

# What's So Good About Good Friday?

By Dr. William Schnoebelen ©2016

Right now the Western World is gearing up for "Holy Week" and the so-called Sacred Tridium (three days) - a pagan feast the ancient Roman Church made sacrosanct, and spread across its vast empire. Through the centuries the practice of Holy Week spread to other Christian sects and into the Protestant Reformation.

Long ago, as a new Believer in a Pentecostal church, I began to ask questions: Why do Christians still celebrate Good Friday and Easter? I did not know about the Feasts of Yahuwah at that time, but knew from my VERY Catholic upbringing there was something literally fishy about the whole thing. Good intentioned Christian believers still follow the Roman tradition and observe Good Friday to this day; now, we in no way judge them for this but only pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes through Biblical teachings and revelation. But the concern does arise: Should Believers in the Bible continue to celebrate the resurrection of pagan "Messiah" (Tammuz) begun by a pagan cult? Why not celebrate the resurrection of Yahushua when the Bible says He rose from the dead?

**BUT EASTER'S IN THE BIBLE...ISN'T IT?** Of course, the most obvious problem is that the Bible says absolutely nothing about celebrating Holy Week or Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter (the sacred three days). Before being saved by the Blood of Calvary, I had been a witch for 16 years and knew that Easter was one of many names for the goddess of springtime (Eostra, Isis, Ishtar, Ashtara, etc.). Being well acquainted with the pagan rites of spring, I could not understand why Christians who "followed the Bible and only the Bible" were celebrating Good Friday and Easter which are pagan feasts and not in the Bible anywhere!

Many churches today continue to have Easter pageants, Easter egg hunts, sunrise services and even services for Good Friday. Where is ANY of this in the Scripture? Please know that the Bible does not even support the idea that Yahushua rose at sunrise on Sunday morning. ***So, what is GOOD about Good Friday?***

Well, aside from being Erev Shabbat (the day or evening before Sabbath – YAY!), not a whole lot. Evidently, the early Catholic Church could not count past two! Think about it, Yahushua said that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth – that was His own words (**Matt. 12:40**).

Now, looking at the timetable: There is **absolutely** no way someone can be crucified on Friday afternoon at 3PM, be buried some time after that, and to count three days and three nights and end up on Sunday sunrise! **That is only two nights and one full day.** I remember going round and round with a Russian Orthodox bishop about this a few years ago. He finally just shook his head and shrugged and said, "It's a mystery."

The mystery is why anyone would believe and propagate this stuff for nearly two millennia! It is evident from a clear reading of the Bible that Yahushua was crucified on Wednesday, not Friday. Again, the confusion comes because the gentile church neither understands nor takes the time to understand the Feasts of the Bible!

These early "Church Fathers" (whom Martin Luther called "Church Babies") saw that the New Testament states that Mary Magdalene and others discovered the empty tomb on the day after the Sabbath (**Matt. 28:1**). This is borne out in other passage such as **Mark 15:42, 16:1, and Luke 23:54,56**. However, as usual the Bible explains itself clearly if you read it prayerfully and carefully.

John comes along and enlightens us with the following verse:

**The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.**  
– John 19:31 (emphasis added)

John explains that the Sabbath after Yahushua died was a HIGH Sabbath. In other words, it was Pesach or Passover. What most Christians do not understand is that in the Bible there is the weekly Sabbath on our Saturday and also **High** Sabbaths that are some major feast days in which no work may be done. Pesach (Passover) is one such High Sabbath.

Please understand: Just as the Passover lambs had to be killed on the afternoon before the feast, so Yahushua's body was slain on the cross the afternoon before Pesach that year. It made it a perfect fulfillment of prophecy!

But this lack of knowledge of the Bible by the Roman Church Fathers who set up these feast days caused them to stumble:

**Hos. 4:6: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”**

The ambitious early church leaders had forgotten the law (**Torah**) of Yahuwah and then, rejected Biblical knowledge concerning the true Feasts of Yahuwah. Sadly, consequences fell upon their children through celebrating these false feast days and false dogmas, leading them into deeper pools of sin! Frequently, these apostate leaders of the gentile church would substitute pagan feasts for Biblical practices. We are warned about this in **Rev. 2:9, 3:9 among many other Scriptures!** (See the **DVD [Catholicism: Church on Haunted Hill](#)**).

We have talked about Easter before and its pagan origins, so I will not continue to flog the Easter Bunny here. Certainly there is nothing wrong with proclaiming and celebrating that Yahushua rose from the dead – but it did not happen on Easter and it was not on Sunday morning. It is more likely He rose on Saturday evening as we reckon time at the Sabbaths end. Remember, in the Bible, days begin at sundown and ended at sundown (see **Gen. 1:5 and elsewhere**). Note what it says here:

**In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. – Matt. 28:1**

The end of the Sabbath would be sundown Saturday evening, not Sunday morning.

