

“THESE ARE THE FEASTS OF THE LORD, HOLY CONVOCATIONS WHICH YOU SHALL PROCLAIM AT THEIR APPOINTED TIMES”

Lev. 23:4



THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD

**AND THEIR PROPHETIC RELATIONSHIP
TO**

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION



**“BUT BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING,
THAT WITH THE LORD ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS,
AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY”**

2 Pet. 3:8

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THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD

FOREWORD

I have been a teacher of God's Word for well over 25 years. I have also sought to be a careful student of the prophecy contained within His Word for it is the prophetic Word that separates the Bible from all other religious writings. God Himself challenges all other religions to express the beginning from the end as proof of being of Divine origin (Isa. 41:21-24). However, it is only the God of the Bible that knows the beginning and the end of all things. I believe the prophetic Word was given so that His people might also know how it all ends as well.

In all of my years of teaching and studying I have not found any greater keys to unlocking the mysteries contained within the Bible than the two subjects written in this book. The Seven Feasts of the Lord of Leviticus 23 foreshadow **WHAT** God intends to do on the earth, and The Seven Days of Creation in Genesis foreshadow **WHEN** it shall all come to pass. May God grant you understanding of His will and His ways as you read.

Pastor Randy Shupe

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION



“BUT BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD
ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY” 2 Pet. 3:8

**"...WITH REGARD TO
A FEAST DAY...
SUCH THINGS ARE
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THE REALITY,
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CHRIST."**

Col. 2:17 Amp.



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On the south wall of our sanctuary is this 35 foot display of the Seven Feasts of the Lord. I have often taught from it. In fact, we have a video series available if you are interested. I know that the detail of this picture is not readable. I just want you to see the overall scope of the importance and magnitude of what these Feasts represent. They encompass the whole New Testament which we shall look at in detail later on.

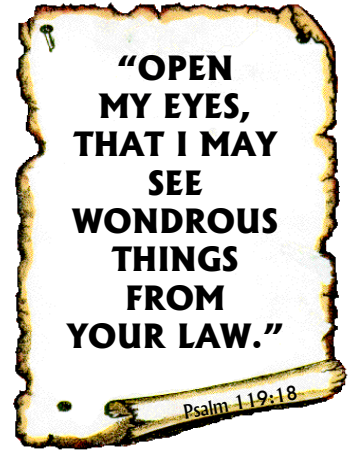
These Feasts are the Feasts of The Lord, that is, of the Lord Jesus Christ! The best way to look at these Feasts is as one would look at an appointment calendar. This is the Divine appointment calendar of the Lord Jesus Christ. It contains appointments that He has kept on their appointed days (the first four Feasts), and it contains future appointments that remain to be fulfilled (the last three Feasts). Whatever Jesus has done, is doing, or will do, is typified by the seven Feasts of the Lord! There is no significant event spoken of Jesus in prophecy that does not find its fulfillment typified by these Feasts! This is how important they are. May God give you understanding as you read.

THE LEVITICUS ACCOUNT OF THE FEASTS OF THE LORD:



"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. 'These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. 'On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.' And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. 'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. 'But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 'He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord 'Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. 'You shall eat neither bread NOR parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. 'Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord. 'You shall bring from your habitations two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord.



'And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the Lord. 'Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of peace offering. 'The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. 'And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God.' " Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. 'You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.'

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. "For any person who is not afflicted of soul on that same day, he shall be cut off from his people. "And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. "You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

'It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord. 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. 'For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it. 'These are the feasts of the Lord which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the Lord, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day - 'besides the Sabbaths of the Lord, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the Lord. 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the Lord for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. 'And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. 'You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 'You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 'that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.' "So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the Lord."

Lev. 23:1-44

“THESE ARE THE FEASTS OF THE LORD, HOLY CONVOCATIONS WHICH YOU SHALL PROCLAIM AT THEIR APPOINTED TIMES”

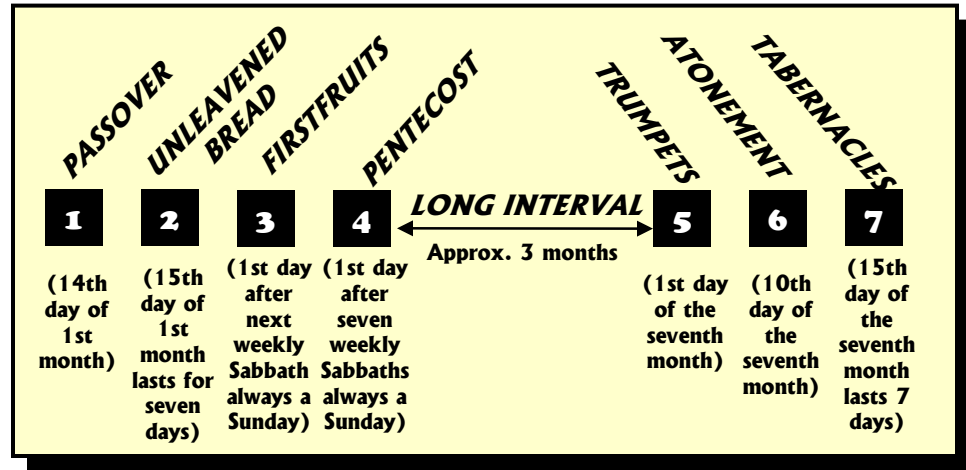


Lev. 23:4

If you read the two previous pages of the Leviticus account of the Feasts of the Lord, you would agree with me that it is not light reading. Below I have given a brief synopsis of what is presented as the order in which these Feasts were to be observed. This is not light reading either. Spend some time digesting the diagram below for it will help later on.

The Seven Feasts of the Lord span a period of seven months. The first three Feasts take place within one week of the first month of the Jewish Calendar (month of Nisan or Abib). Seven weekly Sabbaths were to follow after the third Feast (Firstfruits) was completed (7x7-49 days). The 50th day (“Pente-50”) started the fourth Feast, the Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost.

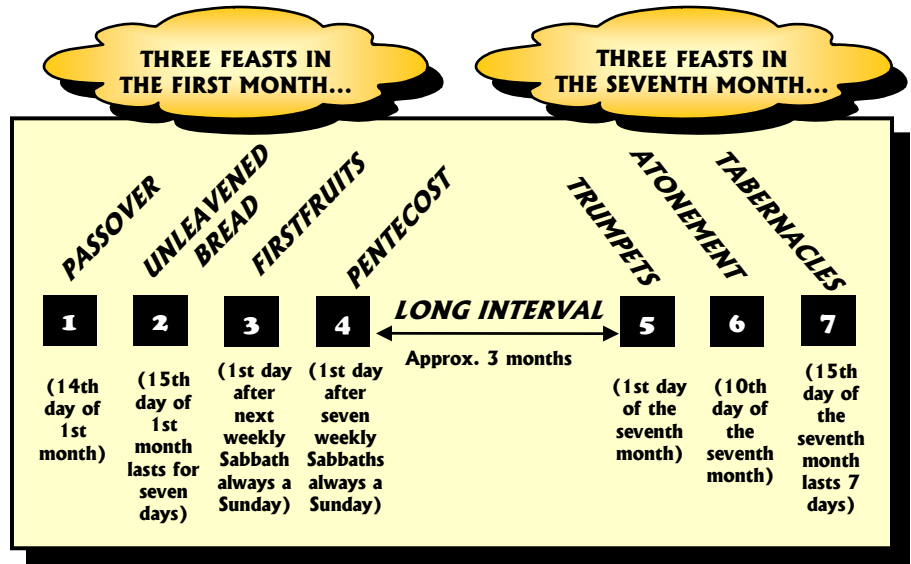
A long interval follows Pentecost (3 months-more or less depending upon how the Lunar year would fall). The fifth Feast (Trumpets) was to occur on the 1st day of the 7th month of the Jewish calendar which is the month of Tishri. The sixth Feast (Day of Atonement) was to start on the 10th day. The last Feast (Tabernacles) would begin on the 15th day of the 7th month and last until the 21st day of the month, followed by a special celebration on the 8th day .



God told Moses that these Feasts were to be observed “at their appointed times” (Lev. 23:4). From the brief overview on the previous page we can see that there is a specific order in which God wants these Feasts to be observed. He did not merely appoint seven Feasts spanning seven months with a celebration once a month for each Feast. Rather we find an intricate and detailed observance of the first three Feasts rapidly completed in the first month and the last three Feasts completed in the seventh month. The fourth Feast, Pentecost, was a solitary Feast sandwiched in-between and isolated all by itself. This is a pattern with a purposeful intent. We shall see it unfold as we progress in our study of the Feasts. This is as a foreign language and culture to those of us who are Gentiles. It will require extra effort and concentration to grasp the initial picture. We are dealing with a different calendar, different “holidays” or more proper, “Holy days”.

Even the Jewish day itself is different in that it begins at sundown rather than at midnight. This is because we are dealing with a lunar calendar rather than a solar one like ours. We even have a different amount of days in the lunar year versus the solar. The lunar calendar (354 days) is eleven and a quarter days shorter than the solar calendar of three-hundred and sixty-five and one-quarter days. To keep pace with the solar cycle, a 13th month is added to the Jewish calendar every 3 years, the month of Adar II.

I realize this is a lot to absorb. However, don’t give up trying to grasp it all. Although it is difficult, it will be worth it when you see how the Feasts of the Lord unlock God’s prophetic Word!

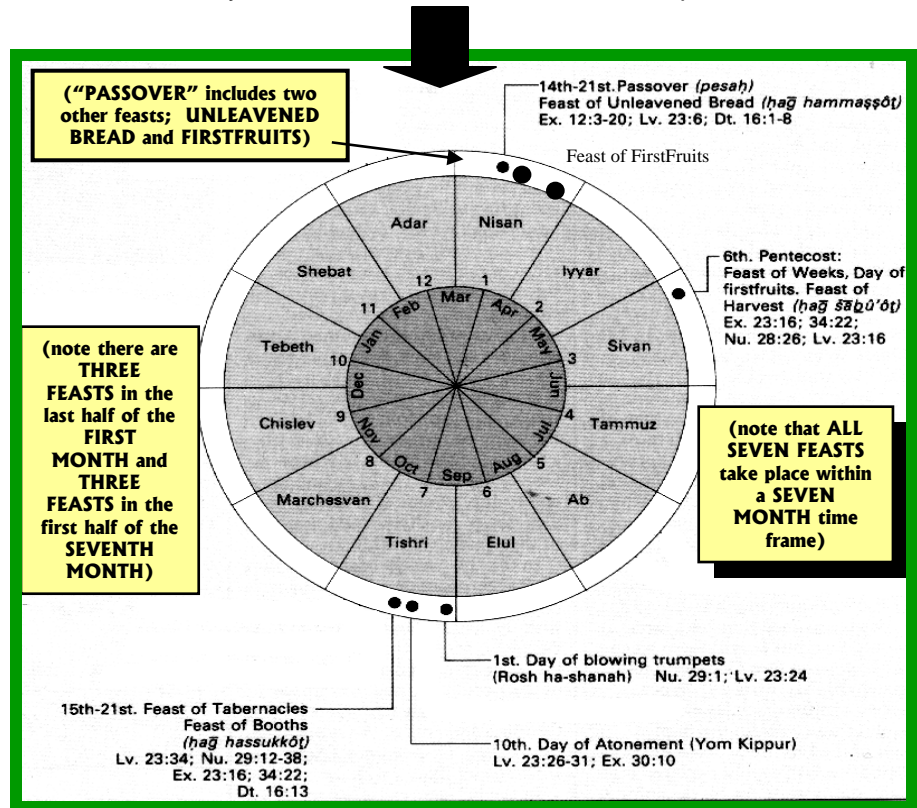


**“THIS MONTH SHALL BE
YOUR BEGINNING OF MONTHS;
IT SHALL BE THE FIRST MONTH
OF THE YEAR TO YOU.”**

Exodus 12:2

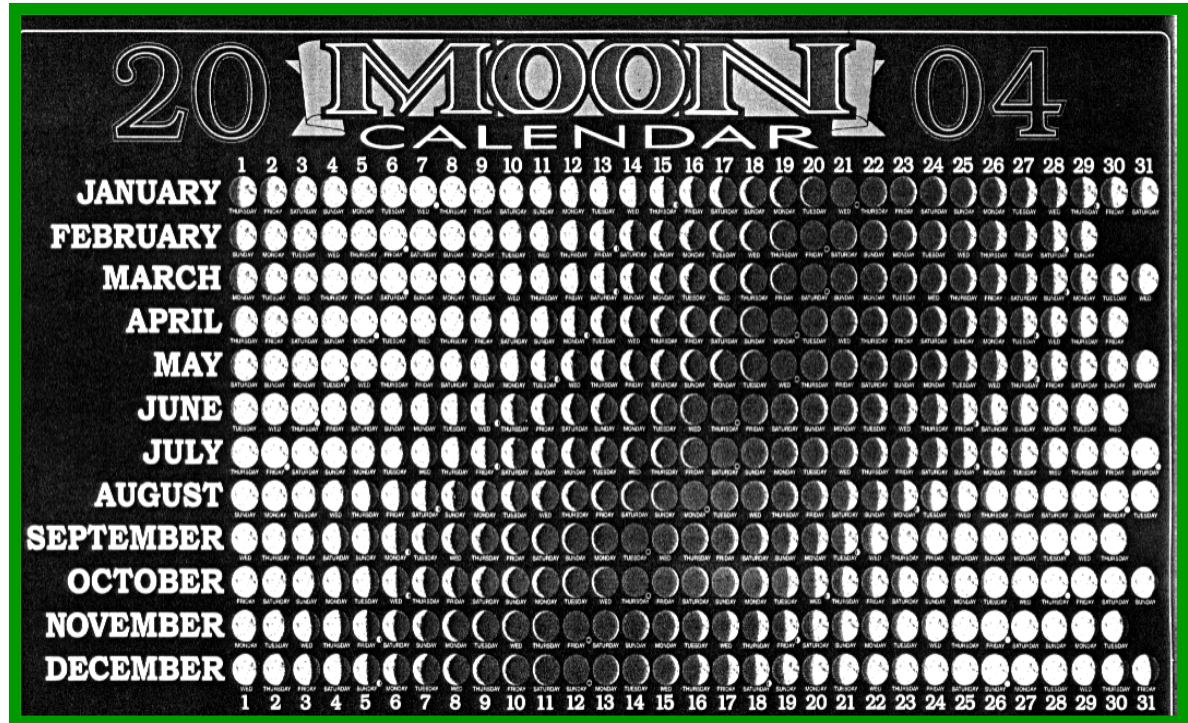
The above passage from Exodus 12 reveals that God wanted His people to begin their new year in the month of Nisan with the Feast of Passover which falls within our March-April time frame. In light of the power of tradition, it is worthy to mention that the Jews do not observe this mandate from Exodus 12:2. The present Jewish new year is rather celebrated in the month of Tishri at the 5th Feast which is Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah). This is 180 degrees opposite of God’s plan, as clearly stated at the initiation of the Feast of Passover in Exodus 12. Such man-made traditions tend to rob the Feasts of the type and shadow God placed within them. The Jewish new year was to contain the first Feast on the 14th day (Passover), the sacrifice of a lamb. Thus their new year would begin with the initial remembrance of what would become the advent of the suffering Messiah of Isaiah 53.

Perhaps this chart will help digest the basic calculations of the Feasts as it overlays the Jewish lunar Calendar over our present solar one.



