

## ARE YOU BEING FOOLED ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY?

April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year is referred to as April Fool's Day. It is a day when much deception takes place and many people are subjected to numerous tricks and pranks; in a fun sort of way. Many people look forward each year to playing a greater trick on someone whom they caught the year before. The recipient of the prank tends to be overly cautious and might even get caught again because of how much effort he or she is putting into not being caught off guard and being the target of someone's joke.

Yet this day has such a glorious, **Spiritual** meaning that is not known to many people in the Christian world. In Exodus 12:2, we find "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you." And Exodus 13:4 names the month; "This day came ye out in the month Abib."

The month of "Abib" in the bible is the same month called April on the Gregorian calendar known to man today. Did you know that there was a time when April 1st was celebrated as the New Year; just as it says in the bible? It was not until the 16th century when King Charles the IX decided that New Years should be changed from April 1st to January 1<sup>st</sup> that this change occurred. Individuals who resisted this change were called fools and were sometimes sent invitations to parties on April 1<sup>st</sup> which were not really being kept. Thus April 1<sup>st</sup> coined the name, "April Fool's Day".

Daniel 7:25 records, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

This is what has happened. Man is constantly changing the Law of God to suit himself. We continually seek to do things that are appealing and pleasing to us. But this will only continue for the period of time that God will allow it. It will not last forever. The natural progression as recorded in the bible would be the celebration of the beginning of months on April 1<sup>st</sup> then the celebration of Passover Memorial on April 14th at evening (understanding each day begins at evening - Genesis 1:5). Instead, man has changed the New Year to January 1st and celebrates Easter rather than Memorializing the Feast of the Lord's Passover and celebrating the Days of Unleavened Bread; contrary to the natural progression as it occurs in the Bible.

It is always a blessing to be in the Northern Hemisphere during the beginning of the year in April to see the trees begin to bud and the flowers begin to bloom and the grass flourish; after the dead and cold of the winter months. It is a true testimony to the fact that the Word of God, as recorded in the Bible, is true and that this time truly is the beginning of months.

Today; we, the people of God, still observe the beginning of months in April and continue to memorialize the Feast of the Lord's Passover and celebrate the Days of Unleavened Bread, just as our Lord and Master did. We continue to follow His instructions recorded in St. Mark 14:13, "And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him."

Don't be fooled!