Then there is **Mark 16:9: Now when Yahushua was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene...**

See, early on the first day Biblically **would have been Saturday evening**. As usual, the apostle John offers much more light on the issue:

**The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. – John 20:1**

Note that it was dark when Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty. This proves Yahushua did not rise at sunrise on Sunday because then Mary would not have arrived when it was dark at some later point. This does away with the notion of the sunrise service, which is actually a VERY heathen custom borrowed from groups like the pagan Druids!

The gentile church created the sunrise service to attract more pagans to their rituals. As we shall see, they did the same thing with Good Friday. But you might ask, “Preacher, what’s wrong with doing things that attract unsaved people to your church?”

In theory, that sounds good. It is like the “seeker friendly services” many large churches have been doing since the nineties. But the problem with this is that there is no salt in those services. There is nothing to make people thirsty for something MORE than the world has to offer. If the churches are just like the world, why go to church? Why not serve beer at church or have gyrating, scantily clad women lead worship? That would attract more unsaved people – just look at some of the mega-churches we have today!

Again, not all believers who consider Easter Sunday sacred are so ensconced in the world – so why not step aside from the world’s celebrations? **We are to be the salt of the earth.** But these seeker-friendly churches have lost their savor and haven’t got much in their favor!! Thus, these churches are being filled with unsaved, unregenerate people who barely know the gospel and who think that real Biblical faith is an anachronistic, pathetic joke. They do not understand holiness because they have never even been exposed to it.

This is what happened to the gentile (Catholic) church 1200 years ago as it got more and more paganized and worldly and it is what has happened to the evangelical and Protestant churches during the past generation. History is repeating itself because leaders are ignorant of the Bible and its teachings (**Hos. 4:6**) and it is coming down onto our precious children, who are increasingly wandering away from the church.

WHY DID THE Roman church chose Friday to be Good Friday? For a very special reason. In pagan times, each day of the week was sacred to an el (false g-d or g-ddess). Sunday was the day sacred to the sun el, Apollo; Monday was the moon goddess Diana; Tuesday was the day of the war el Aries or Mars. Wednesday was sacred to Woden or Odin and Thursday was Thor’s day – the most obvious one. Friday was sacred to Freya, the Norse goddess of love (like Venus) and Saturday was dedicated to the dark Titan, Saturn or Kronos.

Since Friday was sacred to the goddess of love and eroticism, it was chosen by the dirty old men who were running the so-called church by this time to be Good Friday – even though the day had absolutely nothing to do with the crucifixion of Yahushua and they knew it! They saw it as a way of offering homage to Venus and attracting her worshippers.

The goddess of love is also associated with the **sea**. Thus, fish became the emblematic sacred food of the goddess. So, on Friday old time Catholics (like I was) were forbidden to eat meat on Friday and only seafood could be eaten. It was, when I was a child, **a MORTAL sin** to eat meat or chicken or pork on Friday – only fish was allowed. That meant that if you ate meat on Friday and died without confessing your sin to a priest you would go straight to hell!

Of course, the average Catholic was not told that eating fish was homage to a sea goddess. They just “followed orders” of their bishops. This rule was done away with in the Second Vatican Council during

the 1960's, by the way. But back in the day, the higher ups that made the rule knew that it was a way of drawing more pagans into the church – they were counting on it, literally. The most pagans that settled into the church the richer it grew. The result was that the entire Roman church became more and more paganized. It was just as Paul warned; **a little leaven (wickedness) leavens the whole lump (Gal. 5:9).**

You cannot bring pagans into the church without getting them saved, disciplining them and teaching them to follow the commandments of the Bible. Yet, this happened then and is happening today more than ever.

In the same way, you cannot bring pagan practices like Easter and Goddess Friday into the church and expect things to improve. They will not. Abba warned us that we are not to learn the ways of the heathen (see **Deut. 18:9 and Jer. 10:2**) and yet that is exactly what most Christians are doing. We are warned:

**Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? – 2 Cor. 6:14-15**

The antidote to these pagan intrusions into the holiness of the congregation of Yahuwah is to not just expose the darkness but to celebrate the Light – the light of the feasts of Yahuwah, like Passover (Pesach) that is coming soon. We have instructions on how to keep Passover on our website under [PRAYERS/CELEBRATE BIBLICAL FEASTS/Passover – Natzarim Haggadah](http://www.withoneaccord.org). It is such a total blessing AND it is a commandment – if you are of the people of Yahushua. Yahuwah His Father has spoken about Passover:

**And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahuwah throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.  
– Exodus 12:14**

What part of “for ever” is difficult to understand? Keep and guard His feasts and He will keep and guard you and your children! Have a blessed Passover!

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