This is a secular lunar calendar from the year 2004. Each year I use the appropriate lunar calendar to overlay the seven Feasts of the Lord as it is spelled out in Leviticus 23. Each month begins with a “no moon” (black) moving to a sliver of light. March 20th of this year was a “no moon”. It was the “1st day of Nisan”, and is what should have begun the Jewish new year. Count 14 days from it as specified in Leviticus 23 and you have the first Feast, Passover. Note how God made it progress from a no moon to a full moon, moving from **DARKNESS** to **LIGHT!** From Passover you can count the next three Feasts of Unleavened Bread, FirstFruits and Pentecost.

The 1st day of the 7th month (Tishri) begins the last three Feasts. Remember the month will begin on a “no moon” (black). You need only count from the “no moon” (black) of Nisan to the 7th “no moon” that follows it and you will have the exact day of the Feast of Trumpets (Sept. 14th 2004). The remaining two Feasts can be counted from this new starting point using Lev. 23.



Let us begin at what God said should be the beginning for His people. The Feasts were to begin the new year with Passover. We will look at the first three Feasts together simply because the number "3" in Bible numerics represents divine completeness. These three Feasts taken together depict for us:

1. THE DEATH OF CHRIST,
2. THE BURIAL OF CHRIST,
3. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

These three events as foreshadowed by the first three Feasts comprise the divine completeness of the gospel:



**"...I DECLARE TO YOU THE GOSPEL...
 THAT (1) CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS...
 (2) HE WAS BURIED, AND THAT
 (3) HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES"**

1 Cor. 15:1-4

Look carefully at the overlay of the first three Feasts upon the three statements that Paul tells us constitutes the gospel. To preach the gospel to Christians today using only Paul's three statements found in 1 Cor.15:1-3 would receive a hearty "Amen!" for preaching the truth. However, to add the fact that the first three Feasts of the Lord, taken from the Law of God, contain the same truths in type and shadow can potentially cause one to be wrongly charged of putting people under the Law, mixing Law and Grace, or even of legalism. Dear saint, Paul himself said

**"THE LAW WAS OUR TUTOR
TO BRING US TO CHRIST,
THAT WE MIGHT BE
JUSTIFIED BY FAITH."**

Gal. 3:24

God has hidden His wonderful plan of **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH THROUGH GRACE** within the confines of His Law! The seven Feasts of the Lord are part of God's Law! Contained within them, namely these first three Feasts, is God's complete plan of salvation. Paul also taught about the Law:

**"FOR THE LAW HAVING
A SHADOW OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME,
AND NOT THE VERY IMAGE
OF THE THINGS..."**

Heb. 10:1



"THE GOSPEL"

**WHICH I PREACHED TO YOU...
BY WHICH YOU ARE SAVED...**



**THAT
CHRIST DIED
FOR OUR SINS
ACCORDING TO
THE
SCRIPTURES,**



**AND THAT
HE WAS
BURIED,**



**AND THAT
HE ROSE AGAIN
THE THIRD DAY
ACCORDING TO
THE
SCRIPTURES..."**

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Take a careful look at these three passages of Scripture. They are all from Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians. This church founded by the apostle Paul was comprised of Gentiles as God Himself commissioned Paul to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15).

Being a Gentile church, there was no reason for Paul to use this Old Testament terminology to teach these Gentile believers. However, the apostle Paul applies the first three Feasts, from the Law in Leviticus 23, to get his points across to these Gentile converts. He is preaching Christ by means of the Feasts! If it was permissible for Paul to teach Gentiles in such a manner in his day, then it ought to be proper for us to do likewise. To do so does not place God's people in legalism or bondage to the Law but rather just proves that the Old Testament contained the same truths as the New Testament. They were merely hidden in type and shadow! This is exactly what Paul states as the purpose of the Feasts of the Lord:

"...with regard to a FEAST DAY...such things are only a SHADOW of THINGS TO COME, they have only a SYMBOLIC value. The REALITY, the SUBSTANCE, the SOLID FACT of what is FORESHADOWED, the BODY of it BELONGS TO CHRIST."
Col. 2:17 Amp.



"FOR INDEED CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER, WAS SACRIFICED FOR US."

1 Cor. 5:7



"...PURGE OUT THE LEAVEN... SINCE YOU ARE TRULY UNLEAVENED...LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN...BUT WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH."

1 Cor. 5:7-8



"...CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP... IN CHRIST ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE...CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS, AFTERWARD THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST'S AT HIS COMING."

1 Cor. 15:20-23



How does Paul preach Jesus to the Gentiles? He identifies Him as “our Passover, sacrificed for us”. Jesus was called by John the Baptist “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John.1:29). Peter refers to Jesus as “A Lamb without blemish and without spot” (1st Pet. 1:19). Is it therefore wrong for a Christian to celebrate the Feasts that depict Jesus as our Passover sacrificed for us? Is that indeed a form of legalism?

“FOR INDEED CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER, WAS SACRIFICED FOR US.”

1 Cor.5:7



Now, notice Paul’s mandate to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is not the oldness of the letter in which the Jews were instructed to purge out the leaven from their physical houses that Paul addresses but rather that leaven really represents malice and wickedness.

This kind of leaven should be purged out of our spiritual houses for we are the Temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19). To eat Unleavened Bread, in a spiritual sense, is to walk in paths of sincerity and in truth before God! The letter of the Law kills, but the spirit of the Law gives life! (2nd Cor. 3:6).

Is it to be considered bondage to the Law for Christians to keep this fuller understanding of the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

“...PURGE OUT THE LEAVEN... SINCE YOU ARE TRULY UNLEAVENED...LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN...BUT WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH.”

1 Cor.5:7-8



When Paul preached the resurrection of Christ, he used the third Feast called Firstfruits to get his point across to these Gentile believers. Two thousand years later we have allowed the tradition of men to change its name to “Easter” with all its pagan based trappings. How well Jesus spoke of the power of tradition:

“ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION... MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN”
Mark 7:9,13

“...CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP... IN CHRIST ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE...CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS, AFTERWARD THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST’S AT HIS COMING.”

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Mark 7:9,13



Jesus spoke the above reproach to the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Would He not speak it to the leaders of today’s church as well for allowing the pagan based concept of Easter to contaminate the holy day of the Feast of Firstfruits?

Jesus wasn’t crucified on a Friday and He did not rise on Sunday morning establishing the cherished tradition of the sunrise service. He was crucified on a Wednesday which was the Day of Preparation for the Passover Feast. He arose Saturday evening at the beginning of the 8th day (Sunday) which began the Feast of Firstfruits. The High Priest would begin this Feast with the waving of the harvest offering before the Lord, at which time Jesus, as the true Firstfruits offering, would rise from the dead! The pattern will be according to the Feasts of Leviticus 23. Beware of the tradition of men.

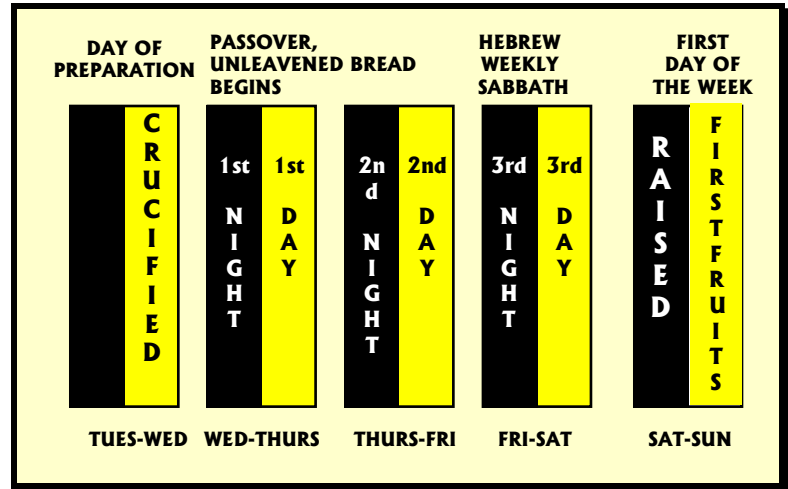
“FOR AS JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE GREAT FISH, SO WILL THE SON OF MAN BE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH.”

Matt. 12:40

“...ON THE TENTH DAY OF THIS MONTH EVERY MAN SHALL TAKE FOR HIMSELF A LAMB...YOU SHALL KEEP IT UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH DAY...”

Exodus 12:4-6

The church has been so lulled to sleep that it even celebrates the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as taking place between Good Friday and Easter morning. Even unbelievers can see that you cannot cram three days and three nights between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning! No wonder they don’t want to believe that the Word of God is truly inspired!



“NOW THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES AND AARON IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, SAYING... SPEAK TO ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, SAYING: 'ON THE TENTH OF THIS MONTH EVERY MAN SHALL TAKE FOR HIMSELF A LAMB...YOUR LAMB SHALL BE WITHOUT BLEMISH...NOW YOU SHALL KEEP IT UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE SAME MONTH. THEN THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL SHALL KILL IT AT TWILIGHT... SO THIS DAY SHALL BE TO YOU A MEMORIAL; AND YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE LORD THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST BY AN EVERLASTING ORDINANCE.”

Ex.12 excerpts

Notice the mandate was to choose a lamb on the 10th day and to kill it on the 14th day. God is very exacting.

This old classic work by Sir Robert Anderson of Scotland Yard, was written at the close of the 18th century. Although its main thrust centers upon the exact calculations of the prophecy in Daniel chapter 9 of the “70 weeks”, it pinpoints the fact that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem as Messiah the Prince on Sunday the **10TH DAY** of Nisan and was crucified on Wednesday the **14TH DAY!** It is an exact fulfillment of Exodus 12!



THE COMING PRINCE,
by Sir Robert Anderson.
Kregel Publications.
P.O. Box 2607,
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

“AND A VERY GREAT MULTITUDE SPREAD THEIR CLOTHES ON THE ROAD; OTHERS CUT DOWN BRANCHES FROM THE TREES AND SPREAD THEM ON THE ROAD. THEN THE MULTITUDES WHO WENT BEFORE AND THOSE WHO FOLLOWED CRIED OUT, SAYING: "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!" AND WHEN HE HAD COME INTO JERUSALEM, ALL THE CITY WAS MOVED, SAYING, "WHO IS THIS?" SO THE MULTITUDES SAID, "THIS IS JESUS, THE PROPHET FROM NAZARETH OF GALILEE.”

Matt. 21:8-11

This triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem has come to be celebrated as Palm Sunday for it was on this day that the people cast branches of palm trees in His path and hailed Him as their choice for King. In reality, we can see this was the fulfillment of the requirement for “every man to take for himself a lamb”. As Sir Robert Anderson proves in his book, this event of Palm Sunday took place on the 10th day of Nisan which Exodus states is the day a lamb was to be chosen. Four days later on the 14th day of Nisan (Wednesday) they unknowingly killed their lamb according to the pattern of Exodus 12. From Sunday to Wednesday (10th to the 14th) is four days leaving the required three days and three nights until the wave offering of Firstfruits. It was at this time, on Saturday evening, the beginning of the 8th day, Jesus rose from the dead as the Firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20-23). The people missed the significance of these events because the Jewish leaders taught the people to look for the coming of the Reigning Messiah of Isaiah 66 rather than the Suffering Messiah depicted in Isaiah 53.

The first three Feasts foreshadow the gospel Paul preached (1 Cor.15:1-3). They depict the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been considering the first of Paul's teachings in 1 Corinthians that Jesus is "our Passover...sacrificed for us".

There are 26 detailed uses of the word "Passover" in the gospels most of which are in context of Jesus' anticipated death. It is inescapable that they labor to show that Jesus was slain at the exact timing of this Feast.

Let us now begin to examine the second Feast which is vitally connected to Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I want to say that its symbolism goes beyond the basic concept of the burial of Christ. It also depicts, as Paul is clearly making application here in 1 Cor. 5:7-8, a call to believers who have received Jesus as their Passover lamb to cease walking in the leaven of malice and wickedness, and to start walking in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

In the Scripture leaven is always a picture of sin. Therefore, that which is unleavened signifies sinless-ness. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was seven days in length as Leviticus 23 records. The number seven in Bible numerics represents perfection. The type and shadow therefore is that Jesus, the sinless Son of God, who alone lived a perfect life, qualifies as the true Unleavened Bread. Throughout Scripture He is associated with the type and shadow of "bread":

He is **"THE BREAD OF LIFE"** (Jn. 6:35).

He is **"THE LIVING BREAD"** (Jn. 6:51).

He is **"THE TRUE MANNA FROM HEAVEN"** (Jn. 6:49-50)

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS:

"...INDEED CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER, WAS SACRIFICED FOR US."

1 Cor.5:7

HE WAS BURIED:

"...PURGE OUT THE LEAVEN... SINCE YOU ARE TRULY UNLEAVENED...LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN...BUT WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH."

1 Cor.5:7-8

HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY:

"...CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP... IN CHRIST ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE...CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS, AFTERWARD THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST'S AT HIS COMING."

1 Cor.15:20-23





**"MOST ASSUREDLY,
I SAY UNTO YOU UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT
FALLS INTO THE GROUND AND DIES,
IT REMAINS ALONE; BUT IF IT DIES,
IT PRODUCES MUCH GRAIN."**

John 12:24

Generally speaking, bread is made from wheat. Here Jesus likens Himself to a grain of wheat that must be planted in the ground in order to eventually bring forth much grain. It is the biblical principle that it takes death to produce life.

Jesus was not only applying this principle to Himself but to all who would become His followers. We live in the midst of a perversion of the gospel in which Jesus is left to do all the dying to produce grain. Let us inject the context of this verse from John 12:24 to see that Jesus was also applying it to those who would seek to follow Him:

"BUT JESUS ANSWERED THEM, SAYING, "THE HOUR HAS COME THAT THE SON OF MAN SHOULD BE GLORIFIED. MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS ALONE; BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MUCH GRAIN. HE WHO LOVES HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, AND HE WHO HATES HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD WILL KEEP IT FOR ETERNAL LIFE. IF ANYONE SERVES ME, LET HIM FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, THERE MY SERVANT WILL BE ALSO. IF ANYONE SERVES ME, HIM MY FATHER WILL HONOR. "NOW MY SOUL IS TROUBLED, AND WHAT SHALL I SAY? 'FATHER, SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR'? BUT FOR THIS PURPOSE I CAME TO THIS HOUR....AND I, IF I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLES TO MYSELF." THIS HE SAID, SIGNIFYING BY WHAT DEATH HE WOULD DIE." John 12:23-33

When Paul preached Christ as "our Passover sacrificed for us" he immediately links this truth to the deeper meaning of Unleavened Bread:



"DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP? THEREFORE PURGE OUT THE OLD LEAVEN, THAT YOU MAY BE A NEW LUMP, SINCE YOU TRULY ARE UNLEAVENED. FOR INDEED CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER, WAS SACRIFICED FOR US. THEREFORE LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN, NOR WITH THE LEAVEN OF MALICE AND WICKEDNESS, BUT WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH."

1 Cor. 5:6-8

It is because Christ is our Passover that we are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread! We must not allow the gospel to be isolated just to "Christ died for our sins". This is not meant to be a stand alone truth just as you cannot observe Passover apart from Unleavened Bread. They are purposefully inter-twined together.



“...ON THE TENTH OF THIS MONTH EVERY MAN SHALL TAKE FOR HIMSELF A LAMB...YOUR LAMB SHALL BE WITHOUT BLEMISH...NOW YOU SHALL KEEP IT UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE SAME MONTH. THEN THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL SHALL KILL IT AT TWILIGHT...IT IS THE LORD'S PASSOVER. AND WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I WILL PASS OVER YOU...



