Acts 12:3

“And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)”

“the days of unleavened bread.” is another feature of the Jewish Passover, as:-

Luke 22:1

“Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.”

The original word here for “Passover” is again “PASCHA” but here and in the other 27 places where it appears in the New Testament the translators have correctly rendered it by the word “Passover”.

Therefore it is simply out of superstitious bias that the translators have rendered this word “PASCHA” in Acts 12v4 as “Easter” on that one occasion. So in truth in the original the pagan term Easter never appears in the Bible.

Considering the present day observance of Easter by the Churches,

“the 40 days abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess Astarte”. Layard says, such a Lent of 40 days “in the spring of the year” is still observed by the YEZEDIS or pagan devil-worshippers of Kurdistan, and they in turn have inherited this from their early masters, the Babylonians”
(Layards Nineveh & Babylon Page 93).

According to the churches, Easter is supposed to commemorate the sacrifice of Christ. But we can see from the Bible that there was no such annual observance commanded by Christ or the Apostles. And we can see from history that Easter itself is a Pagan Festival.

Surprisingly, a minister of the Church of England brings much evidence of the Pagan origin of Easter in his book "The Two Babylons". The Rev. Alexander Hislop shows that the name of Easter is not a Christian name. That Easter is of ancient Chaldean origin. And that it is the English form of the name ASTARTE. Astarte is one of the titles of BELTIS, the pagan Goddess of heaven of Babylonian superstition. The worship of Astarte, and also of Bel, both prominent gods of ancient pagan Babylon, was introduced into Britain in very early times, along with the Druids, (the "priests of the groves".)

In Oliver & Boyd's Edinburgh Almanac 1860 it says:-

The..month of April...was referred to by our Pagan ancestors as 'Easter Month' [after the goddess Astarte]. Socrates [Scholasticus], the Ancient ecclesiastical historian who wrote in the 5th century [AD] said of Easter, that it 'began everywhere more of custom than by any commandment, either of Christ or an Apostle"

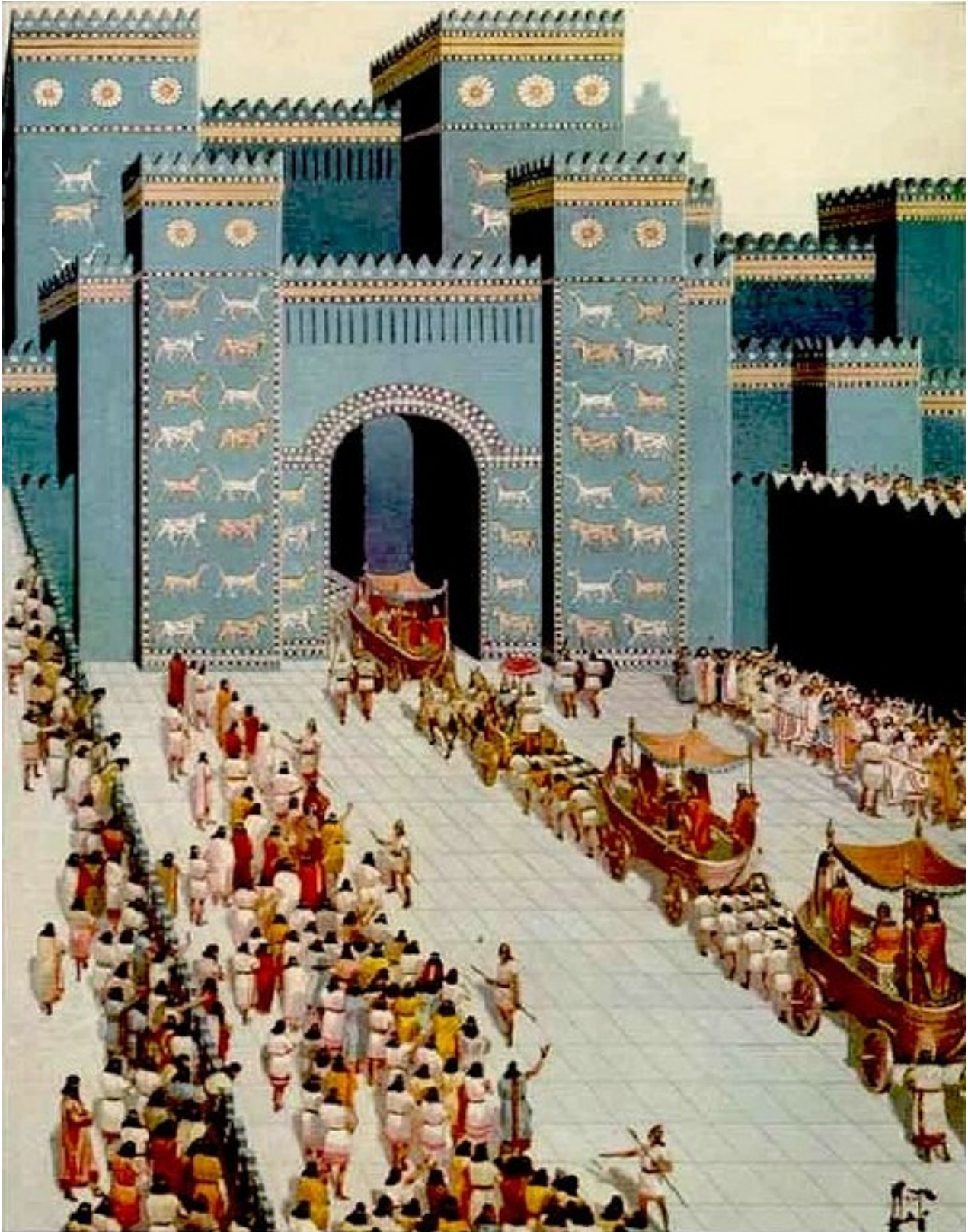
So what can Babylon teach us of the origins of Easter?

