

Why Followers of Yahshua Should Not Celebrate Easter and Christmas

Shalom Family, let's dive into this topic together and see what the Word of Yah reveals.

Around the world, many who claim to follow Messiah Yahshua (commonly called Jesus) celebrate holidays such as Easter and Christmas. These days are promoted as “Christian” traditions, but when we examine their origins and measure them against Scripture, we discover they are not rooted in the Word of Yah, but in pagan practices. As set-apart people, we are called to worship Yah in spirit and truth (John 4:23–24), not through traditions of men.

1. Pagan Origins of Easter

The name “Easter” itself comes from Ishtar, a pagan fertility goddess. Many Easter traditions such as eggs, rabbits, and sunrise services trace back to fertility worship and sun-god rituals, not the resurrection of Yahshua.

- Jeremiah 7:18 – “The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven...”

This verse shows how Yah’s people were rebuked for adopting pagan worship mixed with His name. Easter follows the same pattern.

Scripture commands us not to mix Yah’s worship with pagan traditions:

- Deuteronomy 12:30–31 – “Take heed... that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto Yahuah thy Elohim...”

2. Pagan Origins of Christmas

Christmas, celebrated on December 25th, was not the day Yahshua was born. The date was chosen to merge the worship of the Roman sun-god (Sol Invictus) with the faith. Practices like decorated trees, wreaths, and gift-giving come from pagan customs, not from the Bible.

- Jeremiah 10:2–4 – “Learn not the way of the heathen... For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest... they deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.”

This prophecy points directly to pagan tree customs that resemble modern Christmas practices.

3. Following the Commands of Yahshua

Yahshua never told His disciples to celebrate His birth or resurrection with these holidays. Instead, He pointed us back to Yah’s appointed times:

- Leviticus 23 lists the Feasts of Yahuah: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Shavuot, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles.
- Yahshua Himself kept these feasts (John 7:14; Luke 22:15), and the early believers did as well (Acts 2:1; Acts 20:6).

Celebrating Christmas and Easter replaces Yah’s appointed feasts with man-made traditions. Yahshua warned against this:

- Mark 7:7–9 – “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men... Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

4. The Call to Be Set Apart

Yah’s people are commanded to be different from the nations around them:

- 2 Corinthians 6:17 – “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...”
- 1 Peter 1:16 – “Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

To continue celebrating pagan-based holidays while claiming to honor Yahshua (Jesus) is to mix truth with falsehood. Yah calls His people to purity in worship.

5. What Should We Celebrate Instead?

Instead of Easter and Christmas, believers should return to the Biblical Feasts which point directly to Yahshua:

- Passover – Messiah’s sacrifice as the Lamb.
- Unleavened Bread – His sinless life and burial.
- Firstfruits – His resurrection.

- Shavuot (Pentecost) – The outpouring of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).
- Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles – Prophecies of His return and kingdom.

These feasts were never abolished, and they give us the true picture of Yahshua’s work, past, present, and future.

Easter and Christmas may feel familiar, joyful, and widely accepted, but they are not of Yah. They are rooted in pagan worship and upheld by man’s traditions. As followers of Yahshua, we are called to worship in truth, not through practices He never commanded.

By laying aside Easter and Christmas and returning to Yah’s appointed times, we honor the God of Israel the way He asked to be honored. True love for Yahshua is shown not by clinging to traditions of men, but by keeping His commandments (John 14:15).

Pagan Holidays vs. Biblical Feasts

Man-Made Holiday	Origin & Practices	Biblical Feast (Yah’s Appointed Time)	Meaning in Yahshua
Easter	Named after Ishtar (pagan fertility goddess). Eggs, rabbits, sunrise services.	Passover & Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:5–8)	Yahshua is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). His sinless body was buried during Unleavened Bread.
Easter “Resurrection Sunday”	Linked to sun-god worship at sunrise.	Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9–14)	Yahshua rose as the Firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20).
Christmas (Dec 25)	Roman sun-god festival (Sol Invictus). Tree worship, gift exchange.	Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) (Leviticus 23:33–44)	Points to Yahshua “tabernacling” (dwelling) with His people (John 1:14). Many believe His birth aligns with this feast, not December 25.
New Year’s (Jan 1)	Rooted in Roman god Janus (two-faced god of doors/beginnings).	Yah’s New Year (Aviv 1) (Exodus 12:2)	Marks the beginning of Yah’s calendar, setting His people apart from worldly systems.

Key Takeaways

- Man-made holidays mix pagan worship with Messiah’s name.

- Yah's appointed feasts are prophetic, pointing directly to Yahshua's work of salvation.
- By keeping His feasts, we align with His calendar, not man's.

Until we meet again, may we continue to walk in the undeniable truth of Yah's Word.

Shalom,

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