SO THIS DAY SHALL BE TO YOU A MEMORIAL; AND YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE LORD THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST BY AN EVERLASTING ORDINANCE. SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD. ON THE FIRST DAY YOU SHALL REMOVE LEAVEN FROM YOUR HOUSES...SO YOU SHALL OBSERVE THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD...IN THE FIRST MONTH, ON THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE MONTH AT EVENING, YOU SHALL EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD, UNTIL THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH AT EVENING. FOR SEVEN DAYS NO LEAVEN SHALL BE FOUND IN YOUR HOUSES, SINCE WHOEVER EATS WHAT IS LEAVENED, THAT SAME PERSON SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, WHETHER HE IS A STRANGER OR A NATIVE OF THE LAND. YOU SHALL EAT NOTHING LEAVENED; IN ALL YOUR DWELLINGS YOU SHALL EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD.”

Exodus 12 excerpts



The above excerpts from Exodus 12 clearly reveals that Passover was linked in an inseparable manner with the next Feast of Unleavened Bread. Both were taken together at twilight, at the close of the 14th day and the beginning of the 15th day. Those who partook of the lamb were to also cease eating leavened bread for seven days. Having this pattern in mind Paul, after reminding the brethren at Corinth that Jesus is our Passover sacrificed for us, launches right into the necessity to purge out the old leaven:

“DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP? THEREFORE PURGE OUT THE OLD LEAVEN, THAT YOU MAY BE A NEW LUMP, SINCE YOU TRULY ARE UNLEAVENED. FOR INDEED CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER, WAS SACRIFICED FOR US. THEREFORE LET US KEEP THE FEAST, NOT WITH OLD LEAVEN, NOR WITH THE LEAVEN OF MALICE AND WICKEDNESS, BUT WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH.”

1 Cor. 5:6-8

The gospel typified by the Feasts, as well as the teachings of Paul, was never intended to rest solely on what took place at Passover, our Passover lamb was sacrificed for us, but rather it included a call to a sanctified commitment on the part of the believer to purge out the old leaven of malice and wickedness by embracing the call to keep the Feast with “the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”. The biblical concept of salvation includes a call to **DISCIPLESHIP** rather than the more popular modern-day single act of **CONVERSION** being all that is required.



“FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGS SALVATION HAS APPEARED TO ALL MEN, TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY IN THE PRESENT AGE, LOOKING FOR THE BLESSED HOPE AND GLORIOUS APPEARING OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM EVERY LAWLESS DEED AND PURIFY FOR HIMSELF HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, ZEALOUS FOR GOOD WORKS.”

Titus 2:11-14

Take a good look at this one flowing sentence in which Paul links the Grace of God to the call for us to be zealous for good works. Notice what it is that Paul says the grace of God came teaching God’s people. It was a call to a life of denying ungodliness and worldly lusts and of living soberly, righteously and godly.

This is the true grace of God in which we stand (1 Pet. 5:12).



Is this how the grace of God is being preached today? Hardly. Rather we see it being divorced from what it was suppose to teach, the call to be zealous for good works. There exists today a willful, purposeful separation of grace from good works in spite of how the Scriptures, like the one above and these below, always connect together:

“BUT WHEN THE KINDNESS AND THE LOVE OF GOD OUR SAVIOR TOWARD MAN APPEARED, NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, THROUGH THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE Poured OUT ON US ABUNDANTLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, THAT HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE WE SHOULD BECOME HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND THESE THINGS I WANT YOU TO AFFIRM CONSTANTLY, THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED IN GOD SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS. THESE THINGS ARE GOOD AND PROFITABLE TO MEN.”

Titus 3:4-8

“FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS LEST ANYONE SHOULD BOAST. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.”

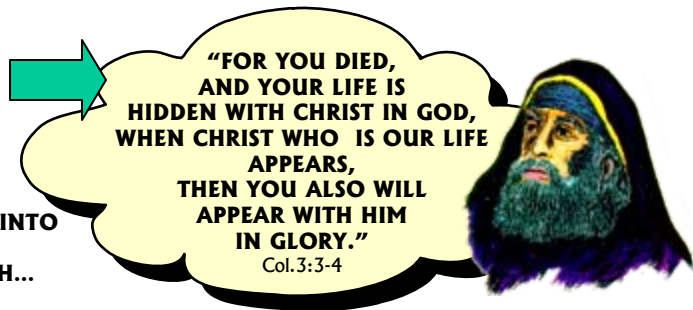
Eph 2:8-10

It is Passover and Unleavened Bread that foreshadow these truths that God meant to be inseparable.

Salvation is the identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here we find Paul making the statement that you died as well as Christ did. By being immersed in water we, by faith, bury what has died. Paul tells us in Romans:

**“DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?
...WE WERE BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH...
THAT OUR OLD MAN WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM
THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH
THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES OF SIN.**

**...FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH,
CERTAINLY WE SHALL BE IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION.”**
Rom. 6:3-6



Perhaps the above concept is what Paul is referring to when he says, “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ...”. However, there is even a deeper hidden meaning revealed by the Feasts.

There is an incredible event happening, year after year, in the Jewish ritual of the Seder Passover which contains a vivid picture of Jesus Christ as the Unleavened Bread. In the observance of the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread, the Jews perform a ritual of hiding a piece of unleavened bread (matzo) in their house to be searched out by the members of the family. This piece is taken from a pouch containing three pieces of unleavened bread. The middle one is selected, then broken and wrapped in a cloth, hid and buried. After a period of time, it is brought out of its hiding place with great joy. This tradition is held by the Jews to be a picture of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but no one seems to know why Isaac is chosen to be broken and buried in this ritualistic event. In reality, it is a vivid picture of Jesus Christ, the middle person of the Godhead, whose broken body was hidden and buried for three days in the earth, and afterward to the joy of His followers, He was raised from the dead.

We can see that Paul, a converted Jew himself, knew well that to be hidden with Christ in God was applicable to this ritual of hiding unleavened bread which was being practiced by unconverted Jews in his day. In saying “when Christ who is our life appears”, he is making a direct allusion to the appearing of the buried piece of unleavened bread.



“LIKEWISE HE ALSO TOOK THE CUP AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, “THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU.”



“AND HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THEM SAYING, “THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”
Luke 22:19-20



Another great type and shadow contained within the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread is the New Covenant practice instituted by Jesus-**COMMUNION**.

What has come to be known as ‘The Lord’s Supper’ was in reality the partaking of Passover and Unleavened Bread by Jesus with His disciples:

“...AND THEY PREPARED THE PASSOVER. AND WHEN THE HOUR HAD COME, HE SAT DOWN, AND THE 12 APOSTLES WITH HIM. THEN HE SAID TO THEM, “WITH FERVENT DESIRE I HAVE DESIRED TO EAT THIS PASSOVER WITH YOU BEFORE I SUFFER.”

Luke 22:13-15

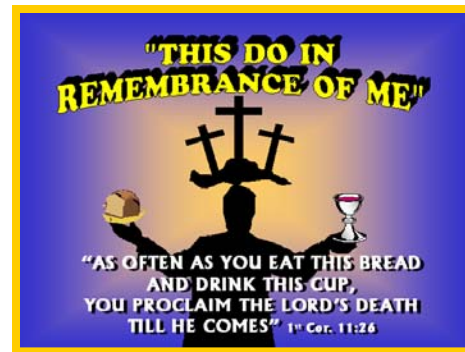
The New Covenant practice of Communion has its foundations in the Feasts as does most of what we do as Christians. Jesus expressed a fervent desire to partake of this time of fellowship with His disciples. Sadly, few of God’s disciples today seem to have that same fervent desire to partake with Jesus. In 25 plus years of pastoring I have observed a general lukewarm attitude among God’s people toward celebrating the Lord’s death till He comes as Paul instructs:

“FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD’S DEATH TILL HE COMES.”

1 Cor.11:25

Why is it that God’s people seem to have no heart to proclaim His death on an on-going basis as we are exhorted to do, but are not lacking for a fervent desire to celebrate His birth even though we have no Biblical exhortation to do so? I suspect rather strongly that it has to do with all the secular pagan-based trappings of Christmas that have nothing to do with the birth of Christ. It is merely the season to be jolly that feeds that fervent desire, not the birth of Christ.

Every Saturday evening we hold a service dedicated to observing Communion. Sadly, only a few people in our congregation choose to attend. I believe it must grieve the heart of the Good Shepherd. It certainly grieves mine as their under-shepherd. Leonard Ravenhill would often say, "You can readily get people to assemble to play but not to pray. You can get them to come together to feast but not to fast". Why is it that God's people are more interested in celebrating His birth than His death as we are commanded to do?

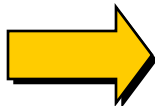


God calls His people to:

"Put Me in remembrance" in light of the fact that He has said "I will not remember your sins". However, it is like the ten lepers that Jesus healed but only one came back to say thanks. Can't you hear pain in Jesus' saying,

"WERE THERE NOT TEN CLEANSED"? BUT WHERE ARE THE NINE?" Luke 17:17

As an encouraging word to those who do choose to remember,

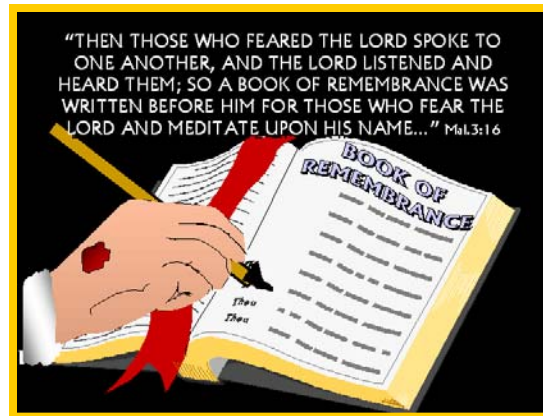


consider this passage from Malachi that reminds us that God is keeping a Book of Remembrance. The passage goes on to say that in eternity:

"THEY SHALL BE MINE, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, ON THE DAY THAT I MAKE THEM MY JEWELS..."

Mal. 3:17

In a busy and demanding world, we must continually be asking of ourselves, "What is being written on my page-anything at all?"





Each year at the Feast of Passover, we, as a congregation, here at The Way, The Truth and The Life Tabernacle, celebrate a very special communion in remembrance of the work of Christ as **“OUR PASSOVER, SACRIFICED FOR US”** (1 Cor. 5:7). We decorate our sanctuary in the shape of a huge cross so that we can gather around what we fondly call “The Lord’s table” as Paul makes reference in 1 Cor.10:21.

However, we do not practice the traditional Jewish Seder meal at our celebration of Passover because I am careful not to encourage the observance of Jewish rituals which make the Word of God of no effect and have the potential to create bondage such as Paul warns in Gal. 5:1. I have observed, through the years, as I have introduced and illuminated people to the Feasts, some in their excitement and zeal have sought to return to what they call “their Jewish roots”. Unfortunately in doing so, they have become entangled in the dogma observance of the 7th day Sabbath, the Torah and Talmud, and many other traditions.

The purpose of the Law of God for us as Christians is plainly stated by Paul:

**“THE LAW WAS OUR TUTOR TO BRING US TO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.
BUT AFTER FAITH HAS COME, WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER A TUTOR.”**

Gal. 3:24-25

Yes, I do fully understand the partial symbolism that exists in the Seder, but let it remain just a “type and shadow” and not become a ritualistic observance. We are not to embrace merely “the shadow of the good things to come” (Heb. 10:1), but rather what the shadow represents-Christ. We must ever keep in mind that Paul taught the Gentile church at Corinth that it is “Christ **OUR** Passover, that was sacrificed for us”, and therefore it is Christ we must preach! (Col.1:28).

Likewise we must be guarded against numerous pagan traditions which have infiltrated the message behind the Feast of Firstfruits. I am talking about the not-so-subtle substitution of God's chosen day of The Feast of Firstfruits with the pagan-based name of Easter. The origin of this name comes from the pagan goddess Ishtar or Astarte.

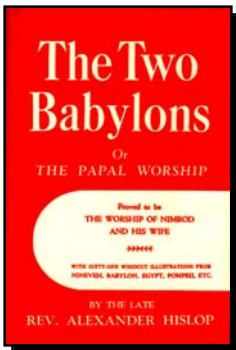
Shame on the translators of the King James Bible who blatantly replaced the Greek word for Passover with the pagan word "Easter" in Acts 12:4. Those who endorse the dogma of the King James Version being the only authorized translation of the Word of God need to consider such purposeful translation errors. The KJV is not without its faults.



If you want to read an eye-opener, then get yourself a copy of *"The Two Babylons"* by Rev. Alexander Hislop. "Easter" is a creation of Catholicism whose tendencies have always been to marry together the pagan and profane with the Holy and pure. It is true not only of Easter but also of "Christ-mas". Both are products of Catholicism which itself is rooted in ancient Babylonian rituals. All of this is carefully documented in Rev. Hislop's book.

Much of Christendom mixes with the resurrection of Christ all the pagan-based tag-alongs of bunny rabbits (goddess of Fertility) and the cherished pagan traditions of coloring and hunting for hidden Easter-eggs. I recently saw a Christian bookstore marketing sanctified "Resurrection eggs". No amount of paint and powder can change the profane into the pure. When was Jesus raised from the dead, on Easter or Firstfruits? Paul is very clear in communicating that:

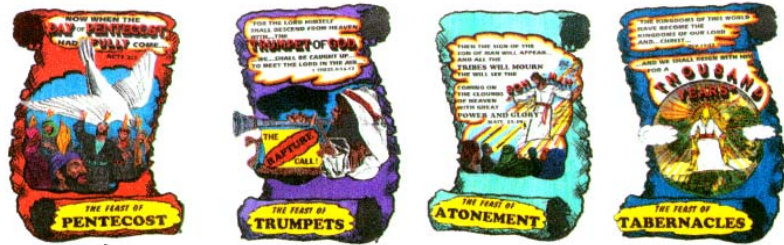
"CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS... CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS..." 1 Cor. 15:20, 23





MINI REVIEW OF FIRST THREE FEASTS:

1. **“THE GOSPEL” PAUL PREACHED WAS “DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION”**
(1 Cor. 15:1-3)
2. **THE SAME GOSPEL IS PREACHED BY PAUL TO GENTILES IN CORINTH USING THE FIRST THREE FEASTS.** (1 Cor. 5:7, 5:8, 15:20, 23)
3. **THE FIRST THREE FEASTS FORESHADOW THE FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION** (Rom. 3:24, 5:1, 5:9,) (JUSTIFICATION- the means by which we are made innocent and righteous)
4. **PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT PRACTICE OF COMMUNION.** (Luke 22:13-20)
5. **THE FIRST THREE FEASTS DEPICT THE WORK JESUS ACCOMPLISHED AT HIS FIRST COMING.** (Luke 4:16-21)



OLD TESTAMENT SHADOW:

“AND YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES FROM THE DAY AFTER THE SABBATH, FROM THE DAY THAT YOU BROUGHT THE SHEAF OF THE WAVE OFFERING [from Firstfruits]: SEVEN SABBATHS SHALL BE COMPLETED. 'COUNT FIFTY DAYS TO THE DAY AFTER THE SEVENTH SABBATH; THEN YOU SHALL OFFER A NEW GRAIN OFFERING TO THE LORD...” Lev. 23:15-16

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT:

“NOW WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD FULLY COME....THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.” Acts 2:1-4

Let us now move to the fourth Feast of God's Divine appointment calendar which is Pentecost. Those who were impacted by the work of Jesus at the first three Feasts are now the recipients of the initial work of the Holy Spirit of God. Notice God sent the Holy Spirit **“WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD FULLY COME”.**

The Feasts are God's timetable for all that He does!



THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST: **JUSTIFICATION**

"TO DECLARE INNOCENT, TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS"

OUR **PAST**
EXPERIENCE IN GOD

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: **SANCTIFICATION**

"TO BE SEPARATE, SET APART, HOLY IN CONDUCT"

OUR **PRESENT**
EXPERIENCE IN GOD

It is imperative that we grasp the significance of the fourth Feast. The first three Feasts were the work of Jesus Christ in bringing forth salvation through His death, burial and resurrection. The theological term that provides this salvation is the word **JUSTIFICATION**. It means "to declare innocent, to make righteous". When Jesus ascended He sent down the Holy Spirit "when the day of Pentecost had fully come" (Acts 2:1). The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not the same as that of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Father first sent Jesus to initiate justification to all who would believe, but afterward sent the Holy Spirit to all those who have believed with the sole purpose of leading and equipping them for a life of **SANCTIFICATION**. Notice the definition of sanctification is "to be separate, set apart, holy in conduct". A major key to being able to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), is to keep those things pertaining to justification separated from those things that only apply to sanctification. I believe this is why God distinctly separated the fourth Feast from the first three by fifty days. It was to communicate a new division, a new work in the lives of God's people that have been justified. Justification comes by the ministry of Jesus Christ but sanctification is by the Holy Spirit.

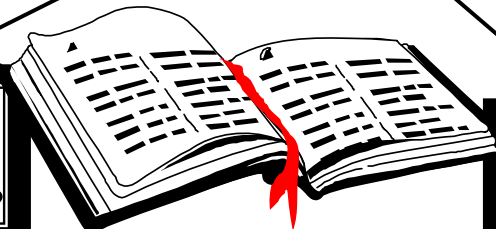


“BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD, A WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH...”

2 Tim. 2:15



THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST:
JUSTIFICATION
 “TO DECLARE INNOCENT, TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS”
 OUR **PAST**
 EXPERIENCE IN GOD



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:
SANCTIFICATION
 “TO BE SEPARATE, SET APART, HOLY IN CONDUCT”
 OUR **PRESENT**
 EXPERIENCE IN GOD

Consider the terms of the New Covenant as stated here in Hebrews 8:10-12.

The covenant is not limited merely to the fact that God is merciful to our unrighteousness and does not remember our sins and lawless deeds.

God also states in these verses His desire to put His laws in our minds and to write them on our hearts.

This latter statement is as much a part of the New Covenant as is the first! The One who forgives our lawless deeds also intends to provide a way by which we may stop practicing those lawless deeds. It is accomplished by placing His law in our minds and on our hearts!

“...I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”
 Heb. 8:12

WHAT JESUS CHRIST WAS SENT TO DO...

“...I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS...”
 Heb. 8:10

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT TO DO...

THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST:
JUSTIFICATION

"TO DECLARE INNOCENT, TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS"

OUR **PAST**
EXPERIENCE IN GOD




THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:
SANCTIFICATION

"TO BE SEPARATE, SET APART, HOLY IN CONDUCT"

OUR **PRESENT**
EXPERIENCE IN GOD

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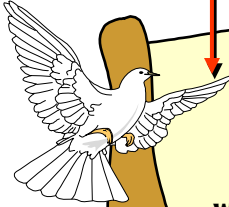
"...I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."
Heb. 8:12



Once you train your eye to rightly divide the word pertaining to things that justify and things that sanctify, you will readily see that the Word is actually written in such a manner. Consider this dualistic statement by the Apostle Peter:

↓

"...I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS..."
Heb. 8:10



"...REST YOUR HOPE FULLY UPON THE GRACE THAT IS BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST;



1 Peter 1:13-16

AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, NOT CONFORMING YOURSELVES TO THE FORMER LUSTS, AS IN YOUR IGNORANCE; BUT AS HE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT, BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

↑
JUSTIFICATION

↑
SANCTIFICATION

**“...WAIT FOR
THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER,
WHICH, HE SAID, YOU HAVE HEARD
FROM ME; FOR JOHN TRULY
BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU
SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT...YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME
UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL
BE WITNESSES TO ME...”**

Acts 1:4-8 excerpts



**“FOR THE PROMISE
IS TO YOU
AND TO
YOUR CHILDREN,
AND TO
ALL WHO ARE AFAR OFF,
AS MANY AS
THE LORD OUR GOD WILL CALL.”**

Acts 2:39

What Peter calls “the promise of the Father” was not meant to be an isolated dispensational event just for those in Peter’s day. Notice how Peter clarifies in Acts 2:39 that it is an all-inclusive event for all whom God will call. To further prove that God did not limit this event to those present at Pentecost, we only need to consider what happened twelve years after the initial Pentecostal experience fell upon the Jews:

“WHILE PETER WAS STILL SPEAKING THESE WORDS, THE HOLY SPIRIT FELL UPON ALL THOSE WHO HEARD THE WORD. AND THOSE OF THE CIRCUMCISION WHO BELIEVED WERE ASTONISHED, AS MANY AS CAME WITH PETER, BECAUSE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BEEN POURED OUT ON THE GENTILES ALSO. FOR THEY HEARD THEM SPEAK WITH TONGUES AND MAGNIFY GOD. THEN PETER ANSWERED, "CAN ANYONE FORBID WATER, THAT THESE SHOULD NOT BE BAPTIZED WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST AS WE HAVE?" AND HE COMMANDED THEM TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD...” (Acts 10:44-48) **“AND AS I BEGAN TO SPEAK, THE HOLY SPIRIT FELL UPON THEM, AS UPON US AT THE BEGINNING. THEN I REMEMBERED THE WORD OF THE LORD, HOW HE SAID, 'JOHN INDEED BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.' IF THEREFORE GOD GAVE THEM THE SAME GIFT AS HE GAVE US US WHEN WE BELIEVED ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO WAS I THAT I COULD WITHSTAND GOD?" WHEN THEY HEARD THESE THINGS THEY BECAME SILENT; AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD, SAYING, "THEN GOD HAS ALSO GRANTED TO THE GENTILES REPENTANCE TO LIFE.”** (Acts 11:15-18)

If the same gift fell upon Gentile believers 12 years after the initial Pentecostal experience, this teacher cannot accept the theory that this “same gift” is not for today’s Gentile believers such as you and me. This gift is the power of God that enables His people (Jew and Gentile) to be witnesses unto Christ, and to have power over sin. Do not believe the theological error being presented today that this gift is not for everyone that believes. Peter says it is! (Acts 2:39)

One of the things that we are going to see is that although Jesus Himself is fulfilling these Feasts one by one, they also are to find fulfillment from a different perspective in us as well:

THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHRIST:

“CHRIST DIED...”



“HE WAS BURIED...”



“HE ROSE AGAIN...”



1 Cor. 15: 1-3

“HE WILL SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Matt. 3:11



THE PERSPECTIVE OF A CHRISTIAN:



“KNOWING THAT OUR OLD MAN WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH, THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES OF SIN. FOR HE WHO HAS DIED HAS BEEN FREED FROM SIN.”

Rom. 6:6-7

“DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? THEREFORE WE WERE BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH...”

Rom. 6:3-4

“IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, CERTAINLY WE ALSO SHALL BE IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION... JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD... EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.”

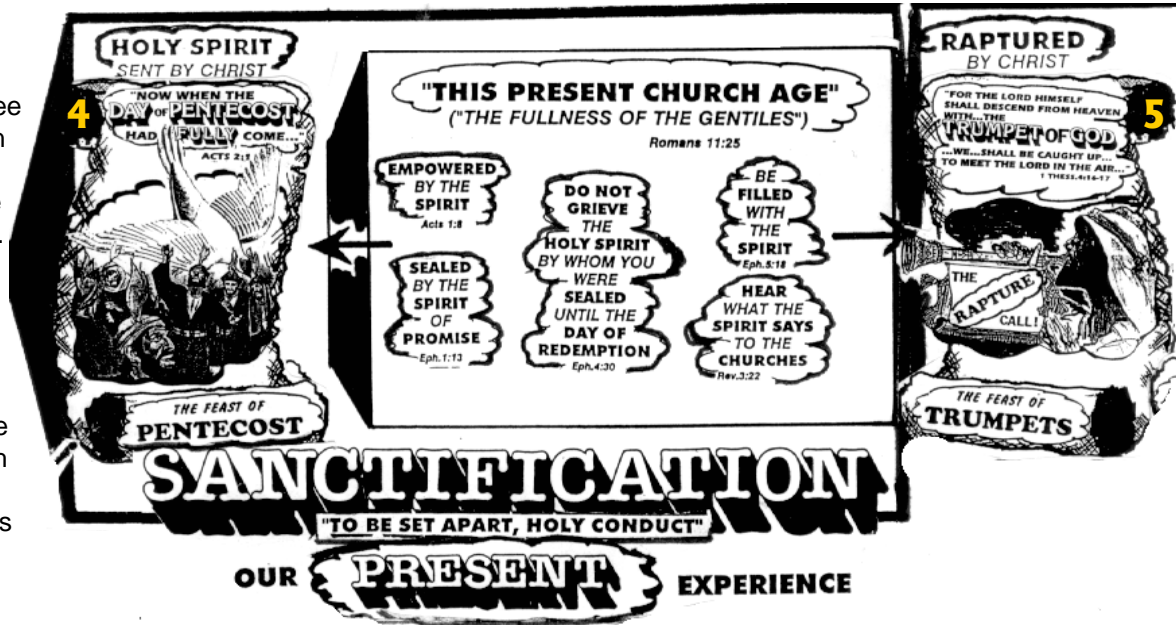
Rom. 6:4-5

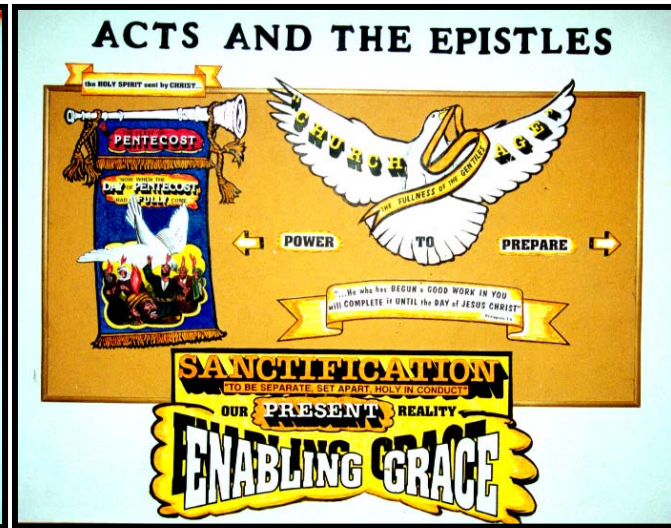
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“...WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER, WHICH, HE SAID, YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME; FOR JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT...YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME...” FOR THE PROMISE IS TO YOU AND TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO ALL WHO ARE AFAR OFF, AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD WILL CALL.”

Acts 1:4-8 excerpts , Acts 2:39

We can see now why God placed a long interval of three months in-between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets. This interval, as depicted below in our opening chart from Lev. 23, represents the present church age which **BEGAN** with Pentecost and will **END** with Trumpets (the rapture of the Gentile church).



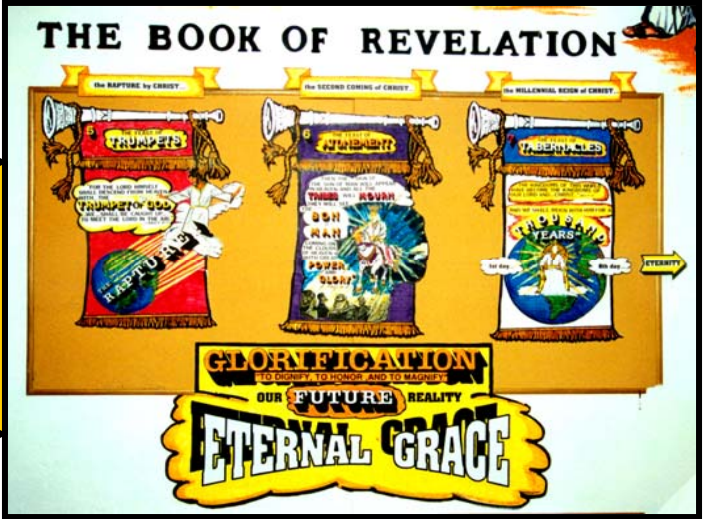


The two pictures above are from the 35 foot mural on our sanctuary wall. Notice that above the first three Feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits) I have placed the words **THE FOUR GOSPELS**. Over the fourth Feast Pentecost, I have placed the words **THE ACTS AND THE EPISTLES**. On the opposite page you will see that I have placed above the last three Feasts the words **THE BOOK OF REVELATION**. Consider this point well for the seven Feasts of the Lord contain the proper sequential divisions as we find them placed in the New Testament! The four gospels tell the story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the story of justification or as I like to call it "saving grace". The Book of Acts begins with the events of Pentecost and the birthing of the Jewish church which added Gentiles later in Acts. The Book of Acts contains forty years of the history of the church. The 21 epistles which follow the Book of Acts were written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and given to the church to define the call to sanctification, and provide instruction for laying hold of the enabling grace necessary for accomplishing God's will. The Holy Spirit brings **POWER** (at the Feast of Pentecost) **TO PREPARE** (for the coming Feast of Trumpets).

Ponder the previous page and this one together. We are beginning to build a panoramic prophetic view that God has hidden within the confines of the Feasts of the Lord. You can now see why God placed such a long period in-between the first four Feasts and the last three:

LONG INTERVAL OF 3 MONTHS WITH NO FEAST REPRESENTS
THIS PRESENT CHURCH AGE
THAT CONTINUES
“UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAS COME IN”
 Rom. 11:25

This long interval of the Gentile church age will end with Jesus Christ fulfilling the next (5th) Feast, which is Trumpets.



“FOR I DO NOT DESIRE, BRETHREN, THAT YOU SHOULD BE IGNORANT OF THIS MYSTERY, LEST YOU SHOULD BE WISE IN YOUR OWN OPINION, THAT BLINDNESS IN PART HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAS COME IN. AND SO ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED, AS IT IS WRITTEN...”
 Rom. 11:25-27

God has two peoples that He is bringing to salvation, the Jew and the Gentile. Read the whole 11th Chapter of Romans and you will see that Paul is explicitly emphasizing this truth. High-mindedness had set in among the Gentile believers that they had replaced the Jews as God’s chosen people. This pride-based theology is still prevalent among many of God’s people today and is in fact taught from many pulpits. The Feast of Trumpets is going to end the Gentile church age when “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”. That end will be dramatic for, as we are going to see, the Feast of Trumpets typifies the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. Do not believe the miss-application of the passage “no man knows the day or the hour”. We know both. What we do not know is what year it will take place.



