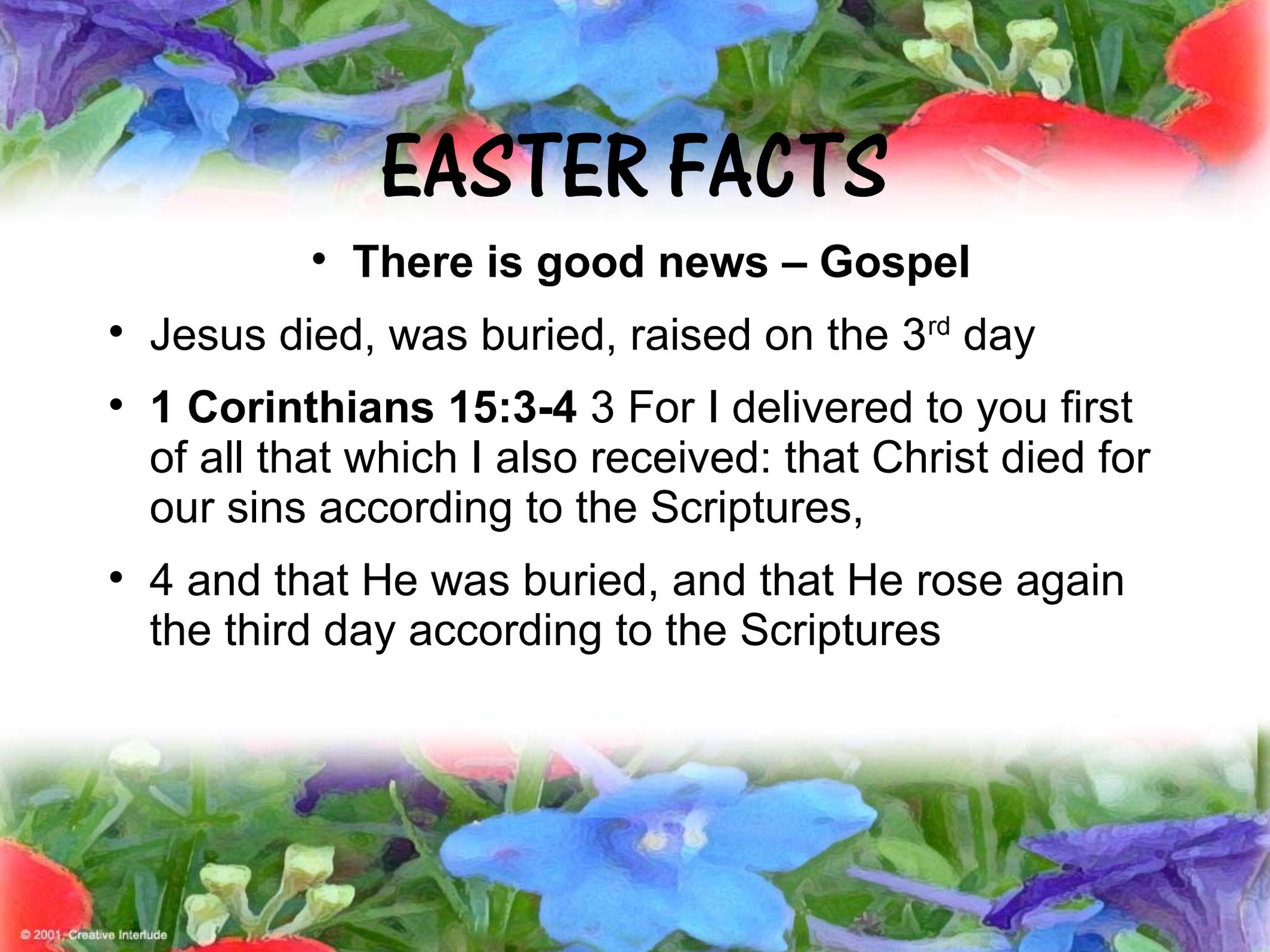


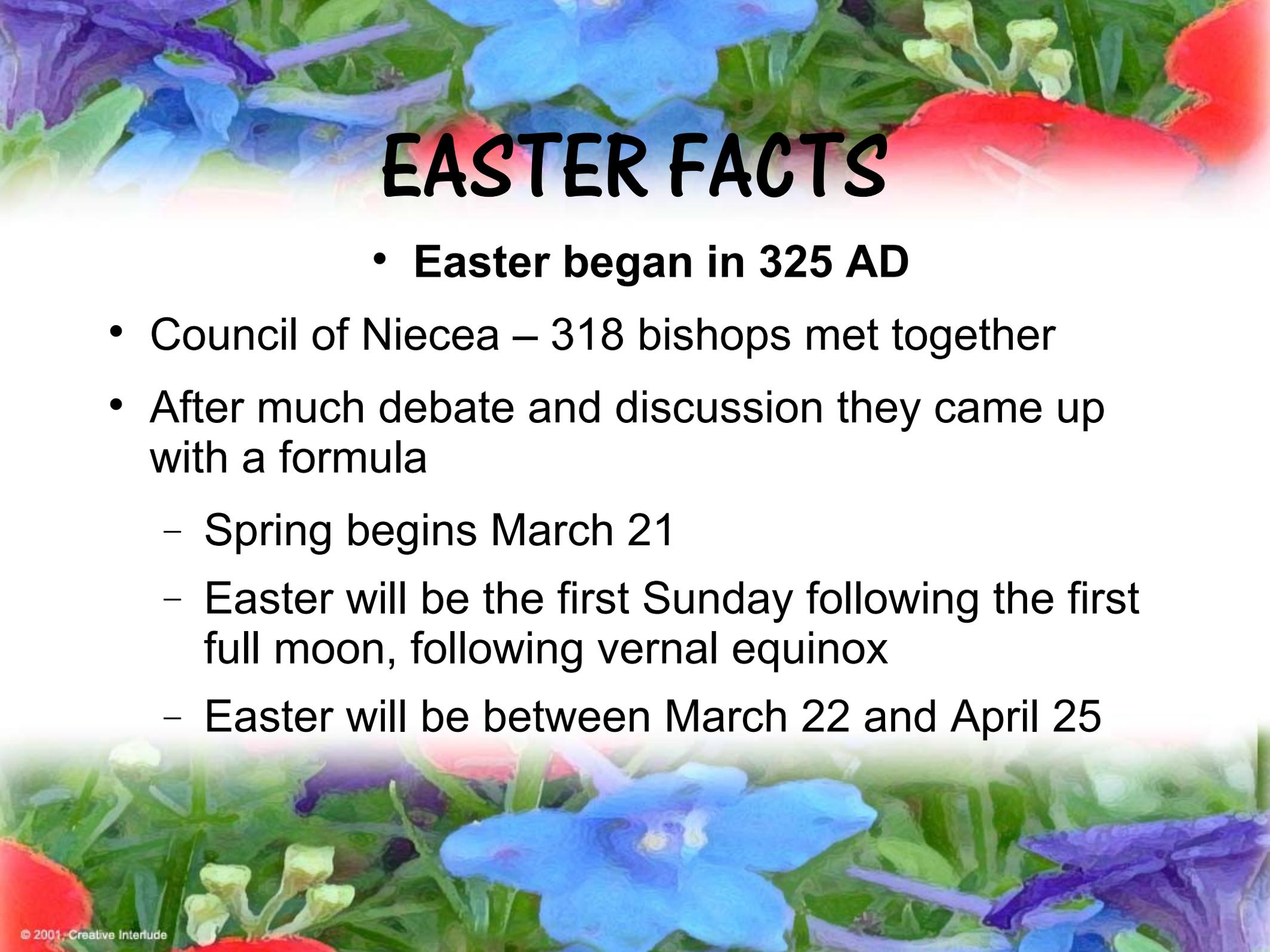
# **EASTER: Fact & Fiction**

- Next Sunday is called EASTER SUNDAY.
- More people attend a church service
- Part of Easter has a religious history
- Part of Easter has a non-spiritual history
- Today we will try to separate the facts from fiction



