

Why We Don't Celebrate Easter, Part 2C: Why the Name Matters

- Saul's sinful offering (1 Samuel 15:1-23)
- Recap from last week (Part 2B, "Where Does the Name 'Easter' Come From?")
 - "Easter" comes from the pagan fertility goddess named "Easter," "Eostre," "Eastre," with additional spelling forms to her name
 - Easter as a pagan fertility goddess is derived from the Hebrew "Ashtoreth" (or "Ashtoret") and the Greek "Astarte." She is said to have had many local deities with different names (Astarte in different forms). Her names varied according to region.
 - Easter was known as a goddess of love and war (often depicted in statues wearing two horns, showing her war utility), putting her on the same plane as Aphrodite
 - French prayer from 1894 shows that Astarte is still worshipped in contemporary times with her Greek name from the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament.

Today

- The mention of the Hebrew Ashtoreth/Greek Astarte in Scripture:
 - Judges 2:11-13
 - Judges 10:6-8
 - 1 Samuel 7:1-4
 - 1 Samuel 12:9-11
 - 1 Samuel 31:8-10
 - 1 Kings 11:1-8, 31-35 (our starting Scripture for today)
 - 2 Kings 23:10-25

Easter: Why the Name Matters

- Bible Study Passages:
 - Deuteronomy 6:10-15 (“take oaths in His name”)
 - Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (“take oaths in His name”)
 - Deuteronomy 12:1-4 (verse 4, “you shall not worship the Lord your God with such things”)
 - Deuteronomy 18:18-20 (the prophet who “speaks in the name of other gods” shall die)
 - Joshua 23:1-8 (special emphasis on verses 6-8)
 - Isaiah 42:8 (“nor My praise to carved images”)
 - Isaiah 48:9-11 (“how should My name be profaned?”)