DEATH OF CHRIST



BURIAL OF CHRIST



RESURRECTION OF CHRIST



HOLY SPIRIT SENT BY CHRIST



RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH BY CHRIST

Is it logical to think that “no man knows the day or the hour” of the rapture? The Feasts of the Lord are the Divine appointments on the prophetic calendar of the Lord Jesus Christ. Have we not seen that the first four have been fulfilled on their very specified day? Will not the remaining three be also? The next Feast waiting to be fulfilled is called “The Feast of Trumpets”. Paul has already warned us not to be ignorant of **THE MYSTERY** (“hidden truth”) of “the fullness of the Gentiles” (Rom.11:25). The rapture is also considered a mystery (1 Cor.15:51). The hidden truth is not that we do not know the day or the hour, but rather that we do not know which Feast of Trumpets that it will occur on! Let us look at the context of the often quoted verse of “no man knows the day or the hour”:

“ASSUREDLY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THIS GENERATION WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY UNTIL ALL THESE THINGS ARE FULFILLED. HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY. BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS, NO, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN, BUT MY FATHER ONLY.”

Matt. 24:34-36

The context of “no man knows the day or the hour” is the day and the hour that heaven will pass away. These are not verses about the rapture and neither are the ones that follow it which speak of “one will be taken and the other left” (Mat. 24:40). The context states that these will be taken away to judgment, not rapture! Does it not say that it is in the days of Noah in which they were all “taken away by the flood” (vs.39)? Why then would the verses that follow this statement be people being raptured? In Luke’s account of this event, the disciples ask Jesus where they will be taken to, and His reply was “where the vultures gather” (Luke 17:34). This is a reference to the coming of Christ at Armageddon (see Rev. 19:17-21). We must be very careful students of God’s Word and rightly divide it as we are told to do (2nd Tim.2:15). What sounds like the rapture may not be sound doctrine pertaining to it as the above examples prove.

If you want a good picture of the rapture, ponder this one. It is in the 25th chapter of Matthew. Here you will find a warning about “the day and the hour”. Let us consider it:



"THEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SHALL BE LIKENED TO TEN VIRGINS WHO TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND WENT OUT TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM. NOW FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE, AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH. THOSE WHO WERE FOOLISH TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND TOOK NO OIL WITH THEM, BUT THE WISE TOOK OIL IN THEIR VESSELS WITH THEIR LAMPS. BUT WHILE THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT. "AND AT MIDNIGHT A CRY WAS HEARD: 'BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING; GO OUT TO MEET HIM!' THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS AROSE AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. AND THE FOOLISH SAID TO THE WISE, 'GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.' BUT THE WISE ANSWERED, SAYING, 'NO, LEST THERE SHOULD NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU; BUT GO RATHER TO THOSE WHO SELL, AND BUY FOR YOURSELVES.' AND WHILE THEY WENT TO BUY, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING; AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT. "AFTERWARD THE OTHER VIRGINS CAME ALSO, SAYING, 'LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US!' BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, 'ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.' "WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR IN WHICH THE SON OF MAN IS COMING."

Matt. 25:1-13

Jesus warns the foolish virgins that **THEY** do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming (vs.13). The wise virgins are already safely inside. He prefaced that warning to the foolish with, “watch therefore”. When the apostle Paul spoke of the day in which Jesus Christ would appear as a thief in the night, he taught the brethren:

“YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT... BUT YOU BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF. YOU ARE ALL SONS OF LIGHT...”

1 Thess.5:2-5 excerpts

Back up into chapter four of Paul's epistle and you will see that the context of these verses from chapter five is the rapture (1st Thess. 4:16-18). As sons of light we are to have oil in our lamp to light the way. The wise virgins had light but the foolish virgins did not. Therefore, Jesus warns the foolish to “watch for **YOU** do not know neither the day nor the hour”. Paul clearly states that as sons of light “this day should not overtake you as a thief”.

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” Psalm 119:105

“FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD. AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR.” 1 Thess. 4:16-17

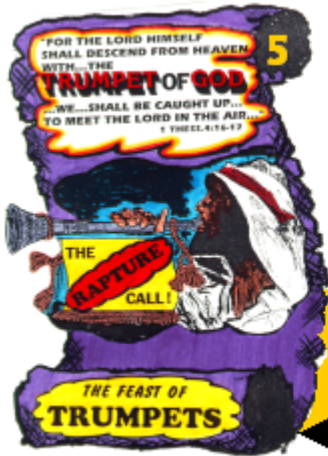
“BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY: WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP, BUT WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED -- IN A MOMENT, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMPET. FOR THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND, AND THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED.” 1 Cor. 15:51-53

**“AND THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, SAYING:
“MAKE TWO SILVER TRUMPETS FOR YOURSELVES....YOU SHALL USE THEM FOR CALLING THE CONGREGATION AND FOR DIRECTING THE MOVEMENT OF THE CAMPS.... ALSO IN THE DAY OF YOUR GLADNESS, IN YOUR APPOINTED FEASTS, AND AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR MONTHS, YOU SHALL BLOW THE TRUMPETS... AND THEY SHALL BE A MEMORIAL FOR YOU BEFORE YOUR GOD: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.”**

Numbers 10:1-10



Does the Feast of Trumpets foreshadow the rapture? Consider the evidence. Both of the New Testament passages dealing with the rapture clearly state that the event will be heralded in with the blowing of a trumpet. Again, we need to be good students that rightly divide the Word of truth. Paul states in the Corinthian passage that the rapture will take place at “the last trumpet”. This has led many to jump to the last of the seven trumpets blown in Revelation as support for a post-tribulation rapture. However, these are trumpets of judgment, not redemption. Note the Old Testament passage above from Numbers specifies two **SILVER** trumpets. Check it out and you will find silver is always a picture of redemption. The wilderness Tabernacle will show you that clearly. Brass is a picture of judgment, and although it does not say so, I believe the seven trumpets of Revelation are brass simply because they contain the judgment of God. Notice that the two silver trumpets are blown for (1) “calling the congregation” and (2) “for the movement of the camps”. Likewise, Paul presents the rapture occurring in two distinct applicable stages to what is stated in the passages from Numbers, (1) “the dead in Christ are raised” (that is the calling of the congregation-first trumpet) and (2) “we who are alive and remain are gathered up to meet them in the air” (that is the movement of the camps-last trumpet). Finally, note Numbers tells us that these two silver trumpets are to be blown “in the day of your gladness, in your appointed Feasts”. Therefore, it is the silver trumpets of redemption that are blown on the Feast of Trumpets which, as we have seen, perfectly foreshadow the two stages of the rapture. I think we have sufficient type and shadow that the Feast of Trumpets perfectly foreshadows the events of the rapture.



“FOR I DO NOT DESIRE, BRETHREN, THAT YOU SHOULD BE IGNORANT OF THIS MYSTERY, LEST YOU SHOULD BE WISE IN YOUR OWN OPINION, THAT BLINDNESS IN PART HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAS COME IN. AND SO ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED, AS IT IS WRITTEN: THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB; FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

Rom. 11:25-27

THE SEVEN YEARS OF TRIBULATION SEPARATES THE RAPTURE FROM THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST



When “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” the rapture will take place and the Gentile church age will end.

As stated above by Paul, “then all Israel will be saved”. This statement launches us into the purpose of the sixth Feast, The Day of Atonement. The church has had its day of atonement. It took place on the Feast of Passover in which Paul proclaimed, “Christ, our Passover sacrificed for us” (1st Cor. 5:7). This is the yet-future atonement day appointed for Israel. Note Paul’s words above, “For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

The prophet Zechariah depicts that day of covenant making between Jesus Christ and Israel in vivid detail:

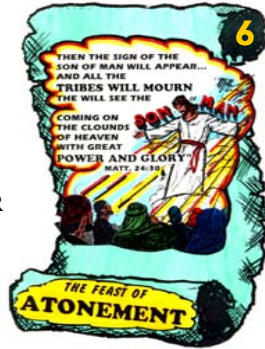
“AND I WILL POUR ON THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND ON THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATION; THEN THEY WILL LOOK ON ME WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED. THEY WILL MOURN FOR HIM AS ONE MOURNS FOR HIS ONLY SON...IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A GREAT MOURNING IN JERUSALEM... AND ONE WILL SAY TO HIM, 'WHAT ARE THESE WOUNDS IN YOUR HANDS?' THEN HE WILL ANSWER, 'THOSE WITH WHICH I WAS WOUNDED IN THE HOUSE OF MY FRIENDS....AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN ALL THE LAND, SAYS THE LORD, THAT TWO-THIRDS IN IT SHALL BE CUT OFF AND DIE, BUT ONE-THIRD SHALL BE LEFT IN IT: I WILL BRING THE ONE-THIRD THROUGH THE FIRE, WILL REFINE THEM AS SILVER, AND TEST THEM AS GOLD IS TESTED. THEY WILL CALL ON MY NAME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEM. I WILL SAY, 'THIS IS MY PEOPLE'; AND EACH ONE WILL SAY, 'THE LORD IS MY GOD.'”

Zech. 12-13 excerpts

THE LAW:

"ALSO THE TENTH DAY OF THIS SEVENTH MONTH SHALL BE THE DAY OF ATONEMENT. IT SHALL BE A HOLY CONVOCATION FOR YOU; YOU SHALL AFFLICT YOUR SOULS...FOR IT IS THE DAY OF ATONEMENT, TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR YOU BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD...ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT AFFLICTED OF SOUL ON THAT SAME DAY, HE SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE.... AND YOU SHALL AFFLICT YOUR SOULS..."

Lev. 23:26-32 excerpts



THE PROPHETS:

"THEY WILL MOURN FOR HIM AS ONE MOURNS FOR HIS ONLY SON...IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A GREAT MOURNING IN JERUSALEM...AND THE LAND SHALL MOURN, EVERY FAMILY BY ITSELF....A FOUNTAIN SHALL BE OPENED FOR THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, FOR SIN...AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN ALL THE LAND, SAYS THE LORD, THAT TWO-THIRDS IN IT SHALL BE CUT OFF AND DIE. "

Zech.12-13 excerpts

What the Law of God records about the Feast Day of Atonement is also prophesied by the mouth of the prophet. The Day of Atonement was a day of afflicting of the soul, a day of "mourning" as the prophet Zechariah calls it. Notice that the Law warns that any one who was "not afflicted of soul" on that Day would be "cut off" from his people. The prophet tells us that two-thirds of God's people will be "cut off" and die when Jesus Christ returns on the Day of Atonement. Let us go now to the New Testament and see that the return of Christ (His second coming) is also prophesied to be a day of mourning:

"THEN THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN WILL APPEAR IN HEAVEN, AND ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH WILL MOURN AND THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY..."

Matt. 24:30

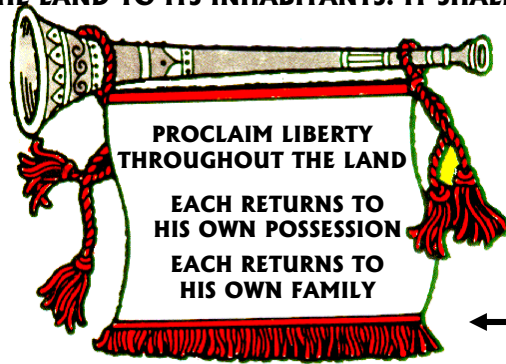
"BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH CLOUDS, AND EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM, AND THEY ALSO WHO PIERCED HIM. AND ALL THE TRIBES WILL MOURN BECAUSE OF HIM."

Rev. 1:7

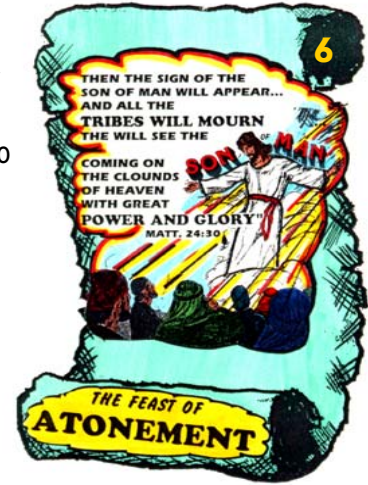
When will Jesus Christ appear on earth a second time? It will be on a day that all the tribes of Israel are mourning. In other words, it will be on the Day of Atonement as they afflict their soul for sins. The "one whom they pierced", the one with "wounds in His hands", will appear with great glory bringing salvation to the prophesied one-third of His people, and to those that are afflicted of soul on this their most holy and solemn Feast day, the Day of Atonement. Again we can see that God has laid out these Feast days with specific goals and purposes in mind. Neither the rapture nor the second coming of Christ will be mere happenstance. The timing of these great events are foretold by the Feasts!

One more great truth is contained within the Feast Day of Atonement:

“YOU SHALL CAUSE THE TRUMPET OF THE JUBILEE TO SOUND ON THE TENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH; ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT YOU SHALL MAKE THE TRUMPET TO SOUND THROUGHOUT ALL YOUR LAND. AND YOU SHALL CONSECRATE THE FIFTIETH YEAR, AND PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND TO ITS INHABITANTS. IT SHALL BE A JUBILEE FOR YOU...”Leviticus 25:9-10



The above is a mere fraction of what the Scripture records about the year of Jubilee. Take the time to read the 25th chapter of Leviticus. There are 55 verses detailing the concept of the year of Jubilee. Here are three key events that are to take place in the year of Jubilee:

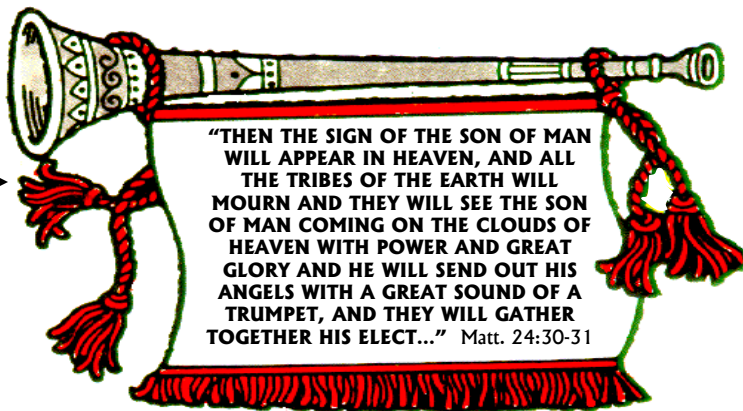


Every fifty years was to be a year of Jubilee. The Jews were to observe a Sabbath rest for the land every seven years. They were to count seven such Sabbath rests (7x7+49) and the fiftieth year was to be the year of Jubilee in which they were to “proclaim liberty throughout the land”, each was to “return to his possession”, and to “return to his own family”. When was this great day of celebration and rejoicing to be announced? It was on the Day of Atonement which coincided with the 49 year cycle of resting the land. Since Jesus is coming back to the earth on the Day of Atonement, is it not logical that it will be at a Jubilee cycle? What will happen when Jesus returns? Will it not indeed be a time of “proclaiming liberty throughout all the land”?

Now we can see that not only will Jesus come on a future Day of Atonement, but it will be a very specific and special Day of Atonement. It will be in a Jubilee year at which the trumpet will be sounded.

Consider this prophecy pertaining to the coming of Jesus Christ:

Notice that He will come with the sounding of a great trumpet in which He will gather together His elect.



“THEN THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN WILL APPEAR IN HEAVEN, AND ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH WILL MOURN AND THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY AND HE WILL SEND OUT HIS ANGELS WITH A GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET, AND THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT...” Matt. 24:30-31

This is exactly what Leviticus 25 has revealed to us about the year of Jubilee that is heralded in on the Day of Atonement. It will be by means of the blowing of a trumpet in which, among other things, every man shall be gathered to his family.

