

QA: What About "Easter Holy Week"? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: What does the Bible say about "Easter Holy Week?"

ANSWER: Christians celebrated NO "Holy Week" in the New Testament. Christians do not re-enact the last week of Jesus' life before the cross.

1. Jesus prophesied the events of His last week.

Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." (Matthew 20:17-19)

The Apostles and Christians, "daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42), and when scattered, "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). "Teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" certainly includes everything contained in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John about Jesus' life, but never limited to one week in His life, or teaching about it once in a year.

2. Christians remember Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection every 1st day of every week. Before His death,

Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:22-25)

Since Jesus was resurrected on the "first day of the week, then with Apostolic teaching and approval in Troas,

On the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

Christians have NO "holy week" to remember Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, because they meet once every week for that very purpose!

3. Christians must be careful NOT to religiously observe worldly traditions, i.e. those not taught in Scripture, with worldly worship.

But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain. (Galatians 4:8-11)

Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

(Colossians 2:18-19)

[Jesus warned:] "And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition." (Mark 7:7-9)

—— jtpll, April 4, 2021