

What is Easter?

1. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.

2. The naming of the celebration as "Easter" seems to go back to the name of a pagan goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. The Dawn and fertility.

3. Date? Day of celebration? varies, because Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Holy week, church calendars

Like other major holidays including Christmas and Halloween, Easter has evolved over the last 200 years or so. In all of these holidays, Christian and non-Christian (pagan) elements have continued to blend together.

4. Mardi Gras is French for fat Tuesday. A two week Carnival celebration beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and ending on Shrove Tuesday, before ash Wednesday. Preceding the 40 days of lent. Now evolved as a season including parades beads, masks, music, nudity, gluttony, drunkenness. Many churches tone it down to a mere "pancake supper"

5. In the Hebrew Bible, Passover is a festival that commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, as narrated in the Book of Exodus. It was and continues to be the most important Jewish seasonal festival, celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

At the time of Jesus, Passover had special significance, as the Jewish people were again under the dominance of foreign powers (the Romans). Jewish pilgrims streamed into Jerusalem every year in the hope that God's chosen people would soon be liberated once more.

1. Bunny? Eggs?
2. Pagan Goddess
- 3.. Holy Week? Religious tradition?
4. Mardi Gras?
5. Passover?
6. Resurrection - New Testament Christian hope for eternal life

Consumers are planning to spend an average of \$170 on Easter gifts and celebrations; Total spending is expected to reach \$20.8 billion

6. Some early Christians chose to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on the same date as the Jewish Passover, which fell around day 14 of the month of Nisan, in March or April.

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Do we get it? Did they?

1. messiah have military, governmental rule? Over a geographical place? Limited group of people (nation) ?
 2. Does Jesus want to be in your political debates?
 3. Is he just available to church people?
 4. How much emphasis does he put on festivals? Holy days?
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Matt 28:5 - The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Where was the body? then

Where is the body? Now?

Eph 1: his incomparably great power is for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead...And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body...

Romans 7:4

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Rom 8:11 - And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Moral of the story

Conclusion for us right now

1. Experience the new birth
2. celebrate new life from God to replace death.
3. participate in the body of Christ.