"The New Year Festival, or Akitu, as Celebrated in Babylon during the first millennium BC...began in the month Nissan (March/April)...the incantation priest went around... with a censor [sprinkling Holy Water] and a torch...[The image of the god] Nabu arrived...and other [idol] gods reached Babylon...the king entered Marduk's shrine, 'took his hand'...in the Festival, and installed him in the chapel, together with the other deities.....**A great, and solemn cortège was then formed, including the statues of all the gods and goddessesit went down Procession Street across Babylon in an aura of incense,** songs and music, while people were kneeling down in adoration as it passed by....The session ended in a huge banquet accompanied by music and prayers."

Ancient Iraq by Georges Roux:pp 366-9

The Ishtar Gate was ... constructed in about 575 BC by order of King Nebuchadnezzar II on the north side of the city. Dedicated to the Babylonian goddess Ishtar,

Through the gate ran the Processional Way, which was lined with walls covered in lions on glazed bricks Statues of the deities were paraded through the gate and down the Processional Way each year during the New Year's celebration. *FROM www.annodomini.org.uk wonders/the-ishtar-gate/*



Artist impression of the new year procession of the idols being paraded down the Processional Way and through the Ishtar Gate

Isaiah was contemporary with Babylon in the first millennium BC, and God prophesied against Babylonian idolatry through him in

Isaiah 46:

1 Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, their idols were upon the beasts, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; they are a burden to the weary beast.

2 They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity.

3 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

5 To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

6 They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

7 They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

Clearly God disapproved of these idol processions.

Jeremiah 51:

47 Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

48 Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

49 As Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth.

50 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.



Icon of Ishtar From the Louvre

If you want prove that Easter to be a Pagan festival, you only need to consult any encyclopedia. "Cassels" says of Easter :-

"The name Easter comes from that of the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring 'Eastre' [which in turn we have shown to come from Astarte of Babylon] In whose honor a festival of spring was held in the month of April. [Cassels continues] It is from these old- time pagan festivals that many of our Easter customs have come. From time immemorial eggs have been used to represent the new birth of the springtide. An old legend relates that colored eggs are the gift of the rabbit on Easter Eve. The decorated cards that are often sent as Easter greetings frequently contain the Rabbit picture along with white Easter lilies and colored eggs."

When Israel of Old went astray, long before Christ, they adopted the same goddess

Jeremiah 7:17-18

17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

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.

Worship of the "Queen of Heaven" so called is condemned in the Bible and yet she is still worshiped today by millions.