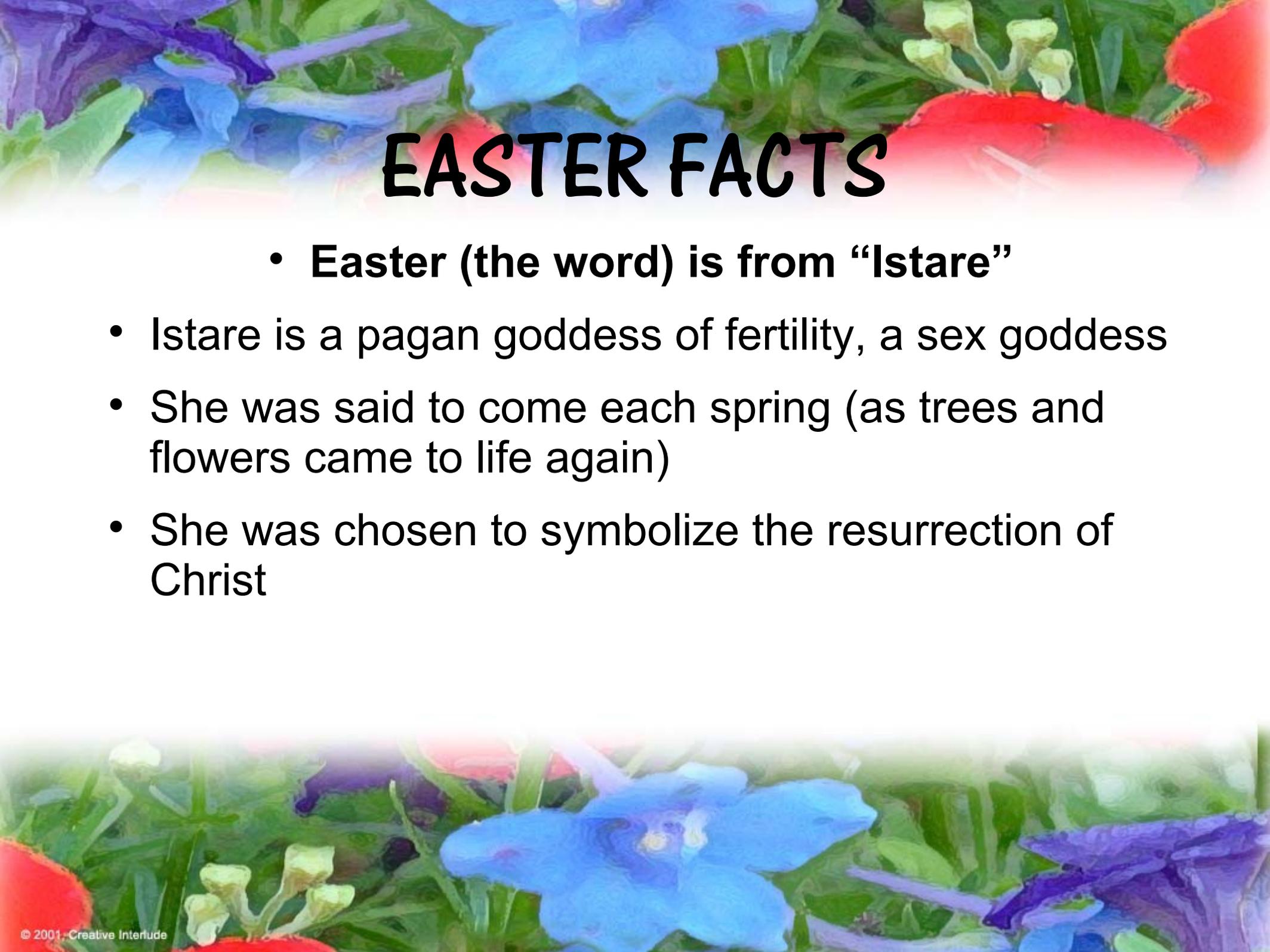
# EASTER FACTS

- There is good news – **Gospel**
- Jesus died, was buried, raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures



# EASTER FACTS

- **Easter began in 325 AD**
- Council of Niecea – 318 bishops met together
- After much debate and discussion they came up with a formula
  - Spring begins March 21
  - Easter will be the first Sunday following the first full moon, following vernal equinox
  - Easter will be between March 22 and April 25