WHAT HAVE WE SEEN SO FAR IN **PROPHECY**:

- 1. JESUS WILL RETURN ON A DAY WHEN ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH ARE MOURNING** (Zech. 12-14, Mat. 24:30-31, Rev. 1:7).
- 2. TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE “CUT OFF AND DIE”** (Zech.13:8).
- 3. HIS APPEARANCE ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED WITH THE SOUND OF A GREAT TRUMPET WHICH WILL GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT** (Matt. 24:31)

WHAT WE HAVE SEEN FORESHADOWED IN **THE LAW**:

- 1. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT IS A DAY OF MOURNING AND AFFLICTION OF SOUL OVER SIN** (Lev. 23, Lev.16).
- 2. WHOEVER WILL NOT AFFLICT THEIR SOULS FOR SIN WILL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE** (Lev. 23:29).
- 3. ON ONE SUCH DAY OF ATONEMENT THAT FOLLOWS 7X7 OF SABBATH REST OF THE LAND, THERE WILL BE THE BLOWING OF THE TRUMPET OF JUBILEE THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF ISRAEL IN WHICH EVERY MAN SHALL BE GATHERED TO HIS FAMILY** (Lev.25:10).

The Law may not contain “the very image of the good things to come” as Heb. 10:1 states, but I believe we can see that the contents of the Law above is nearly a mirror image of what we find recorded by the mouth of the prophets! Jesus is going to return on the Day of Atonement, and even more specifically, it will be on the Day of Atonement that the trumpet of Jubilee will be sounded.

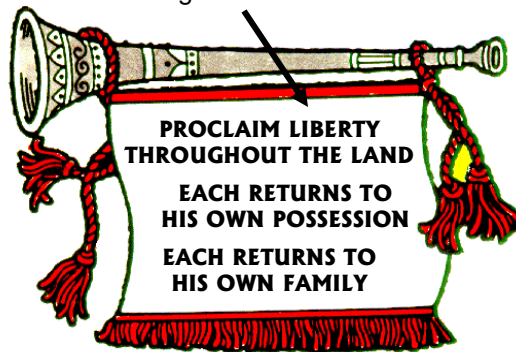
IF WE COULD ESTABLISH ANY CALENDAR DATE FOR A PREVIOUS YEAR OF JUBILEE, THE YEAR OF JUBILEE IN WHICH CHRIST WILL RETURN COULD ALSO BE CALCULATED!

There is no record that Israel ever kept a year of Jubilee due to the fact that they did not observe the requirement to rest the land for the seven sabbaths of years. In fact, Scripture tells us this is why God sent Israel into the seventy years of Babylonian captivity:

—————> **“AND THOSE WHO ESCAPED FROM THE SWORD HE CARRIED AWAY TO BABYLON, WHERE THEY BECAME SERVANTS TO HIM AND HIS SONS UNTIL THE RULE OF THE KINGDOM OF PERSIA, TO FULFILL THE WORD OF THE LORD BY THE MOUTH OF JEREMIAH, UNTIL THE LAND HAD ENJOYED HER SABBATHS. AS LONG AS SHE LAY DESOLATE SHE KEPT SABBATH, TO FULFILL SEVENTY YEARS.”** 2 Chron. 36:17-21

Since we do not have a firm date for any year of Jubilee, let me suggest to you the following possibility, and I stress “possibility”. Prophecy always has partial fulfillments prior to the final and complete fulfillment. We may be able to establish the existing prophetic cycle of the year of Jubilee by considering what kind of events are to happen on this day. Consider again what Leviticus 25 states that is to occur when the year of Jubilee begins:

Here is what I believe may be the present prophetic cycle of events: In 1917, having freed Jerusalem in battle, Britain then passed the Balfour Declaration in favor of establishing a Jewish state. The league of Nations endorsed it as well. **FIFTY YEARS** later in the six day war of 1967, the nation of Israel freed Jerusalem and encompassed it into its borders. These two dates, 1917 and 1967 contain a partial fulfillment of what the year of Jubilee is to accomplish. Could they be Years of Jubilee? If so, then it is also likely that in **FIFTY YEARS** from 1967, in the year 2017, Jesus Christ would come to set Jerusalem free in totality on the Day of Atonement, in the year of Jubilee!



Why did I stop calculating at 2017? Why not go perhaps another 50 years or even another 150 years? Let me tell you why I strongly believe that we will not go beyond 2017. The year of Jubilee occurs every 50 years. Man has been on this planet nearly 6,000 years which means that we are approaching 120 Jubilee cycles since it all began way back in Genesis. Let us consider what God said to Noah which I do not believe is being properly interpreted:

**“AND THE LORD SAID,“MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT STRIVE WITH MAN FOREVER,
FOR INDEED HE IS FLESH; YET HIS DAYS SHALL BE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS.”** Gen. 6:3

It is important to understand what is meant by this statement and what is not. I have always endorsed the common interpretation of this verse when coupled with the apostle Peter's declaration that Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet.2:5), to mean that Noah preached righteousness for 120 years. However, there is no support for that computation. Actually, it is disproved by the fact that Scripture specifically states that Noah was 500 years old when he begot his three sons (Gen. 5:32). Scripture also carefully records that he was exactly 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth (Gen.7:11). In-between those two specified dates, Noah is commissioned to build the ark in which he and his three sons and their wives were to enter into prior to the beginning of the flood (Gen. 7:13). Obviously, this commission came not only after his sons were born but also after they were married. Therefore he could not have preached righteousness for 120 years as a fulfillment of Genesis 6:3. Nor can it be substantiated that the 120 years in this verse refers to a pronouncement by God that the life span of mankind would be reduced from the then existing common life span of 500 to 900 years to merely 120 years. This would be in conflict with the stated life span in Psalm 90:10 “the days of our lives are 70 years and if by strength...80 years”. The context in which God states that man's days shall be 120 years, is that “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever”. God is establishing a specified time frame in which He will cease striving with man on the earth. He utters this statement at a time in which He is about to cease striving with the wickedness of mankind in pronouncing destruction by the flood. However, this is only a partial fulfillment and it does not explain the real meaning of the 120 years. I have come to see that this verse holds a hidden computation that in 120 (Jubilee years), which is a total of 6,000 years, God would “cease striving with mankind” and would return in judgment to establish His kingdom on earth. Therefore I believe that, at maximum, we may have one more Jubilee period from 1967 to 2017 because I am also convinced that mankind is only given 6,000 years before the coming of Christ. We will take a long hard look at the 6,000 year limitation in the second half of this book when we add to the Feasts the prophetic pattern of the seven days of creation.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT:

"THEY WILL MOURN FOR HIM AS ONE MOURNS FOR HIS ONLY SON...IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A GREAT MOURNING IN JERUSALEM...AND THE LAND SHALL MOURN, EVERY FAMILY BY ITSELF....A FOUNTAIN SHALL BE OPENED FOR THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, FOR SIN...AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN ALL THE LAND, SAYS THE LORD, THAT TWO-THIRDS IN IT SHALL BE CUT OFF AND DIE.... THEN THE LORD WILL GO FORTH AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS, AS HE FIGHTS IN THE DAY OF BATTLE. AND IN THAT DAY HIS FEET WILL STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH FACES JERUSALEM ON THE EAST.... THUS THE LORD MY GOD WILL COME, AND ALL THE SAINTS WITH YOU.... AND THE LORD SHALL BE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH. IN THAT DAY IT SHALL BE -- "THE LORD IS ONE,"AND HIS NAME ONE.

Zechariah the prophet will take us from the Feast Day of Atonement to an emphasis upon the seventh and final Feast, the Feast of Tabernacles:



THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES:

AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT EVERYONE WHO IS LEFT OF ALL THE NATIONS WHICH CAME AGAINST JERUSALEM SHALL GO UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR TO WORSHIP THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS, AND TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. AND IT SHALL BE THAT WHICHEVER OF THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH DO NOT COME UP TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS, ON THEM THERE WILL BE NO RAIN. IF THE FAMILY OF EGYPT WILL NOT COME UP AND ENTER IN, THEY SHALL HAVE NO RAIN; THEY SHALL RECEIVE THE PLAGUE WITH WHICH THE LORD STRIKES THE NATIONS WHO DO NOT COME UP TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. THIS SHALL BE THE PUNISHMENT OF EGYPT AND THE PUNISHMENT OF ALL THE NATIONS THAT DO NOT COME UP TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES."

excerpts from Zechariah 12-14

At the second coming of Christ, on the Day of Atonement, at the battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ will set His feet down on Mt. Olivet. Notice that all the saints come with Him, notably those who were raptured at the Feast of Trumpets. The Lord will become King over all the earth and will establish a mandate that every nation, year by year, must come up to worship the King at the Feast of Tabernacles. Three times this phrase is repeated. The Millennial reign of Jesus Christ has been foreshadowed by this seventh and final Feast, the Feast of Tabernacles.

Let us now begin to examine the significance of those things that we find spelled out in the Law of Leviticus 23 pertaining to

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

"THEN THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, SAYING, "SPEAK TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, SAYING: 'THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THIS SEVENTH MONTH SHALL BE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES FOR SEVEN DAYS TO THE LORD. ON THE FIRST DAY THERE SHALL BE A HOLY CONVOCATION. YOU SHALL DO NO CUSTOMARY WORK ON IT. FOR SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL OFFER AN OFFERING MADE BY FIRE TO THE LORD. ON THE EIGHTH DAY YOU SHALL HAVE A HOLY CONVOCATION, AND YOU SHALL OFFER AN OFFERING MADE BY FIRE TO THE LORD. IT IS A SACRED ASSEMBLY, AND YOU SHALL DO NO CUSTOMARY WORK ON IT.'THESE ARE THE FEASTS OF THE LORD WHICH YOU SHALL PROCLAIM TO BE HOLY CONVOCATIONS, TO OFFER AN OFFERING MADE BY FIRE TO THE LORD, A BURNT OFFERING AND A GRAIN OFFERING, A SACRIFICE AND DRINK OFFERINGS, EVERYTHING ON ITS DAY -- BESIDES THE SABBATHS OF THE LORD, BESIDES YOUR GIFTS, BESIDES ALL YOUR VOWS, AND BESIDES ALL YOUR FREEWILL OFFERINGS WHICH YOU GIVE TO THE LORD.

'ALSO ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, WHEN YOU HAVE GATHERED IN THE FRUIT OF THE LAND, YOU SHALL KEEP THE FEAST OF THE LORD FOR SEVEN DAYS; ON THE FIRST DAY THERE SHALL BE A SABBATH-REST, AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY A SABBATH-REST. AND YOU SHALL TAKE FOR YOURSELVES ON THE FIRST DAY THE FRUIT OF BEAUTIFUL TREES, BRANCHES OF PALM TREES, THE BOUGHS OF LEAFY TREES, AND WILLOWS OF THE BROOK; AND YOU SHALL REJOICE BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD FOR SEVEN DAYS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE LORD FOR SEVEN DAYS IN THE YEAR. IT SHALL BE A STATUTE FOREVER IN YOUR GENERATIONS. YOU SHALL CELEBRATE IT IN THE SEVENTH MONTH. YOU SHALL DWELL IN BOOTHS FOR SEVEN DAYS. ALL WHO ARE NATIVE ISRAELITES SHALL DWELL IN BOOTHS, THAT YOUR GENERATIONS MAY KNOW THAT I MADE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DWELL IN BOOTHS WHEN I BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.'
"SO MOSES DECLARED TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THE FEASTS OF THE LORD."

Leviticus 23:33-44



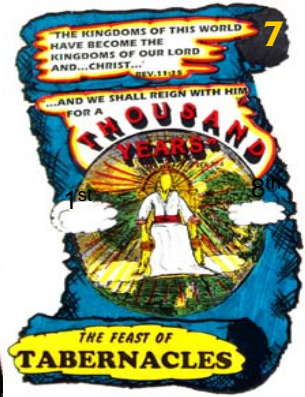
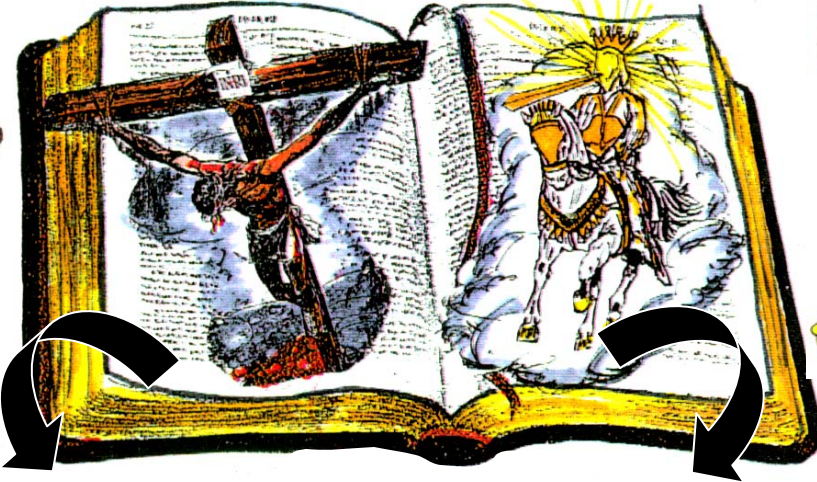
We have progressed from **THE FIRST** Feast to **THE LAST** Feast, from He who is called **THE FIRST** unto He who is also called **THE LAST** (Rev.1:11). We have progressed from the **FIRST COMING** of Christ to the **LAST COMING** of Christ, from the appointed time of the **SUFFERING** Messiah unto the time of the **REIGNING** Messiah.



THE SUFFERING MESSIAH

“SMITTEN BY GOD, AND AFFLICTED. BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTISEMENT FOR OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM, AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED. ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED, EVERY ONE, TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.”

Isaiah 53:4-6



THE REIGNING MESSIAH

“BEHOLD, THE LORD WILL COME WITH FIRE AND WITH HIS CHARIOTS, LIKE A WHIRLWIND, TO RENDER HIS ANGER WITH FURY, AND HIS REBUKE WITH FLAMES OF FIRE. FOR BY FIRE AND BY HIS SWORD THE LORD WILL JUDGE ALL FLESH; AND THE SLAIN OF THE LORD SHALL BE MANY.... AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT FROM ONE NEW MOON TO ANOTHER AND FROM ONE SABBATH TO ANOTHER, ALL FLESH SHALL COME TO WORSHIP BEFORE ME,” SAYS THE LORD.”

Isaiah 66:15-16,23

Often in the prophetic Scriptures God states things in one sentence that are worked out with thousands of years in-between the opening and closing of that single sentence. Two examples are given below, one from Isaiah 61:1, and the other from Daniel 9:24.

If you compare the Isaiah 61:1 passage to Luke 4:17-20, you will see that Jesus was reading this very passage pertaining to Himself and He stopped right in the middle of the sentence because it was not yet time for “the day of the vengeance of our God”. He came first to fulfill “the acceptable year of the Lord”. This day of vengeance would have to wait until His Second coming on the Day of Atonement.