EASTER PARADE IN SPAIN



GREEN MADONNA Sulmona, L'Aquila, Abruzzo
Semana Santa Procession in Antigua 500,000 pilgrims, The Guardian reports:



“In much of the Catholic world, especially Spanish-speaking countries, huge religious parades – procesiones – are staged to mark the days leading up to Easter. Religious collectives, often grouped around brotherhoods or guilds, parade shrines of Christ or the Virgin Mary through the streets, often with burning incense, spine-chilling chants and a little light flagellation.”
Mary is never called the “queen of Heaven” in the Bible.

So what does the Bible tell us of Mary?

Jesus was Mary's firstborn but he was not her only child, after she had born Jesus, then Joseph, her husband knew her and she brought forth other sons and daughters:-

Mark 6:

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

Mary, was not "Immaculate", and should not be worshipped.

Although begotten of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was a Jew of the fallen race of Adam, Abraham, and David-not immaculate in nature:

Romans 1

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made [γίνομαι ginomai] = came into existence of the seed [σπέρμα sperma] of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

The adoration of Mary is not taught in the Bible, on the contrary, Jesus specifically speaks against it.

Luke 11:

27 And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him,

**Blessed is the womb that bare thee,
and the paps which thou hast sucked.**

28 But he said, Yea rather,
blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

The Bible makes no mention of Mary being conceived immaculately;
or
of her being the queen of heaven
or
of her ascending to heaven

Lets review what we have learnt about Mary from the Bible

- 1. She did not remain a virgin but had other children.
- 2. She was not immaculate but an ordinary Jewish woman
- 3. She was not perfect
- 4. She was not to be worshiped
- 5. Not “Mother of God”

The traditions and worshipping of Mary as queen of heaven come not from the Bible but from ancient paganism.

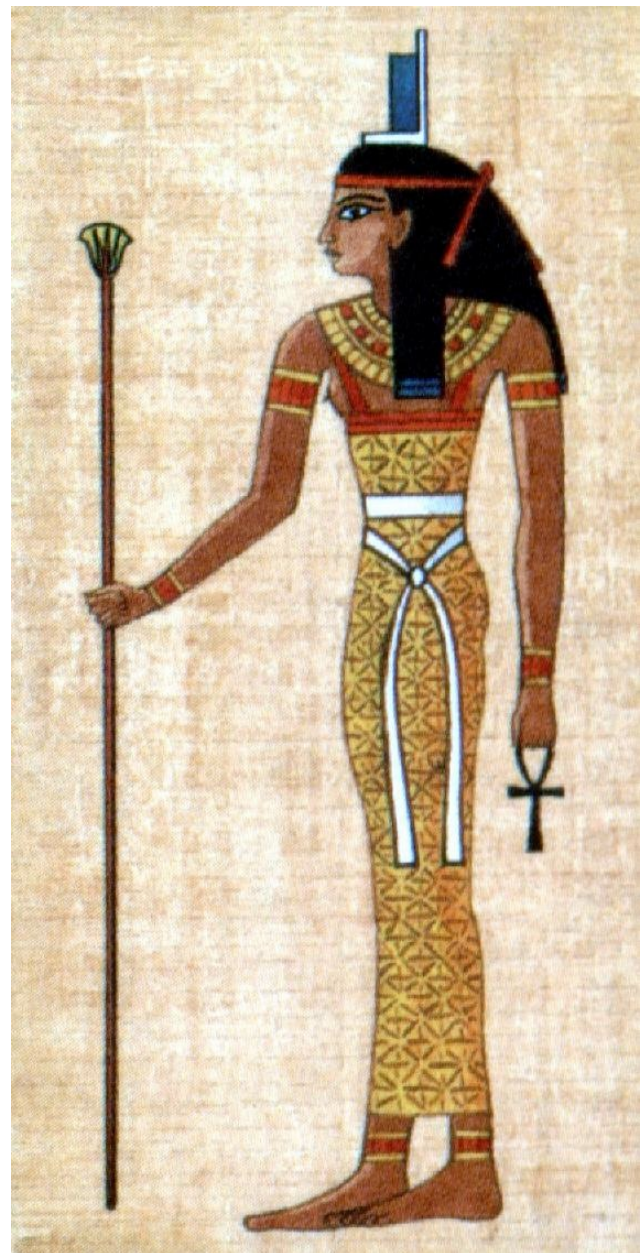
“Penguin Handbook of Ancient Religions”