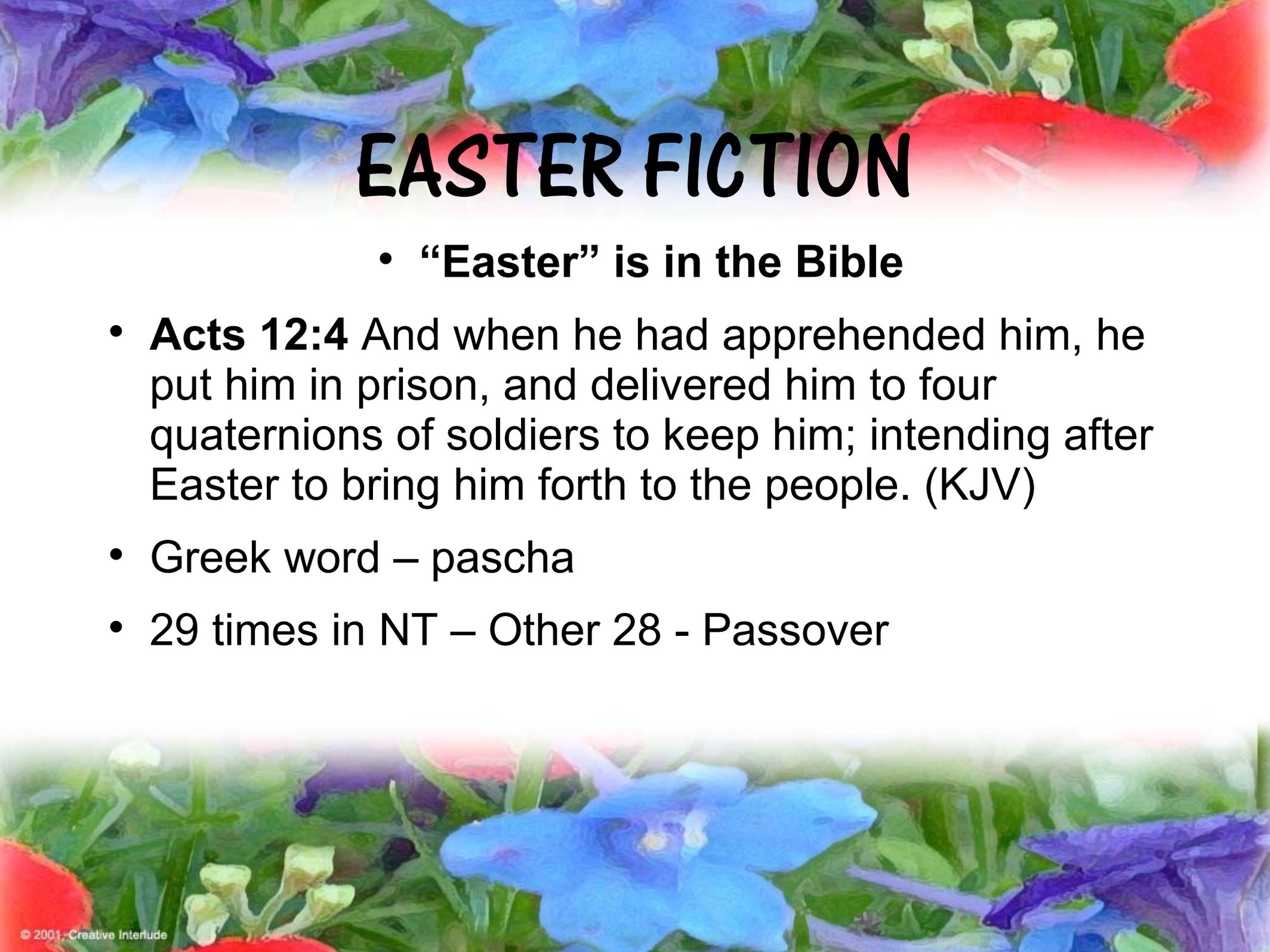
# EASTER FACTS

- **Easter (the word) is from “Istare”**
- Istare is a pagan goddess of fertility, a sex goddess
- She was said to come each spring (as trees and flowers came to life again)
- She was chosen to symbolize the resurrection of Christ



