

Arise and Shine on This Unique Easter

Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016

Easter Celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Sun 3 Apr AD 33)

It is really a three-day story. For Hebrews, each day includes the preceding evening.

Day 1. Friday: Jesus held the Last Supper on the preceding evening where He introduced the sacrament. Then followed His suffering for our sins during the Atonement in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then His betrayal, trial during the night, and the Crucifixion on Friday morning. Jesus, the Lamb of God, died about 3 p.m. when the Passover lambs were sacrificed.

Day 2. Saturday: As a spirit, Jesus preached deliverance to the captives in Spirit Prison. That was the holy day of Passover, beginning with a feast the previous night, celebrating the deliverance of the captives of Egypt. It was the last Saturday sabbath.

Day 3. Sunday: On the third day, Jesus rose from death at the Resurrection before dawn. At sunrise a priest offered the firstfruits of the harvest from the ground, symbolizing that Jesus would be the first to resurrect. Jesus appeared to His followers and the sabbath day was changed to Sunday to commemorate the Resurrection.

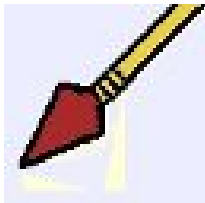
The Annual Date of Easter

Each year we hold Easter on a day that reminds us of the sacred Hebrew calendar when Jesus resurrected. The Resurrection was on the Sunday morning following Passover, when the priest offers the firstfruits. Passover occurred at the full moon of spring, so we hold Easter each year on the Sunday after the full moon on or after March 21. So Easter is held on the correct day according to the Hebrew Calendar. It is indeed a sacred day!



Sacred Round Day: 1 Reed

What makes Easter so special this year is that it also occurs on an important holy day on two other calendars which were sacred to the Native Americans. The first is called the Sacred Round. Each day on the Sacred Round was named for one of twenty pictures which represent days of life, such as birth, of death and of resurrection. There were 13 different days each with the same picture, so there were $13 \times 20 = 260$ days in a Sacred Round. The picture representing resurrection is often shown as an arrow. It was called "Reed" because arrows were made from the stiff dried reeds. Thus there are days in the Sacred Round named 1 Reed, 2 Reed, etc., up to 13 Reed.



The one day in each Sacred Round which most represents Resurrection is the day 1 Reed. It especially represents the first person to resurrect, Jesus Christ. This Easter is special because it also is 1 Reed. Easter only is on 1 Reed about once in 260 years, so that is very rare to represent the Resurrection on both our Calendar and also on the Sacred Round.

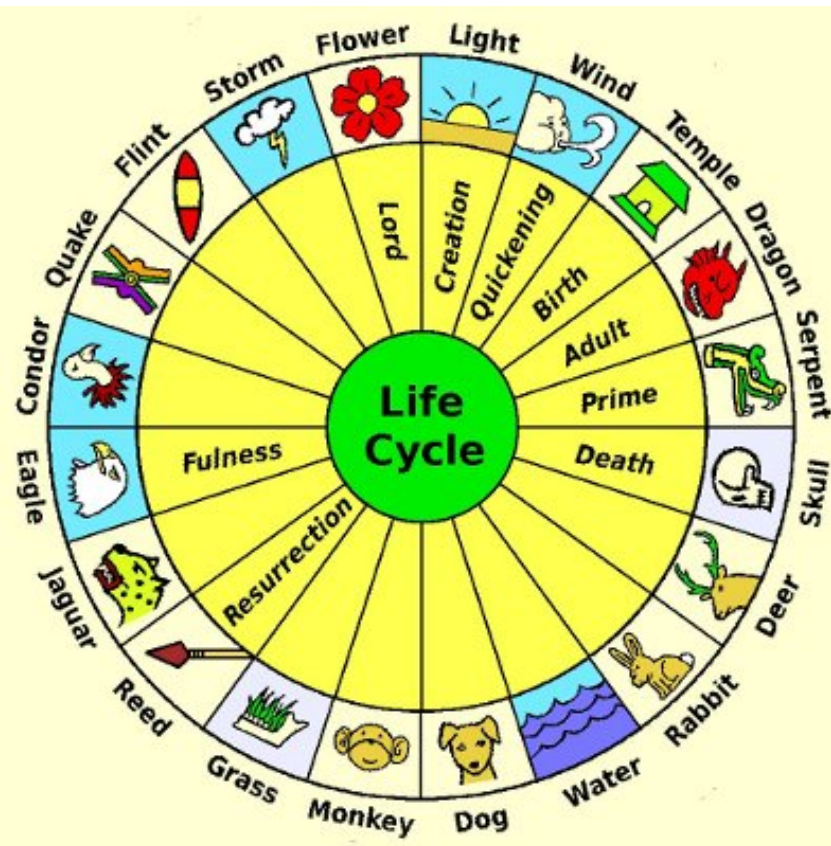
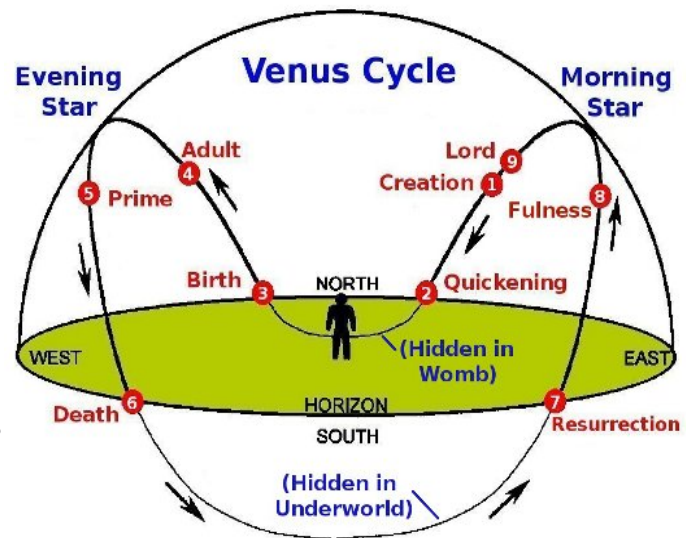
Today also reminds us of the birth date of Jesus. Research shows that Jesus was born on the evening before Thur 6 Apr 1 BC. That day was also 1 Reed, so Jesus was born on 1 Reed! Jesus said that He is the Resurrection and the Life, so it was appropriate that He was born on the day of the Sacred Round representing resurrection.

Venus Calendar Day: 1 Resurrection

The other Native American calendar which is important today is called the Venus Calendar. This calendar keeps track of the phases of the planet Venus. The illustration show that Venus appears both as the Evening Star and the Morning Star. It has nine phases which also represent days in its life cycle, such as birth, death and resurrection. The cycle begins on Creation and ends on Lord.

Jesus was born on the day 1 Lord on the Venus Calendar. He is the Lord of all, so that was a perfect day. Today is also the day 1 Lord.

Today is the only Easter in history which is both 1 Reed and 1 Lord!



The illustration to the left shows all twenty pictures on the Sacred Round in order. The first day is Light and the next is Wind. The next is Temple, representing birth, when we receive the temple of our body. In the inner circle are shown the 9 holy days of the Venus Calendar. The day Reed in the Sacred Round corresponds to the day Resurrection on the Venus Calendar.

Arise and Shine

What is the meaning of this important day? The symbolism is that it is a day to "arise", as in resurrection. On the Venus calendar, it is also a day to "shine", being one with the Lord. Isaiah said, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the

Lord is risen upon thee" (Isa. 60:1). What better time than today for us to arise and shine with the glory of the Lord?