(Edited By John R. Hinnells)

Rosalie David comments

“Egyptian concepts probably entered early Christian biblical belief through both the biblical Old and New Testaments, and more directly through Egypt’s influence on the Hellenistic world. Thus, the divine triads of the pharaonic period and the concept of the Trinity may be associated, **while there are probably links between the cult of the Virgin Mary and the Isis cult....**”

Chapter 2 Ancient Egypt



Egyptian Depiction of the Goddess Isis

Wikipedia Isis

(Greek: Ἴσις, original Egyptian pronunciation more likely Aset) is a goddess in Ancient Egyptian religious beliefs, whose worship spread throughout the Greco-Roman world. She was worshipped as the ideal mother and wife as well as the patroness of nature and magic. She was the friend of slaves, sinners, artisans, and the downtrodden, and she listened to the prayers of the wealthy, maidens, aristocrats, and rulers.....

....The worship of Isis eventually spread throughout the Greco-Roman world, continuing until the suppression of paganism in the Christian era. The popular motif of Isis suckling her son Horus, however, **lived on in a Christianized context as the popular image of Mary suckling the infant son Jesus from the fifth century onward.**



Wikipedia - Queen of Heaven

This article is about the Catholic title of the Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven. The title Queen of Heaven has long been a Catholic tradition, included in prayers & devotional literature, and seen in Western art in the subject of the Coronation of the Virgin, from the High Middle Ages, long before it was given a formal definition status by the Church

The Catholic Church from the earliest times venerated the Queen of Heaven, according to Pius XII:-

From the earliest ages of the Catholic Church a Christian people, whether in time of triumph or more especially in time of crisis, has addressed prayers of petition and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven....Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, reigns with a mother's solicitude over the entire world, just as she is crowned in heavenly blessedness with the glory of a Queen.

Queen of Heaven article continued

....The relation between the Christian title and similar pagan cults is one reason why the Protestant Churches usually avoid such titles as "Queen of Heaven". The title Queen of Heaven was used in antiquity by various religious systems. In particular, it was used by the prophet Jeremiah, probably in reference to Asherah, a goddess worshipped as the consort of Yahweh in ancient Israel and Judah and in the Temple of Yahweh in Elephantine in Upper Egypt. The only Biblical use of the title "Queen of Heaven" is in Jeremiah (7:18; 44:17ff) denouncing the idolatrous worship of Ashtoreth. There is Scriptural warrant, however, for the Marian title "Queen of Heaven," in the richly allegorical passage in Revelations 12:1 about the pregnant "woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head" who gave birth to a "son ... who will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre" in the face of the dragon, who was cheated of his prey. ...

It is quite remarkable that the virtually the only Biblical passage that the Church can find to justify the idea of Mary being the queen of Heaven is a highly symbolical passage which is in fact a symbol of the catholic church.....

Revelation 12

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.



...a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet,
[PICTURE MUSEUM UTRECHT HOLLAND]

“...and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:”



[Pic Virgin Mary Easter procession 'Jerez-de-la-Frontera Spain']

THIS ILLUSTRATES HOW THE MADONA IS JUST AN I-DOL STOLEN
FROM PAGANISM

It is clear then that the worship of a “Queen of Heaven” wether she be called
Ishtar, Isis, Astarte or Mary is idolatrous and pagan and specifically
condemned in the Bible.

Revelation 17:

9 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

18 And **the woman** which thou sawest is that **great city**, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

chapter 18:

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great** is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins**, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit **a queen**, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that **great city Babylon** be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

“great city”

IN JOHNS DAY THAT CITY WAS ROME never since another
v4 “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,”

2Corinthians 6:

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God
with idols?

for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them,
and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore

**come out from among them,
and be ye separate,
saith the Lord,
and touch not the unclean thing; and
I will receive you**

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,
saith the Lord Almighty.

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Leave easter to the Babylonians-ancient and modern-and instead worship the
only True GOD- THE God of ISRAEL!