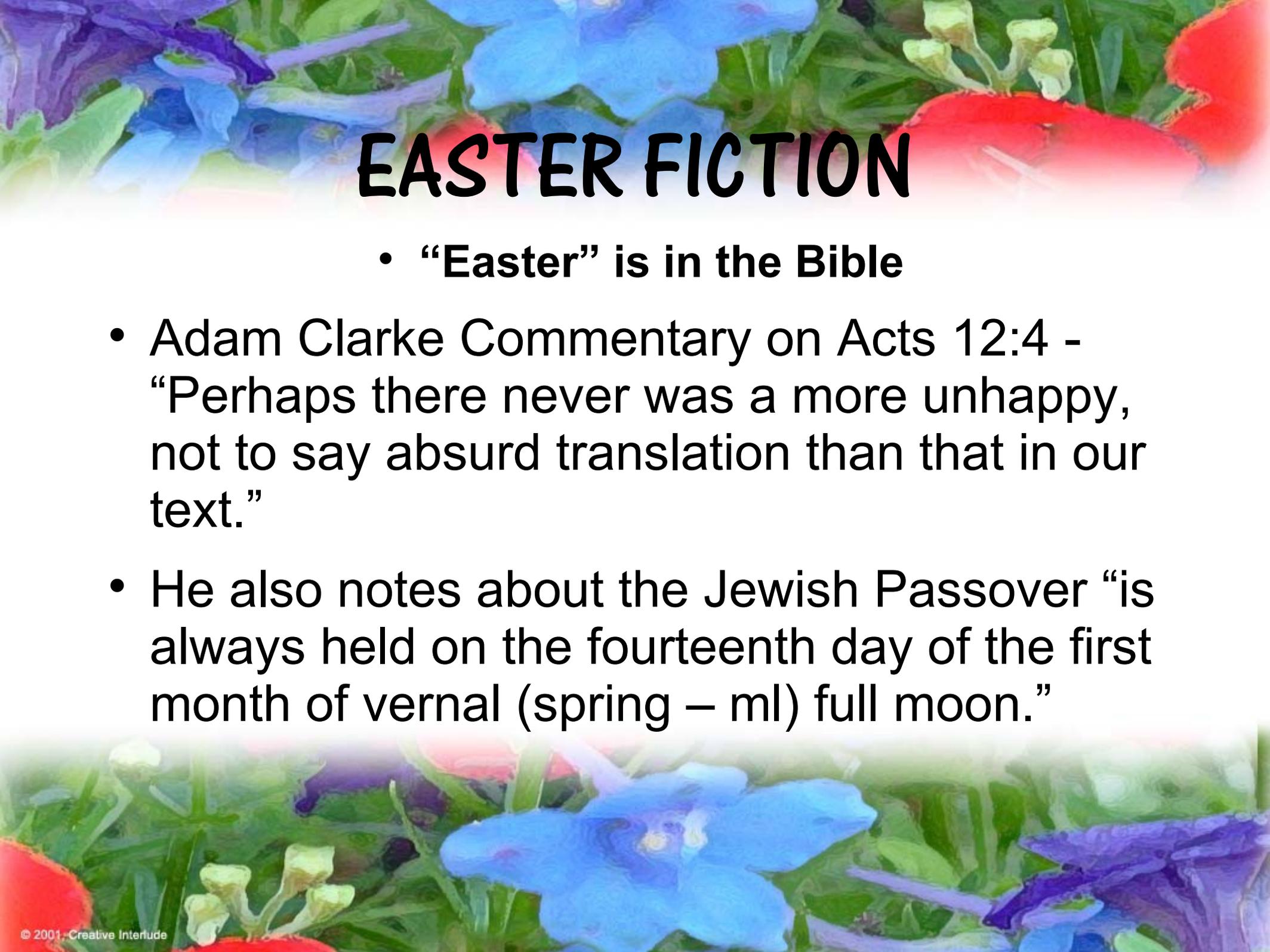
# EASTER FACTS

- **Many traditions and customs have developed**
- Some traditions are spiritual
  - Sunrise services
  - Partake of communion
- Many are not related to religion
  - Easter bunny, Egg hunts
  - Basket of candy and toys



