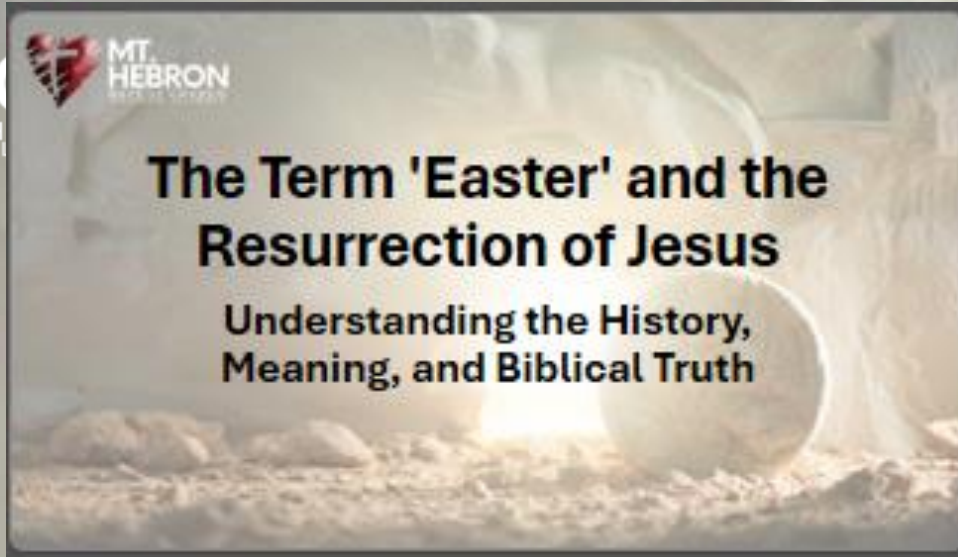
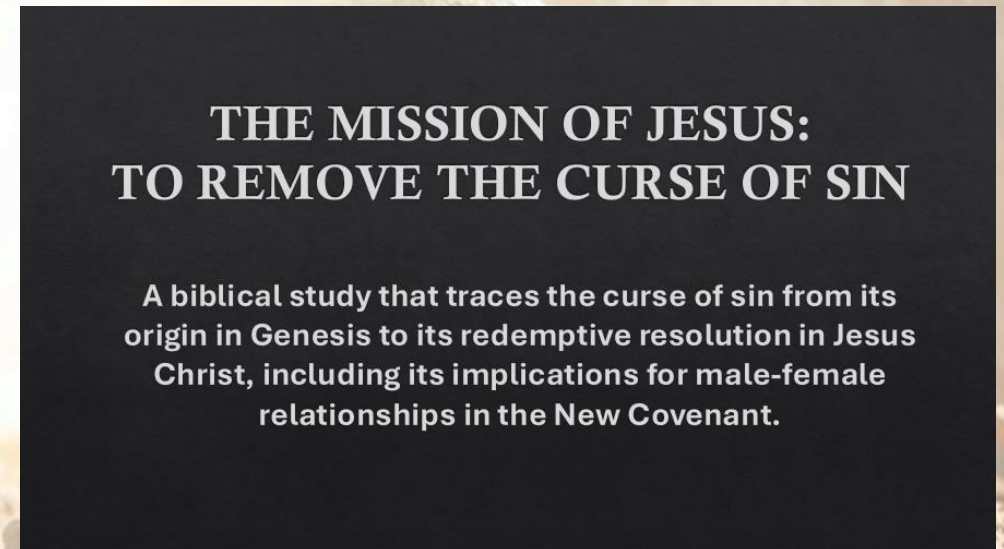


The Term 'Easter' and the Resurrection of Jesus

**Understanding the History,
Meaning, and Biblical Truth**



**BIBLE CLASS 16 APRIL
2025**



Biblical Origins: Pascha (Passover)

- **Early Christians celebrated the resurrection during Passover.**
- **'Pascha' is Greek for 'Passover' (Hebrew: Pesach).**
- **Jesus crucified and rose during Passover week.**
- **Linked Jesus to the Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).**

The Name 'Easter': Pagan Roots?

- Comes from Old English 'Ēastre' or 'Ēostre'.
- Referenced by Bede, an 8th-century monk.
- Ēostre was a spring goddess in Anglo-Saxon lore.
- Only English and German use a similar word ('Ostern').



Global Terminology Still Uses 'Pascha'

- **Greek: Pascha (Πάσχα)**
- **Latin: Pascha**
- **French: Pâques | Spanish: Pascua | Italian: Pasqua**
- **Most languages reflect the biblical Passover link.**



Why 'Easter' Common in English

- **Christianity spread through pagan Europe.**
- **Church leaders blended local culture to ease conversion.**
- **'Easter' replaced 'Pascha' in Anglo-Saxon lands.**
- **Synod of Whitby (664 AD) influenced standardization.**

Does the Term 'Easter' Diminish the Message?

- **Term isn't biblical, has pagan ties.**
- **Resurrection of Jesus remains central.**
- **Christians reclaim meaning through Resurrection-focused worship.**
- **Many churches use 'Resurrection Sunday' instead.**

Summary of Key Points

- **Original Term: Pascha (Passover)**
- **Biblical Connection: Jesus' death & resurrection during Passover**
- **'Easter' Origin: Pagan spring goddess (Ēostre)**
- **Why Common: Language shift in Europe, especially England**
- **Current Focus: Resurrection of Jesus Christ**
- **Alternative Term: Resurrection Sunday**