

“The Three Great Lies of Easter”

Introduction: Would we all agree with the Passage of Scripture that says, “The Truth will Set You Free”? “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you **ABIDE in my word**, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the **truth**, and the **truth will set you free.**’” **John 8:31-32**

John 15:10, “If you keep my commandments, you will **ABIDE in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”**

I believe nearly everyone would agree with this truth, but would everyone agree with how that Truth is even possible? For anyone to believe that the “*Truth*” will set one free, they first must acknowledge that they have been *LIED* to, otherwise the “*Truth*” only becomes one of many ideas out there, and can get lost in an ocean of *LIES*, never truly setting anyone free.

Then the question must be asked, “*What LIES have I believed, how do they contrast with the ‘Truth,’ and then what does freedom look like at that point?*”:

From the Passover Story, the very first Sign we learn not to run away from the lie, but to grab hold of the truth and the story changes, as we will discover, as well as its paralleling narrative in Jesus fulfilling Passover.

It is in the paralleling “*Believed*” text in Exodus 4 and Exodus 14 where we see God Revealing and Realizing Redemption.

Exodus 4:27-31

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ **Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people.** ³¹ **And THE PEOPLE BELIEVED; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.**

Exodus 14:30-31

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so **the people feared the LORD, and THEY BELIEVED in the LORD and in his servant Moses.**

Admitting the Lie and Facing up to the Truth of the Lie is the Antidote to one’s perils situation . . . exposing the illusion by embracing it and holding on to it and treating it like the truth it is (i.e. Israel not a snake, but a tribe, a people).

At the Crossing of the Red Sea, not only revealed, but reconciled the lies with the Truth . . . Redemption . . . **YOU WERE MEANT TO REMEMBER THE SIGNS.**

Conclusion: Israel’s first “*Believing*” in a Compassionate God at the Signs given to Moses, now believe because the signs had been realized, freedom came both physically, and more significantly internally (spiritually).

What Were the 3-Signs?

Three signs

1. Staff to Snake
2. Leprosy
3. Water to Blood

Three Lies – Pharaoh’s “LIE” Propaganda Campaign to Destroy the Knowledge and Power of God

Exodus 1:10-12

(#1) ¹⁰ **Come, (deal cunningly with them) let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, (Lie: Risk, these “snakes” will kill us) if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.** ¹¹ Therefore (#2) **they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens.** (#3) **They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. (God’s Exponential Antidote to Destroy the Lie – A Metaphoric Flood of TRUTH – the Testimony of His Word and Promise):** ¹² **But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.** ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of

Israel work as slaves¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

How to Kill Your Friends and Influence People
The Three Lies the world believed about the Israelites:

- 1. The Lie: They are a Threat (They will join our enemies in war) / They will kill you (False Snakes, but rather Tribes) – The Resolve: They're Swarming like snakes – they're not even human**
- 2. The Lie: They are Cunning / They will deceive you – The Resolve: Killing the babies and saying they're stillborn (Midwives)**
- 3. The Lie: They are Not Like Us / They will swarm you (like insects or snakes) – The Resolve: the babies into the Nile (All of the Egyptians, and the Government turned their eyes the Acts)**

God Reminds Israel of His Covenant with them:

Exodus 6:5-9

⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" ⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Exodus 1:1-9

Israel Increases Greatly in Egypt

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

(Tell brief History of Israel coming to Egypt: 430-years from the Promise of Genesis 12, 400-years from the birth of God's Promise, Isaac, 210-years from the 70-people of God (Jacob's family) entering into Egypt (#70 being the birth of Moses Mom, Joseph setting his family up in the city of Goshen, where 210-years later God's people will be Covered from the Wrath of God, 80-years earlier God births the deliver of God's people out of Egypt, a prototype of a future Messiah, who too was attempted at being killed by a mass execution of babies and children, to now, the dawn of God's promise of Genesis 12, 15, and 17 coming to pass, "you are a chosen people and I am giving you a promised land.")

⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied (Lie: creeped/swarmed like "snakes") and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Pharaoh Oppresses Israel

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

Review the Three Signs: (Summarize)

Exodus 4

Moses Given Powerful Signs

¹ Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"

⁸ "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

1. The Staff: ² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." ³ And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

Note: The Staff represents the Tribes of Israel, the Snake represents the LIE that the Enemies Illusioned that the Israelites would be to the Egyptians, to that Staff again representing that the TRUTH is that Israel is a Tribe and not a Snake.

The Lie: They're swarming like snakes – they're not even human

Renewed: The Parting of the Red Sea.

2. The Hand: ⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail" – so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand – ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷ Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he

took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸“If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

The Lie: Killing the babies and saying they’re stillborn

Repaired: The 10th Plague of the Firstborn Killed.

Exodus 1:15-22

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“**When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.**” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Numbers 12

Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses

¹ Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. ² And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the LORD heard it. ³ Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. ⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. ⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. ⁶ And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” ⁹ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed. ¹⁰ When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. ¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. ¹² **Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb.**” ¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD, “O God, please heal her—please.” ¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.” ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again. ¹⁶ After that the people set out from Hazereth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

Exodus 11:1

The LORD said to Moses, “Yet one **plague (the other 9-plagues in Hebrew were defined as plagues, but this one plague in Hebrew meant: “LEPROSY” – this is the plague of the 1st Born)** more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.

Note: The only other reference to this type of plagues in all 5-books of the Torah, is in *Leviticus 13:13*:

¹³ then the priest shall look, and if the leprous **disease (plague)** has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean of the **disease (plague)**; it has all turned white, and he is clean.

Note: Plague turned the Water into Blood . . . ended in Leprosy of the Killing of the Firstborn, the 10th Plague.

3. The Water: ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

The Lie: Throwing the babies into the Nile

Restore: Turning the Nile into Blood

Belief that God Truly Saw our Suffering is what set God’s People Free, and that is everything in the world.

The Passover Lamb . . . the picture that was being portrayed is that of a birth from a womb . . . the birth of a nation . . . a nation was born . . . but not everybody made it . . . in their homes (aka wombs) their firstborns perished . . . an accountability and restoration of what was lost in the destruction of the male children of the Israelites into the Nile.

Beginning of Justice, beginning of Redemption . . . not just seeing the Great Lies, but Redeeming the Lies . . . the Red Sea Splits.

Again: From the very first Sign we learn not to run away from the lie, but to grab hold of the truth and the story changes.

It is in the paralleling “Believed” in Exodus 4 and Exodus 14 that God we see God’s Revealing Redemption and Realizing Redemption.

Exodus 4:27-31

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ **Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people.** ³¹ **And THE PEOPLE BELIEVED; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.**

Exodus 14:30-31

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so **the people feared the LORD, and THEY BELIEVED in the LORD and in his servant Moses.**

Admitting the Lie and Facing up to the Truth of the Lie is the Antidote to your perils situation . . . exposing the illusion by embracing it and holding on to it and treating it like the truth it is (i.e. Israel not a snake, but a tribe, a people).

At the Crossing of the Red Sea, not only revealed, but reconciled the lies with the Truth . . . Redemption . . . you were meant to Remember the Signs.

Conclusion: Israel’s first believing in a Compassionate God at the Signs given to Moses, now believe because the signs had been realized, freedom came both physically, and more significantly internally (spiritually).

Transition: But to do this we are actually going to go back into the Original Story of what the Church today calls “Easter,” and discover its true meaning, realizing the lies that have come out of this Original Story, and allow its “Truth” to set us free. What we will discover is an empathetic God who meets us where we are at, acknowledges our pain, and gives us a promise to deliver us out, if we would only follow His “Truth,” and not what man has understood to be true, even as subtle as it may seem:

The pagan roots of Easter

Easter is a pagan festival. If Easter isn’t really about Jesus, then what is it about? Today, we see a secular culture celebrating the spring equinox, whilst religious culture celebrates the resurrection. However, early Christianity made a pragmatic acceptance of ancient pagan practices, most of which we enjoy today at Easter. The general symbolic story of the death of the son (sun) on a cross (the constellation of the Southern Cross) and his rebirth, overcoming the powers of darkness, was a well worn story in the ancient world. There were plenty of parallel, rival resurrected saviours too.