THE WORK OF THE SUFFERING MESSIAH:

1. **“TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION”**
2. **“TO MAKE AN END OF SINS”** Dan. 9:24a
3. **“TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY”**

“THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD”

Isa. 61:2a



THE WORK OF THE REIGNING MESSIAH:

4. **“TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS”**
5. **“TO SEAL UP VISION AND PROPHECY”** Dan. 9:24b
6. **“AND TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY”**

“THE DAY OF THE VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD”

Isa. 61:2b

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Let us begin to unfold the type and shadow that is contained within the Feast of Tabernacles. It abounds with exciting and visionary truths. Here are the highlights:


“...THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THIS SEVENTH MONTH SHALL BE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES FOR SEVEN DAYS TO THE LORD. ON THE FIRST DAY THERE SHALL BE A HOLY CONVOCATION..ON THE EIGHTH DAY YOU SHALL HAVE A HOLY CONVOCATION...IT IS A SACRED ASSEMBLY...YOU SHALL KEEP THE FEAST OF THE LORD FOR SEVEN DAYS; ON THE FIRST DAY THERE SHALL BE A SABBATH-REST, AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY A SABBATH-REST... AND YOU SHALL REJOICE BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD FOR SEVEN DAYS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE LORD FOR SEVEN DAYS IN THE YEAR. IT SHALL BE A STATUTE FOREVER IN YOUR GENERATIONS...” Leviticus 23:33-44 excerpts



We have already seen from the prophet Zechariah that the Feast of Tabernacles is going to be a mandatory observance for all nations when the Lord reigns on the earth in the Millennium:

“AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT EVERYONE WHO IS LEFT OF ALL THE NATIONS WHICH CAME AGAINST JERUSALEM SHALL GO UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR TO WORSHIP THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS, AND TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. AND IT SHALL BE THAT WHICHEVER OF THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH DO NOT COME UP TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS, ON THEM THERE WILL BE NO RAIN. IF THE FAMILY OF EGYPT WILL NOT COME UP AND ENTER IN, THEY SHALL HAVE NO RAIN; THEY SHALL RECEIVE THE PLAGUE WITH WHICH THE LORD STRIKES THE NATIONS WHO DO NOT COME UP TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. THIS SHALL BE THE PUNISHMENT OF EGYPT AND THE PUNISHMENT OF ALL THE NATIONS THAT DO NOT COME UP TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.” excerpts from Zechariah Chapter 14

The above forced observance of the Feast of Tabernacles is a manifestation of Jesus Christ's commission by the Father, "Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with **A ROD OF IRON**" (Rev. 19:15). It is going to go hard for the nations that are against the Lord's iron rule. It is clear that God will place certain plagues upon those who will not submit.

The seven day observance of this Feast typifies the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth. For some it will be a blessing and for others it will be a curse. Consider this contrast presented in Psalm 2 and in Isaiah 2: 

**"WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE,
AND THE PEOPLE PLOT A VAIN THING? THE
KINGS OF THE EARTH SET THEMSELVES,
AND THE RULERS TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER,
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS
ANOINTED, SAYING, "LET US BREAK THEIR
BONDS IN PIECES AND CAST AWAY THEIR CORDS
FROM US." HE WHO SITS IN THE HEAVENS SHALL
LAUGH; THE LORD SHALL HOLD THEM IN
DERISION. THEN HE SHALL SPEAK TO THEM IN
HIS WRATH, AND DISTRESS THEM IN HIS DEEP
DISPLEASURE: "YET I HAVE SET MY KING ON MY
HOLY HILL OF ZION." "I WILL DECLARE THE
DECREE: THE LORD HAS SAID TO ME, 'YOU ARE
MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU. ASK OF
ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE NATIONS FOR
YOUR INHERITANCE, AND THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH FOR YOUR POSSESSION. YOU SHALL
BREAK THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; YOU SHALL
DASH THEM TO PIECES LIKE A POTTER'S VESSEL.'"
NOW THEREFORE, BE WISE, O KINGS; BE
INSTRUCTED, YOU JUDGES OF THE EARTH. SERVE
THE LORD WITH FEAR, AND REJOICE WITH
TREMBLING. KISS THE SON, LEST HE BE ANGRY,
AND YOU PERISH IN THE WAY, WHEN HIS WRATH
IS KINDLED BUT A LITTLE. BLESSED ARE ALL
THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM."**

Psalm 2:1-12

**"NOW IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LATTER
DAYS THAT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD'S
HOUSE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED ON THE TOP
OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND SHALL BE EXALTED
ABOVE THE HILLS; AND ALL NATIONS SHALL
FLOW TO IT.**

MANY PEOPLE SHALL COME AND SAY,

**"COME, AND LET US GO UP TO THE
MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD, TO THE HOUSE OF
THE GOD OF JACOB; HE WILL TEACH US HIS
WAYS, AND WE SHALL WALK IN HIS PATHS."**

**FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW,
AND THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM
JERUSALEM. HE SHALL JUDGE BETWEEN THE
NATIONS, AND REBUKE MANY PEOPLE;**

**THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO
PLOWSHARES, AND THEIR SPEARS INTO
PRUNING HOOKS; NATION SHALL NOT LIFT
UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL
THEY LEARN WAR ANYMORE."**

Isaiah 2:2-4

From this contrast we can see the Millennium will be a mixed bag. Some nations will hate the Son (as they do presently), but others will find His rule a delight.

The Millennial reign of Christ, as represented by the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, is designed for the saving of the Gentile nations, at least those who want to be saved. Consider this passage from the Book of Acts:

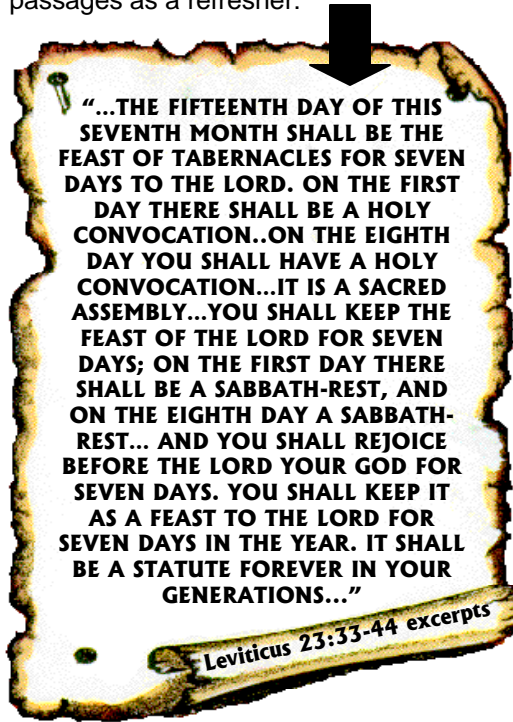
“...GOD AT THE FIRST VISITED THE GENTILES TO TAKE OUT OF THEM A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME. AND WITH THIS THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS AGREE, JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN: 'AFTER THIS I WILL RETURN AND WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, WHICH HAS FALLEN DOWN; I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL SET IT UP; SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, EVEN ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SAYS THE LORD WHO DOES ALL THESE THINGS.'”

Acts 15:14-17

Revelation 19 and 20 tell us that at the Second coming of Jesus Christ, the devil will be locked up for 1,000 years (during the Millennial reign of Christ). This is done “so that he should deceive the nations no more till the 1,000 years were finished, but after these things, he must be released for a little while” (Rev. 20:3). Then we find, “when the 1,000 years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations” (Rev. 20:7). Quite sadly, he is still able to gather up the nations like the sand of the sea. God then sends down His final judgment of fire and consumes them all (Rev. 20:9).

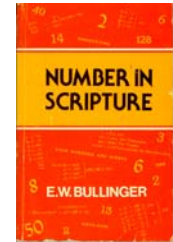
I believe that the nations we saw described in Isaiah 2 will be those who are saved in the Millennium, those who voluntarily go up year by year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. However, the nations that we saw depicted by Psalm 2 will be those whom God eventually destroys by fire for their on-going allegiance to Satan at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ. The Millennium is the last 1,000 years of human history yet to be unfolded on earth. We can see God's underlying purpose is one of redemption. However, it appears that multitudes of nations (as the sand of the sea) will continue to reject the rule of Jesus Christ over them. The old cliché, “the Devil made me do it” will not work either, for God will lock Satan up during this 1,000 years so that he cannot deceive the nations. This is very important because the nations that are violently opposed to the rule of Christ in Psalm 2 do so by choice, not by Satanic deception. God is merely revealing the hearts of men to themselves. The sin nature in man is just as evil as Satan, and I believe this is “the moral to the story” God is demonstrating during the 1,000 year reign on earth. There shall be no more wars on earth for Christ, in His iron rule, shall force the nations to beat their swords into plowshares as Isaiah 2:4 states. It is ironic that the UN has the latter half of this Scripture engraved on its building. However, they were careful to omit the part that reveals that it is Christ who will achieve this objective. Perhaps this absence of making war on each other is why many of the nations will so hate the rule of Christ. Unregenerated man thrives on war.

I would like to focus now on the other two requirements God placed in His Law pertaining to the Feast of Tabernacles. Let us ponder the significance of “the **FIRST** day and the **EIGHTH** day” which God singles out to be special holy convocations unto Him. Here are those passages as a refresher:



We shall consider the eighth day first as it will shed light on the meaning of the first day. The number eight in Scripture represents that which has to do with **NEW BEGINNINGS**. (God spared eight people in the flood in order to provide a new beginning of the race of mankind on the earth (2 Pet.2:5). The name Jesus in the Greek language has a numerical value of 888 for He is new beginnings personified. In contrast consider that the Scripture tells us that the Antichrist will have a name that totals 666 which is the number of man personified -Rev. 13:18.)

Do not be afraid of weighing numbers in Scripture as if you are delving into the mystical. God has hidden many wonderful truths using numerical identities that will build your trust in the Divine origin of God’s Word. Here is one such book that will help you to see the value of studying numbers found in God’s Word. →



We have just looked at the number seven as the Feast of Tabernacles is to be kept for seven days.(This is one of God’s numbers of perfection. There are seven pieces of the armor of God (Eph.6:10-17). We are told to add seven things to our faith (2 Pet. 1:1-14). There are seven spiritual blessings enumerated in Ephesians 1:3-14.)

I have taken this little diversion on the value of numbers to stress the point that we are making a transition from the number seven (perfection) to the number eight (new beginnings). This eighth day of Tabernacles points us to what is going to take place in eternity when God makes all things **NEW**.

**“AND I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH,
FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH
HAD PASSED AWAY....**

**THEN I, JOHN, SAW THE HOLY CITY,
NEW JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN OUT
OF HEAVEN FROM GOD...**

**AND I HEARD A LOUD VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING, “BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD
IS WITH MEN, AND HE SHALL DWELL WITH THEM....BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW...”**

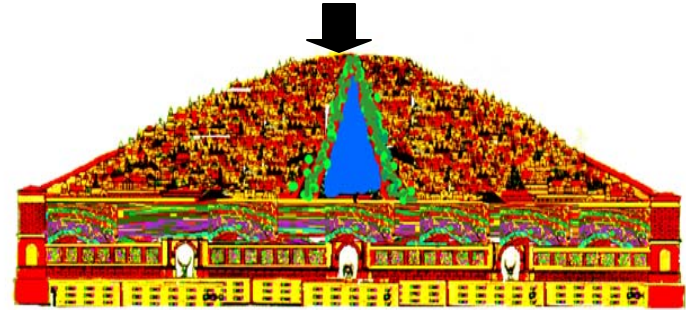
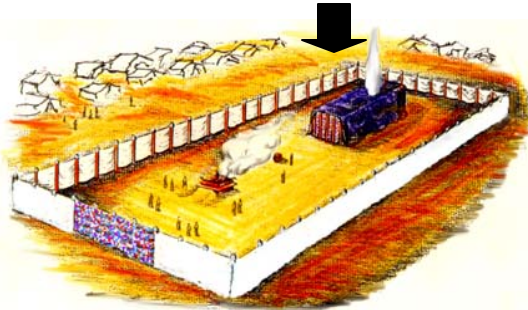
Rev. 21:1-5 excerpts

This is God's record of **NEW** beginnings. We have **NEW** heavens, **NEW** earth, and a **NEW** Jerusalem. One of the things that is **NEW** is the tabernacle of God in which He is going to dwell with His people forever! The meaning of the word tabernacle is a **DWELLING** place. God is sending down a new tabernacle and He is going to dwell in it with His people! What a story! This is the eighth tabernacle that is mentioned in Scripture. God began His Covenant relationship with Israel by having them build Him a tabernacle in which He could dwell with His people. What was so

in **THE BEGINNING**

will also be so in

THE END (NEW BEGINNING)

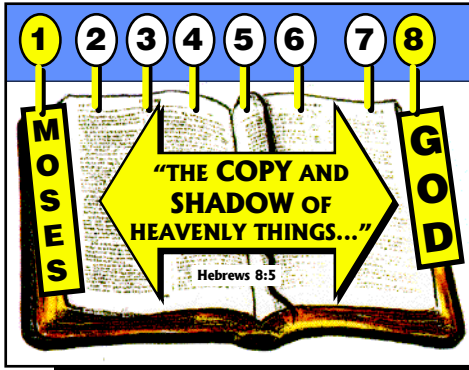


**“...LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY,
THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM.
ACCORDING TO...THE PATTERN OF
THE TABERNACLE... SO SHALL YOU MAKE IT”**

Ex. 25:8-9

**“...BEHOLD, THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN,
AND HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM, AND...
GOD HIMSELF WILL BE WITH THEM AND BE THEIR GOD....
BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW...”**

Rev. 21:3,5

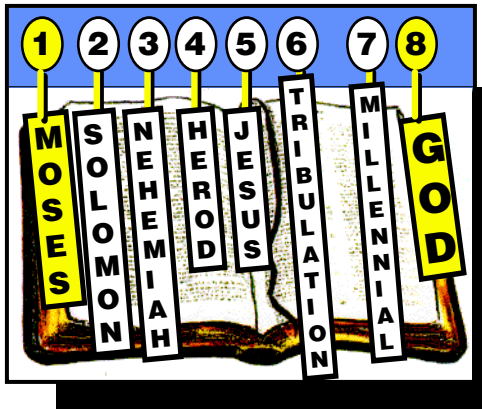


Certainly we can understand why the eighth tabernacle is of great importance. It is right there in the number eight-new beginnings. This will be the eternal tabernacle that shall never be destroyed. However, the first tabernacle is also of great importance for God tells us that this one is a copy and a shadow of the heavenly one:

“...THE COPY AND SHADOW OF THE HEAVENLY THINGS AS MOSES WAS DIVINELY INSTRUCTED WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE THE TABERNACLE. FOR HE SAID, “SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU...”

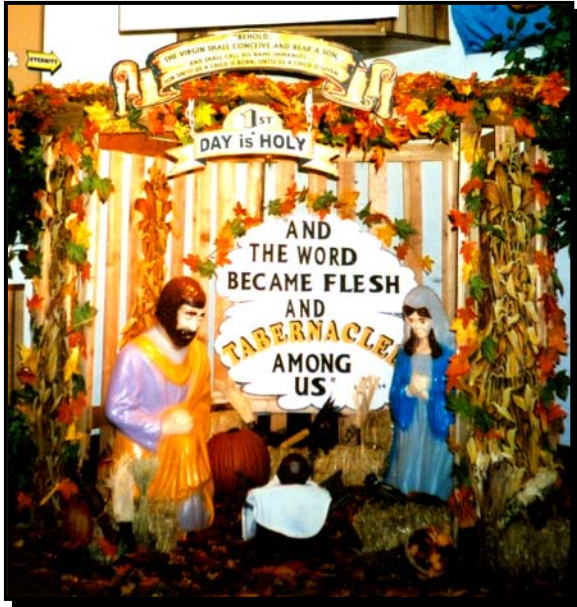
Heb. 8:5

One of the greatest but most neglected studies among God's people is **“THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS”**. (I have both books and videos available on this immense subject if you are interested.) Think about it, to study the Tabernacle of Moses is to gain insight into the heavenly one which it foreshadows!! All of this truth is treasure hidden in the Law of God!