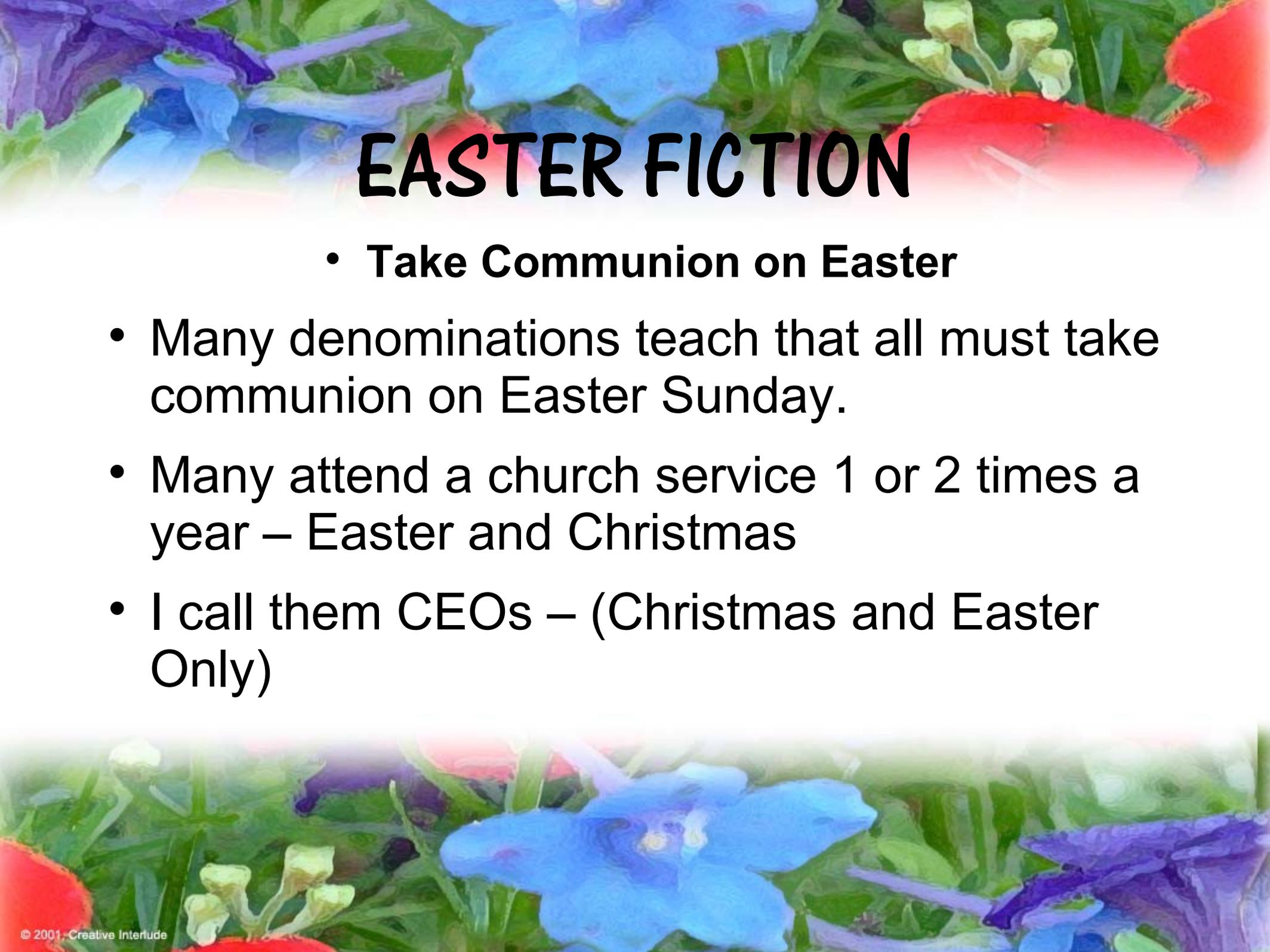
# EASTER FICTION

- “Easter” is in the Bible
- **Acts 12:4** And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. (KJV)
- Greek word – pascha
- 29 times in NT – Other 28 - Passover



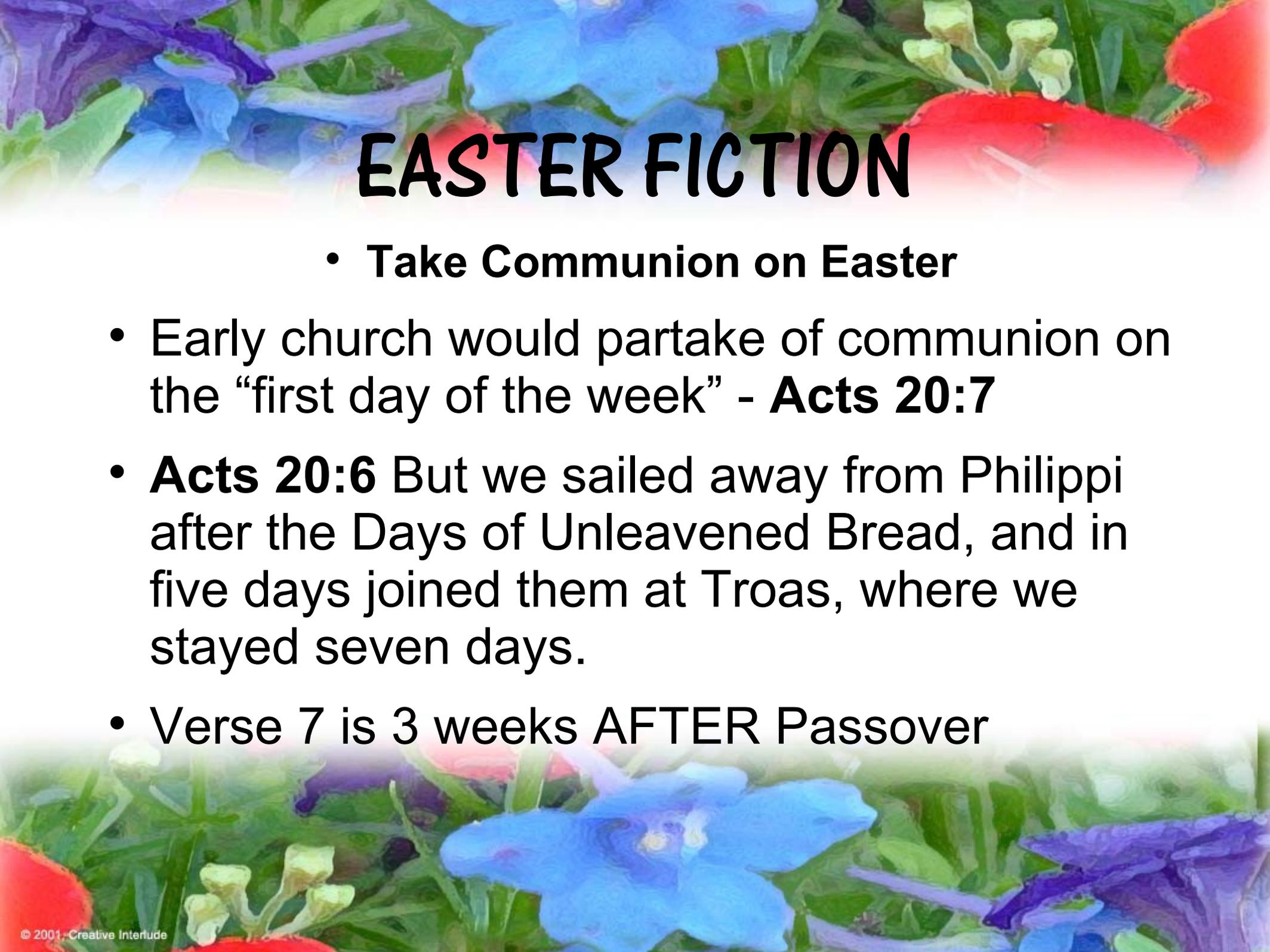
# EASTER FICTION

- **“Easter” is in the Bible**
- Adam Clarke Commentary on Acts 12:4 -  
“Perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd translation than that in our text.”
- He also notes about the Jewish Passover “is always held on the fourteenth day of the first month of vernal (spring – ml) full moon.”