“But of course, what we now know is that **Easter has a lot of pagan origins** – so, it comes from a lot of traditions that are much earlier than Christianity itself.”

Much of that comes from Easter’s theme of resurrection. **But rather than see resurrection through a Christian lens, believers of pagan religions focused on the natural world and celebrated when the world “resurrected” in the spring.**

“This has been celebrated by people for thousands of years, a long time before Christianity,” Hann said. *“The pre-Christian world is full of lots of stories about resurrection and springtime.”*

For example, 2,000 years before Christ, the Sumerians had a tradition around the goddess Inanna. She descended into the underworld during winter and, once winter ended, she was brought back to life.

The Sumerian goddess Inanna, or Ishtar, was hung naked on a stake, and was subsequently resurrected and ascended from the underworld (*a story originating back to the time of Abraham*).

The ancient **Sumerians** were polytheistic. This means that they worshipped lots of different gods. In fact, there may have been more than 3000 Mesopotamian gods and goddesses! Each god represented something different.

(Paralleling God of Heaven, Establishment of Law, god of Firstfruits) **Inanna** is an ancient Mesopotamian goddess of love, beauty, war, and fertility. She is also associated with sex, **divine law**, and political power. She was originally worshiped in **Sumer** under the name "Inanna", and later by the **Akkadians**, **Babylonians**, and **Assyrians** under the name **Ishtar**. She was known as "*the Queen of Heaven*" . . . **She was associated with the planet Venus and her most prominent symbols included the lion and the eight-pointed star. . .**

Inanna was worshiped in Sumer at least as early as the Uruk period (c. 4000 BCE – 3100 BCE) . . . The cult of Inanna / Ishtar, which may have been associated with a variety of sexual rites, was continued by the East Semitic-speaking people (Akkadians, Assyrians and Babylonians) who succeeded and absorbed the Sumerians in the region.

She was especially beloved by the **Assyrians**, who elevated her to become the highest deity in their pantheon, ranking above their own **national god Ashur**. **Inanna / Ishtar is alluded to in the Hebrew Bible . . . possibly influenced the development of the Greek goddess Aphrodite. . . .**

Many of her myths involve her taking over the domains of other deities. She was believed to have been given the **mes**, which represented all positive and negative aspects of civilization, by **Enki**, the god of wisdom . . .

(Paralleling Resurrection Story) **Inanna's most famous myth is the story of her descent into and return from the ancient Mesopotamian underworld, ruled by her older sister Ereshkigal. After she reaches Ereshkigal's throne room, the seven judges of the underworld deem her guilty and strike her dead. Three days later, Ninshubur pleads with all the gods to bring Inanna back. All of them refuse her, except Enki, who sends two sexless beings to rescue Inanna. They escort Inanna out of the underworld . . .**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inanna>

One of the oldest resurrection myths is Egyptian **Horus**. Born on 25 December, Horus and his damaged eye became symbols of life and rebirth. **Mithras** was born on what we now call Christmas day, and his followers celebrated the spring equinox (*a story that competed during the time of Jesus' birth, in which the Romans worshiped and believed*). Even as late as the 4th century AD, the **sol invictus**, associated with Mithras, was the last great pagan cult the church had to overcome. **Dionysus** was a divine child, resurrected by his grandmother. Dionysus also brought his mum, Semele, back to life.

In an ironic twist, the **Cybele cult** flourished on today's Vatican Hill. Cybele's lover Attis, was born of a virgin, died and was reborn annually. This spring festival began as a day of blood on Black Friday, rising to a crescendo after three days, in rejoicing over the resurrection. There was violent conflict on Vatican Hill in the early days of Christianity between the Jesus worshippers and pagans who quarreled over whose God was the true, and whose the imitation. **What is interesting to note here is that in the ancient world, wherever you had popular resurrected god myths, Christianity found lots of converts.** So, eventually Christianity came to an accommodation with the pagan Spring festival. Although we see no celebration of Easter in the New Testament, early church fathers celebrated it, and today many churches are offering "sunrise services" at Easter – an obvious pagan solar celebration. The date of Easter is not fixed, but instead is governed by the phases of the moon – how pagan is that?

