

Opinion

Marked by Mystery: From Ash Wednesday to Wednesday Addams, We're All Wednesday Without Christ's Redemptive Plan

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Photo Credit: tiffany@threshingnews.com March 09, 2025 *WE'RE ALL WEDNESDAY* PNG

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Introduction

Every year, millions worldwide observe Ash Wednesday as the start of Lent—a 40-day period leading up to Easter marked by fasting, self-denial, and spiritual reflection. Yet, beneath the familiar rituals lies a surprising historical reality that calls for deeper scrutiny: Lent, Ash Wednesday, and even Easter traditions have profound connections to ancient pagan practices rather than clear biblical commands.

The tradition of Lent itself lacks direct biblical endorsement. Its roots trace back to ancient Babylon, specifically to the worship of the pagan deity Tammuz. In the Book of Ezekiel (8:14), a troubling vision depicts women mourning the death of Tammuz, a god whose death symbolized winter's desolation and whose rebirth signified spring's renewal. These Babylonian followers mourned for exactly forty days, remarkably paralleling modern Lent observances. Significantly, it was the Catholic Church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD—not biblical authors or apostles—that officially incorporated Lent into Christian practices. Their motivation was strategic, aimed at making conversion more palatable to pagans by absorbing familiar rituals.

Consider Ash Wednesday, a day when believers receive an ashen cross on their foreheads. Few realize this "T" shaped mark originally represented Tammuz. Historically, this cross was already an established pagan symbol long before Christ's crucifixion. Prominent figures today, from President Joe Biden to Hollywood actors like Chris Pratt, Mark Wahlberg, and Stephen Colbert, publicly observe these rituals—perhaps unaware of their deep pagan origins and implications.

Moreover, Easter itself, widely celebrated with traditions like colorful eggs and playful rabbits, also harbors ancient pagan symbolism. These symbols were originally tied to the goddess Ishtar and her consort Tammuz, central figures in ancient fertility rituals. Ishtar's myth involved her descending into the underworld and re-emerging, symbolized by an egg from which she emerged, directly linking to the tradition of Easter eggs. Rabbits, prolific breeders, naturally symbolized fertility and renewal, further embedding these symbols into springtime celebrations. Early church leaders intentionally adopted these pagan customs to

facilitate cultural assimilation, yet their original meanings persist beneath modern traditions.

Another overlooked custom involves the Easter tradition of eating ham, tracing back directly to the mythology surrounding Tammuz. According to ancient Babylonian legends, Tammuz was killed by a wild boar. After forty days of mourning his death, followers would ritually consume pork, symbolically avenging their deity. Today, countless families unknowingly replicate this ancient pagan rite when ham graces their Easter dinner tables, unknowingly perpetuating a tradition once dedicated to idol worship.

Consider the cultural phenomenon of Wednesday Addams, the central figure of Netflix's widely acclaimed series "Wednesday." Her gothic fascination with death and darkness subtly echoes ancient Babylonian mourning rituals centered around the deity Tammuz. Her name, "Wednesday," intriguingly aligns with historical days dedicated explicitly to mourning and reflection on mortality. The popularity of her character glamorizes morbidity, mysticism, and rebellion, subtly embedding into mainstream culture themes historically connected to pagan and Luciferian deception. Through such entertainment, society gradually grows more comfortable with embracing darkness—elements fundamentally opposed to the gospel's message of life, redemption, and hope.

We must confront the uncomfortable question: Have these ancient rituals truly disappeared, or have they simply evolved, cleverly concealed within modern culture, entertainment, and religious practices?

For followers of Christ, the importance of understanding these historical connections cannot be overstated. Traditions are not neutral; they carry deep symbolic meanings that either reflect biblical truth or subtly undermine it. When we adopt rituals and cultural trends without discernment, we risk drifting from scriptural truth, inadvertently embracing deception.

Now aware of the authentic origins behind Lent, Ash Wednesday, Easter symbols, and even pop culture phenomena like Wednesday Addams, we face a critical choice. Will we continue traditions steeped in ancient pagan symbolism, or will we choose to realign our spiritual practices strictly with the teachings of Scripture?

Christ offers genuine redemption—eternal and transformative, far beyond seasonal or cyclical renewal. Let's consciously choose authenticity over tradition, scriptural truth over cultural practices, and Christ's eternal redemption over ancient counterfeits.

May the Holy Spirit grant us discernment, guiding our hearts firmly toward Jesus Christ—the true Passover Lamb, whose resurrection alone offers genuine and everlasting redemption.