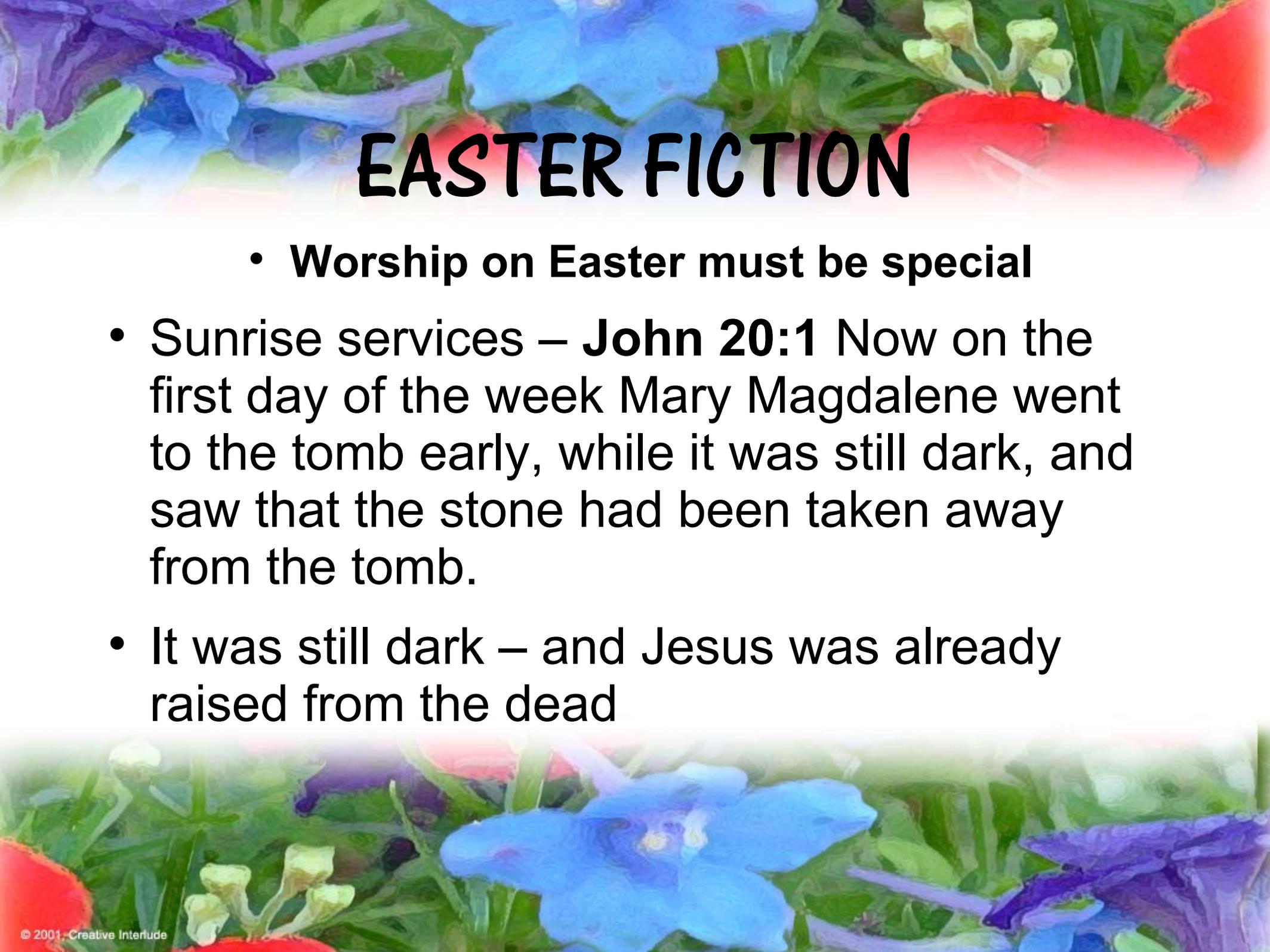
# EASTER FICTION

- **Take Communion on Easter**
- Many denominations teach that all must take communion on Easter Sunday.
- Many attend a church service 1 or 2 times a year – Easter and Christmas
- I call them CEOs – (Christmas and Easter Only)