All the fun things about Easter are pagan. Bunnies are a leftover from the pagan festival of **Eostre**, a great northern goddess whose symbol was a rabbit or hare. Exchange of eggs is an ancient custom, celebrated by many cultures. Hot cross buns are very ancient too. In the Old Testament we see the Israelites baking sweet buns for an idol, and religious leaders trying to put a stop to it. The early church clergy also tried to put a stop to sacred cakes being baked at Easter. In the end, in the face of defiant cake-baking pagan women, they gave up and blessed the cake instead.

What better way to celebrate, than to bite the head off the bunny goddess, go to a "sunrise service", get yourself a sticky-footed fluffy chick and stick it on your TV, whilst helping yourself to a hefty slice of pagan **Ham** (or **simnel cake**)? Happy Easter everyone!

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2010/apr/03/easter-pagan-symbolism>

Transition: Constantine simplified Conversion by adapting the traditions of the people, not making them change their traditions, but changing their narratives to simplify conversion. The Mission was convert or be killed. His goal was to rule the world.

The Church At Pergamum
Background Information
Revelation 2:12-17

Church Age: Post Nicene (after Nicea) (325-780 AD)

Characteristics:

A time of great external growth but worldly alliances are made. With the rise of Constantine as Emperor of the Roman Empire the persecution of the Church ceased and actually came into his favor. Constantine eventually was baptized into the faith on his deathbed in 337 AD. During his period of rule a marriage of Church and State developed. Constantine got deeply involved in Church affairs at the First General Council of the Church at Nicea in 325 AD. He virtually imposed the understanding we have of the Trinity today in opposition to the Arian belief. Also at this time Sunday was declared the day of rest and the date of Easter was set. At one time Constantine claimed to be a bishop of the Church for external affairs, believing that God had called him to regulate the Church's life. Progressively Constantine saw Christianity as the state religion. In 391 AD Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the State religion and Church membership mandatory.

Religion:

1. Several pagan cults existed in Pergamum ... Zeus, Athena and Dionysus. The cult of Asclepius was established by the Attalid kings with that of Asclepius Soter ("the savior" or "healer") being of special importance.
2. The first temple of the imperial cult was built in 29 BC in honor of Rome and Augustus.
3. The "Great Altar of Zeus" was here. It is presently in Berlin, Germany.

The Letter to the Church

The Meaning of the Name: "Fortified" or "High Tower" or "Thoroughly Married"

Revelation: *The One who has the sharp two-edged sword.* Christ is the One who speaks the truth, which is the Word of God.

Commendation: *I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*

1. Dwelling Place - It is right in the middle of Satan's (the deceiver ... the liar ... the accuser ... the adversary) camp.
2. Testimony and Faith - Held firm to the truth as the apostle Paul says, "*if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*"

Criticism: *'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality. Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.*

You permit the teaching of the **Nicolaitans**. The Nicolaitans as a group cannot be traced specifically however, the meaning of the name **Nicolaitans** is "*victory over the people*", and alludes to those who cause people to stumble in their faith. Since they have power over people they are evidently those who have obtained leadership roles within the Church.

the Nicolaitans: Jesus is very clear in expressing his feelings concerning the deeds and doctrine of the Nicolaitans, "he hates 'them' (the deeds and doctrines)". What was this doctrine, and does it still exist today? Jude 14, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the GRACE of GOD into lasciviousness (luh-siv-ee-uhs: a license for immorality – unbridled lust, excess,