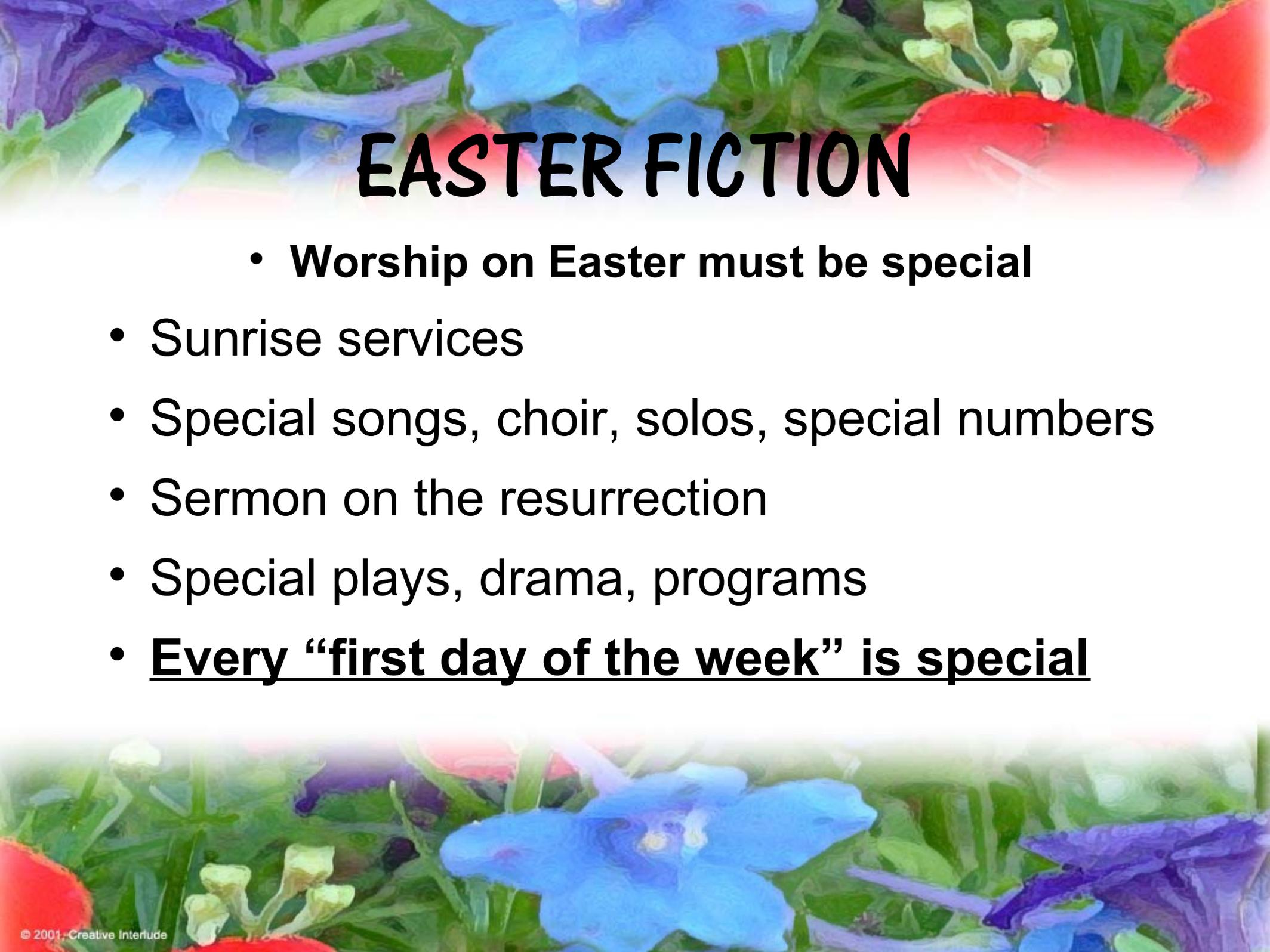
# EASTER FICTION

- **Take Communion on Easter**
- Early church would partake of communion on the “first day of the week” - **Acts 20:7**
- **Acts 20:6** But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.
- Verse 7 is 3 weeks **AFTER** Passover



# EASTER FICTION

- **Worship on Easter must be special**
- Sunrise services – **John 20:1** Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
- It was still dark – and Jesus was already raised from the dead



# EASTER FICTION

- **Worship on Easter must be special**
- Sunrise services
- Special songs, choir, solos, special numbers
- Sermon on the resurrection
- Special plays, drama, programs
- **Every “first day of the week” is special**



# CONCLUSION

- **Every Sunday is Resurrection Sunday**
- Celebrate the resurrection every week
- **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
- Don't elevate one Sunday above the rest – Elevate every Sunday above the rest of the week