wontedness, outrageousness, shamelessness.); and deny the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:31**, "Do we make void (nullify) the law through faith? God forbid (Not at all!): we establish the law (Rather, we uphold the law)." By their refusal to obey God's Commands, they deny our Lord Jesus Christ and what he taught (Titus 1:16, Deut 28:15, Ro 1:32). **2 Peter 2:1**, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily (priv-i-ly: secretly – to introduce or bring privately or craftily) shall bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction," 2 Peter 2:2-3, "... And through covetousness shall they with false words make merchandise of you . . ." (We are to stay alert to false teaching, as Jesus teaches in Matthew 24:4, 11) **2 Peter 2:15-16**, "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved gain from wrongdoing," **2 Peter 2:17-19**, "... they allure through the lusts of the flesh . . . while they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption." **The Nicolaitans abused the doctrine of GRACE.** Their doctrine made the law of God of no effect. "By 'believing' we are released from being doers of the word." Jesus never taught this, HE HATED IT! This is His Plan for US: 1) We Repent, 2) He Forgives, 3) We then Obey His Commands. He blesses and rewards our obedience we grow closer to Him through sanctification: WE FOCUS ON BUILDING HIS KINGDOM AND NOT OURS.

The text parallels what Balaam taught Balak to do in order to cause the Israelites to apostatize in their faith towards God. Balaam knew that there was nothing either he or Balak could do to curse the sons of Israel. But if they could get the sons of Israel to turn away from their God, then God Himself would bring disaster on the people. Balaam told King Balak that intermarriage between his women and Israel's men would begin to turn their hearts from God. The women would get the men to eat food sacrificed to idols and then to commit acts of sexual immorality.

The eating of things sacrificed to idols and committing acts of immorality may have literally happened to this church but evidence to support it is hard to find. However, the text appears to be pointing towards a spiritual apostasy. By creating a marriage between the Church, which belongs to the Lord and the kingdoms of this world, which belong to Satan the Church would eventually be led into idolatry. Eating food sacrificed to idols would be taking worldly counsel, instead of partaking of the Word of God and following the Holy Spirit. Sexual immorality exists when you become intimate with one to whom you don't belong ... the Church giving it body to be used by the kingdoms of this world for their pleasure.

Instruction: Repent therefore. Change your mind; do not allow this to continue.

Penalty: *I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.* Christ will fight against all those who teach these things by overcoming them with the truth showing them to be liars and opposing the truth.

Promise: *I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.* If you overcome I will feed you good food ... food from heaven not the earth ... heavenly wisdom because the Spirit of God dwells in Me and I speak the truth and do not lie. I will also give you a white stone showing that you have been acquitted and I will give you My name to be a husband to you in all things.

God's Instruction to those who are in this type of Church Doctrine:

Revelation 18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

"The Three Great Lies of Easter"

Paralleling the Three Signs Given to Moses for the People to Believe

This is a Message of Restoration and Redemption as it was meant to be told, but has been lost in time and translation.

These Three Great Lies have created "**Another Gospel**" which Yeshua did not come to teach and fulfill, but rather man, in fear, created to replace the only true Covenant of God, through what they have called a "New Covenant,"

instead of its correct understanding and interpretation, God's "Renewed, Repaired, Restored Covenant," which, once understood, is the "True Gospel Message," a message that will truly set captives free, that they may experience the one true God, a Covenant Keeper, and not a Covenant Breaker, truly Renewing, Repairing, and Restoring mankind back into right relationship with Him; the ministry of Reconciliation.

Transition: Let's then start by identifying the "Three Great Lies of Easter," so that we can acknowledge that they are lies, and then begin to Renew, Repair, and Restore the Truth of the true Gospel Message that is promised to "**Set Captives Free**":

Redeeming the 3 Lies of Easter with the 3 Signs of Passover

Lie #1 – Palm Sunday

Lie #2 – Good Friday

Lie #3 – Jesus' Death Fulfilled all the Law and the Prophets

Illustration – Again, the parallel of the Three Great Signs of the Exodus Story that Caused BELIEF for God's People:

Exodus 4:29-31

²⁹Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, ³⁰and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. **He also performed the signs** before the people, ³¹and **they believed**. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Exodus 14:30-31

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and **they believed** in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Sign #1 – Prophecy of the Donkey

Zechariah 9:9 says, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed with salvation, humble and mounted on a donkey, even a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Shabbat Hagadol means "*the great Sabbath*" or "Sabbath of greatness". It is the Sabbath, which immediately precedes Passover and is so named because it was historically the day when the King of Israel entered Jerusalem for the Feast. The last king of Israel, Zedekiah had died more than 600 years before.

Jesus leaves Bethany, which is about 2 miles from Jerusalem.

A Sabbath's day's journey was considered to be about one mile however the Rabbinic ruling states that Bethany is within the environs of Jerusalem, therefore it was permissible for someone to travel from Bethany to Jerusalem for the purpose of going to Temple and not break the prohibition against traveling on the Sabbath.

How far is a Sabbath day's journey?

A Sabbath day's journey is how far a person can walk on a Sabbath without violating the Law. Generally, it is considered to be 2000 cubits, about half a mile (or 3/5ths of a mile), or about one kilometer. The phrase is used in the book of Acts where it is referring to the distance from Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives:

Acts 1:12, "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, **a Sabbath day's journey away.**"

A Sabbath day's journey is derived from the Old Testament regulations found mainly in the following two verses.

- **Exodus 16:29**, "See, the LORD has given you the sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. **Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.**"
- **Numbers 35:5**, "You shall also measure outside the city on the east side **two thousand cubits**, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the center. This shall become theirs as pasture lands for the cities."
- **Joshua 3:4**, "However, there shall be between you and it **a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure**. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

The intention of God's command to rest on the Sabbath was codified in the restriction of the distance that the people of God could travel. "a sabbath day's journey—about two thousand cubits."

- “A Sabbath Day’s walk was about 3,000 feet or a bit more than half a mile (cf. [Ex. 16:29](#); [Num. 35:5](#)). The Mount of Olives is this short distance east of Jerusalem.”

<https://carm.org/other-questions/how-far-is-a-sabbath-days-journey/>

At Bethphage (House of Figs) Jesus mounts a **donkey** and rides the rest of the way into **Jerusalem**.

Zechariah 9:9 says, “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed with salvation, humble and mounted on a donkey, even a colt, the foal of a donkey.*”

Jerusalem: Even though by rabbinic ruling Jesus was permitted to walk to Jerusalem, as if to fulfill the Law of Moses completely, He walked only one mile to Bethphage where He mounted a donkey and rode the rest of the way.

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

If Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem were on Palm Sunday according to “Christian” **tradition**, it would mean that He made His journey from Jericho to Bethany (17 miles) on the Sabbath (Rest), definitely a violation of Mosaic Law. Jesus did not break the Law but walked it completely.

Sign #2 – Prophecy of Jonah (3-days and 3-nights in the belly of the fish)

This is to fulfill Jesus prophecies. “*For just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*” (**Matthew 12:40**) “*Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I am to rise again’*” (Matthew 27:63) If Jesus had been crucified on Friday as **tradition** holds, He could not have fulfilled the prophecies accurately. Even the best-case scenario which counts Jesus being in the grave during the day on Friday and raised from the dead just after 6:00 am on Sunday morning would only be three days and two nights.

Matthew 12:38-42

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, “**An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.** ⁴⁰ **For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and **behold, something greater than Jonah is here.**”

Note: The Prophecies of Jonah will be relevant again at Jesus’ 2nd Coming during the Feast of Atonement, when the Book of Jonah is read, in anticipation of an Entire Nation Coming to Faith in One Day, just like the Nation of Nineveh:

Romans 11:25-27

The Mystery of Israel’s Salvation

²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers:^[a] a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

Matthew 27:62-66

The Guard at the Tomb

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “**Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’** ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Sign #3 – Prophecies of Genesis, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah

Isaiah 55:11

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 40:8

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹**I call heaven and earth to witness against you today**, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Isaiah 51:4-7

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶**Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.**

⁷“Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;

Matthew 24:35

³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 5:17-20

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷“Do not think that **I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them** (*walk it out as it was intended to be walked out*). ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away** (*at the end of the millennial reign of Christ*), **not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**

The Hebrew word for 'seasons' in Genesis 1:14 is *moed* (Strong's Concordance #H4150), which literally translated is "**appointed times**" (divine appointments) in reference to God's festivals. This is the earliest known allusion to what would later be called the Holy (or Feast) days (periods) of worship, which are seven in number, eight including Sabbath.

Additional Insights from the Beginning of all prophecy:

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”

Hebrews 12:2

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for **signs** and for **seasons**, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Signs: 226. **oth:** a sign, a witness, a pledge (signs, tokens of changes of **weather** & **times** Genesis 1:14 . . .). (biblehub.com/hebrew/226.htm)

Seasons: 4150. **moed:** **appointed time**, place, or meeting (translations used: **appointed feasts**, **appointed times**, **fixed festivals**, **set time**, **times appointed**.) (biblehub.com/hebrew/4150.htm)

Note: It is most probable that in Genesis 1:14 (P), where אֵת הַיָּמִים "the reference is to the sacred seasons as fixed by moon's appearance; and so also לַעֲשֵׂה יָרֵחַ לַיָּמִים *he made the moon for sacred seasons* Psalm 104:19 (biblehub.com/hebrew/4150.htm),

*"He made the moon to mark the **seasons** (the appointed times – Genesis 1:14);
the sun knows its time for setting."*

Psalm 104:19

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Or moled {mo-ade'}; or (feminine) moweadah (2 Chronicles 8:13) {mo-aw-daw'}; from ya'ad; properly, an appointment, i.e. A fixed time or season; conventionally (regularly) a year; an assembly (as **convened for a definite purpose**); also a signal (as appointed beforehand).

Note: It is here in **Genesis 1:14**, that we learn that God put the "Redemption of Mankind" in the signs and seasons (sun, moon, stars, and seasons), "The Appointed Times", of his creation, Day 4, a number symbolizing "Rest & Refreshment", before He had even created man, and even before man had even fallen, and needed God's Redemption. God had a perfect plan and purpose He created from the beginning of time for the Redemption and Salvation of all things (Matthew 5:8, Ephesians 1:10). This also speaks of God being the Author and Finisher (Hebrews 12:2, John 1:1-4), the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13), and the focus and goal of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

*"You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"*

Luke 12:56

Leviticus 23:1-2

Feasts of the Lord

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts (an appointment) **of the Lord** that you shall proclaim (picture is of someone grabbing someone by the shirt collar and shaking them awake) as holy convocations (rehearsals); they are my appointed feasts."

Transition: The blue print and fulfillment of these prophecies is the guarantee of the actual timing and accuracy of the three final prophecies corresponding Jesus' future fulfillment of the later Feasts of the Lord, aka Appointed Times of the Lord; which if they are not fulfilled on the day and hour of these Appointed Times, Yeshua, aka Jesus, is not the True Messiah.

Matthew 17:4-13 (A Vision of the 2nd Coming of Jesus)

⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain,

Jesus **commanded** them, "**Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.**"

Redeeming the 3 Lies of Easter with the 3 Signs of Passover

Lie #1 – Palm Sunday

Lie #2 – Good Friday

Lie #3 – Jesus' Death Fulfilled all the Law and the Prophets

Lie #1 Redeemed – The Future Fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets

Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

¹ And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son,^[a] with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "**Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.**"

Lie #2 Redeemed – The Future Fulfillment of the Feast of Atonement

Luke 4:16-22

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And **the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,**

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to **proclaim liberty** to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (*The Declaration of the Year of Jubilee*) – Isaiah 61:1-2

Jesus will once again Read this portion of Text upon His Return, during the Feast of Atonement, and complete the Reading:

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God; (*The Declaration of the Year of Jubilee & The Wrath of God on all mankind*

@ *Jesus' 2nd Coming*)

to comfort all who mourn; (*The Sign of those who have the Mark of God on their heads during the time period of the prophesied “Wrath of God.”*)

. . . ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.

Lie #3 Redeemed – The Future Fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles

Zechariah 14

The Coming Day of the LORD

¹ Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. **⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives** that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵ And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

⁶ On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. ^[e] It shall continue in summer as in winter.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

¹⁰ The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹ And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. ^[f] Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

¹³ And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. ¹⁴ Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. ^[g] And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵ And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps.

¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “Holy to the LORD.” And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of

hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

Conclusion: From the very first Sign we learn not to run away from the lie, but to grab hold of the truth and the story changes.

From the Passover Story, the very first Sign we learn not to run away from the lie, but to grab hold of the truth and the story changes, as we will discover, as well as its paralleling narrative in Jesus fulfilling Passover.