Sandwiched in-between the first and the eighth tabernacle you will find six others described in the Scriptures. They are Solomon's temple, the temple of Nehemiah, the temple of Herod, the temple of Jesus (“You are the Temple of God”), the tribulation temple that Antichrist defiles, and the Millennial temple described vividly in Ezekiel 44-48. Without getting sidetracked in all of these different tabernacles, let me stress that the main point is the fact that God has always dwelt among His people by means of a tabernacle. Some were greater than others, no doubt, but He began with a tabernacle and He will end with a new one in eternity, and all along, in-between, He has dwelt with His people by means of a tabernacle. If you did not catch it above, our bodies, as Christians, are presently the temple (tabernacle) of God, and we are to glorify God in our body! (see 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20).

“THE FIRST DAY IS HOLY...”

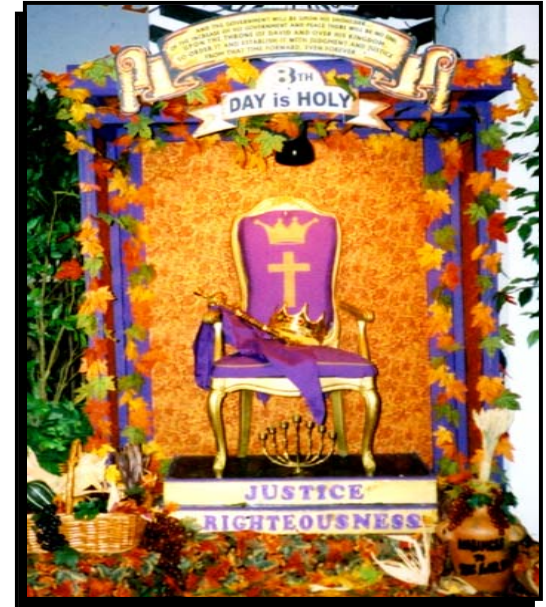


**“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN;**

As we have seen, the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles represents the reign of Christ throughout eternity in the Tabernacle of God, New Jerusalem. Now let us consider the meaning of the first day. I have come to firmly believe that the first day represents the birth of Christ just as the eighth day signifies the reign of Christ.

(These are displays we put up in our sanctuary at the Feast of Tabernacles to depict His birth and His reign)

“THE EIGHTH DAY IS HOLY...”



**AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON
HIS SHOULDER... Isa. 9:6**

This single verse from the prophet Isaiah is quite profound for it depicts **THE BIRTH** and **THE REIGN** of Jesus Christ. With great intent, the total life of Christ in-between His birth and reign is omitted because the Holy Spirit is drawing focus upon the hidden symbolism of what the first and eighth day of Tabernacles represent. Here again is a single verse that has thousands of years separating two statements just like we saw previously with Isaiah 61:2.

We substantiated that the eighth day was connected to a Tabernacle. Let us see if we can do the same for what this first day signifies, namely the birth of Christ. You will remember that the word “tabernacle” means “a dwelling place”. When the heavenly Tabernacle of God (New Jerusalem) comes down from heaven we saw that God will then “dwell” (tabernacle) among His people. Consider now the apostle John’s description of the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh:

“AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT (tabernacled) AMONG US...”

John 1:14

Isaiah speaks of His birth in another revealing manner:

“THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL

(GOD WITH US)” Isaiah 7:14

What is His name? It is Immanuel which means **GOD WITH US**.

Matthew, in His account of the birth of Jesus, even goes as far as to give us the translation so that we do not miss the point:

“BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” WHICH IS TRANSLATED, “GOD WITH US.” Matthew 1:23

GOD WITH US is an underlying description of the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles for He will dwell with His people in a Tabernacle in eternity on the eighth day, and that is the same way it began on earth in the first day. His Name shall be called Immanuel-**GOD WITH US**, “and the Word became flesh and **DWELT AMONG US**”!

Is it not significant that the Law of Moses required the firstborn to be circumcised on the eighth day from birth? If indeed Jesus was born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, then He was circumcised on the great and high holy eighth day of The Feast of Tabernacles!

“AND WHEN THE EIGHT DAYS WERE COMPLETED FOR THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE CHILD, HIS NAME WAS CALLED JESUS...” Luke 2:21

“THE FIRST DAY IS HOLY...”





“AND YOU SHALL TAKE FOR YOURSELVES ON THE FIRST DAY THE FRUIT OF BEAUTIFUL TREES, BRANCHES OF PALM TREES, THE BOUGHS OF LEAFY TREES, AND WILLOWS OF THE BROOK; AND YOU SHALL REJOICE BEFORE THE LORD YOUR GOD FOR SEVEN DAYS. YOU SHALL KEEP IT AS A FEAST TO THE LORD FOR SEVEN DAYS IN THE YEAR. IT SHALL BE A STATUTE FOREVER IN YOUR GENERATIONS. YOU SHALL CELEBRATE IT IN THE SEVENTH MONTH. YOU SHALL DWELL IN BOOTHS FOR SEVEN DAYS. ALL WHO ARE NATIVE ISRAELITES SHALL DWELL IN BOOTHS, THAT YOUR GENERATIONS MAY KNOW THAT I MADE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DWELL IN BOOTHS WHEN I BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.”

Lev 23:40-43

← This is modern-day Jewish booth built for the Feast of Tabernacles.

I am injecting this segment of teaching on the booths of the Feast of Tabernacles from Leviticus 23 for this reason:

**UNDER JEWISH LAW AT THE TIME OF CHRIST,
A MANGER STALL SUCH AS JESUS WAS BORN IN,
QUALIFIED AS BEING AN ACCEPTABLE TABERNACLE BOOTH**

It is most likely that not only was Jesus born on the first day of Tabernacles, but also that He was born **IN** a Tabernacle booth! Tabernacles, along with Passover and Pentecost (Feast of Weeks), were the three Feasts out of the seven that all male Jews were required to come up to Jerusalem to observe. You can read that in Deuteronomy 16:16 which is right in the middle of the description of the Feast of Tabernacles. Why was it that there was “no room at the inn”? It was more than the required census that Joseph had to register for (Luke 2: 1-5). It is simply because at the Feast of Tabernacles only the males were required to live in booths during the Feast, and often the women stayed at the nearby inns. Joseph was unable to put Mary up at an inn due to the immense crowds in Jerusalem and in the neighboring cities such as Bethlehem because of the mandatory presence of all males at Tabernacles. Therefore Jesus’ birth took place in a Tabernacle booth instead of the local inn! Is it not logical that Jesus would also fulfill this aspect of the Feast of Tabernacles as well, since He was born to “tabernacle with us”?

"NOW THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS LIVING OUT IN THE FIELDS, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT. AND BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD BEFORE THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND THEY WERE GREATLY AFRAID. THEN THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY WHICH WILL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR THERE IS BORN TO YOU THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD. AND THIS WILL BE THE SIGN TO YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS, LYING IN A MANGER." AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISING GOD AND SAYING: "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN!...THEN THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND SEEN..."

Luke 2:8-14, 20

In Luke's account of the birth of Christ there are two statements that lend credence to it being the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Notice where the shepherds were living, **"OUT IN THE FIELDS"**. This could be a reference to the mandate for all males to live in booths (temporary shelters) for the required seven days of Tabernacles.

Secondly, notice how the angels address the shepherds, "I bring you **GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY**". The Feast of Tabernacles, even to this day, is called by orthodox Jews, **"THE SEASON OF OUR JOY"**. In the Deuteronomy account of the Feast of Tabernacles we read:

**"...YOU SHALL OBSERVE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES SEVEN DAYS...YOU SHALL REJOICE IN YOUR FEAST
...SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL KEEP A FESTIVE FEAST TO THE LORD YOUR GOD...YOU SHALL SURELY REJOICE..."**

Deut. 16:13-15

What a way to begin the Feast of Tabernacles! On the first holy day of the Feast, angels appear to shepherds dwelling in their appointed booths, and proclaim to them, **"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY** for there is born to you **THIS DAY...a SAVIOR**, who is Christ **THE LORD**". Would they have been ignorant of the great prophecies of Isaiah that:

**"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL" Isa. 7:14
"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON HIS
SHOULDER...OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE WILL BE NO END..." Isa. 9:6-7**



**“...YOU SHALL OBSERVE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES SEVEN DAYS...YOU SHALL REJOICE IN YOUR FEAST
...SEVEN DAYS YOU SHALL KEEP A FESTIVE FEAST TO THE LORD YOUR GOD...YOU SHALL SURELY REJOICE...”**

Deut. 16:13-15



On the eighth day of Tabernacles we hold a very festive Feast with food, fun, and live Jewish klezmer music. Our decorations are all derived from the contents of the Feast of Tabernacles. We eat under decorated booths like the above. We don't live in them for seven days because God did not ask us as Gentiles to observe what He specifically gave to the Jews. However, we realize that the booths symbolize the call for us to confess to be “strangers and pilgrims on earth” like was Abraham (see Heb. 11:8-16).

As a congregation, we here at The Way, The Truth and The Life Tabernacle have not celebrated the traditional December 25th date of “Christmas” for many years. We have replaced this pagan-based **HOLIDAY** with a God-centered **HOLY DAY**. We celebrate the birth of Christ on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles as we have come to be persuaded that:

**“THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE;
WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT”**

Psalms 118:24



As a Christian you must take a hard look at the pagan origins of Christmas. The book I previously recommended to you, *"The Two Babylons"* by Rev. Hislop, will more than be sufficient to enlighten you to the pagan origins of what is celebrated as the birth of Christ. The Catholic Encyclopedia openly states that Catholicism originated the December 25th date because it was already widely celebrated as the winter solstice (the worship of the sun god-Sol). Below I have printed an old article pertaining to Christmas written by a moralist, a good man, but a non-believer. The author's cynicism conveys how the endorsement by Christians of this pagan-based holiday is impacting non-believers. It is also stark evidence of Jesus' statement that the children of darkness are wiser than the children of light (Luke 16:8).

Deck the halls, but post a watch for the origins of Christmas

AHAPPY holiday and a Merry Christmas to Colorado and all the far reaches of the land — wherever this day's edition is likely to turn up.

It's Christmas again and the day the Christian church claims as the birthday of its savior Christ. But that wasn't always the case. For the first three hundred years of the church's existence, it had no spiritual birthday at all.

Then sometime during the 4th century, Christians began to quarrel over selecting that date. Some favored the then popular date of the Koreion, the time when it was believed the divine Virgin gave birth to the new Aeon in Alexandria. Now referred to as the Twelfth Night of Epiphany, it's still the official date of the nativity in Armenian churches and is celebrated by the Greek Orthodox with more ceremony than is associated with Christmas.

December 25th was a day to honor other gods too, among them Atti, Dionysus, Osiris and Syrian Baal.

The night of the birth, Christmas Eve, was known in Latin as the Night of the Mother — another festival that was more celebrated than Christmas day.

Finally, by the 4th century, the Roman church adopted the 25th of December as the official day of Christmas — or Christ Mass — because the population had grown accustomed to exclaiming it as God's birthday. But the eastern church, made up of a hard core of religious fundamentalists, persevered against a Dec. 25th nativity until 375 A.D. And the church of Jerusalem continued to ignore the newly established date until the 7th century.

Today, we associate holiday trappings such as Yule logs, gifts, lights, mistletoe, holly, carols and feasting with Christmas. Each of them dates back to the time and the ritual of pagan worship. They are customs which were acquired from matriar-



**KEN
HAMBLIN**

chal times when people worshiped the goddess as the mother of the Divine Child.

The custom of Christmas trees evolved from a ceremony called the *pirtea silva*, the custom of attaching pine groves to the temples of the Great Mother.

On the night before Christmas, Roman priests who were called "tree-bearers" would cut one of the sacred pines, decorate it, and carry it into the temple to receive the effigy of Atti, an early pagan whose cult had a strong influence on early Christianity.

The passion of Atti was originally celebrated on the 25th day of March, exactly nine months before the birth of Christ in December. When Christians were challenged for laying claim to the December date, the church resorted to its favorite debate: that the devil had established pagan customs to counterfeit Christianity, even before there was a Christianity.

Despite the controversy, Christmas and its associated merrymaking continued to flourish throughout the ages, and in time it became such a distinguished gala — with its companion pagan rites — that many Christian churchmen of the day began to denounce the celebrations as superstitious and heathen worship of the devil.

Among superstitions that were associated with Christmas was the belief that animals could speak human words when the clock struck midnight on Christmas Eve. Another was that water in springs and wells was supposed to turn to blood as a sacrament to Christ. It was accepted that all who witnessed the miracle of the blood were fated to die within the year.

The Puritans of 17th century Massachusetts tried to outlaw Christmas from the colony altogether. They also believed this season we associate with joy and giving was a heathen custom not to be continued.

Whatever your family's customs for this yuletide season, I wish you and yours a happy holiday from Kuvo Radio, the Denver Post and all the Hamblins. May the God you trust in be with you this Christmas day.

“GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME, CHERISHED TRADITIONS BECOME DOGMATIC BELIEFS”

Amaury De Reincourt

As Christians we are going to have to make a distinction between what is **TRUTH** and what is **TRADITION**. The TRUTH of God's Word supports the concept that Jesus was born on the holy first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but TRADITION has changed it to the popular pagan day of the winter solace, December 25th. There are volumes of books and articles along the lines of what is on the previous page, and yet God's people just keep plugging on down that same road following those cherished traditions. Jesus Himself gives us strong warning about tradition:



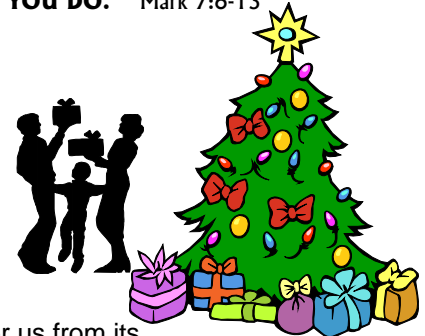
“THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.” FOR LAYING ASIDE THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, YOU HOLD THE TRADITION OF MEN -- THE WASHING OF PITCHERS AND CUPS, AND MANY OTHER SUCH THINGS YOU DO.” HE SAID TO THEM, “ALL TOO WELL YOU REJECT THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY KEEP YOUR TRADITION....MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION WHICH YOU HAVE HANDED DOWN. AND MANY SUCH THINGS YOU DO.” Mark 7:6-13

Under the banner of celebrating the birthday of Jesus, “many such things” God's people are still doing that can be proven to be purely the pagan based traditions of men. Here is one plain example by which you can test yourself as to whether you are embracing **TRUTH** or **TRADITION**:

“DO NOT LEARN THE WAY OF THE GENTILES...FOR THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLES ARE FUTILE; FOR ONE CUTS A TREE FROM THE FOREST, THE WORK OF THE HANDS OF THE WORKMAN, WITH AN AX. THEY DECORATE IT WITH SILVER AND GOLD; THEY FASTEN IT WITH NAILS AND HAMMERS SO THAT IT WILL NOT TOPPLE.”

Jeremiah 10:1-4

Look at this Old Testament warning God gave His people Israel. Does “grace” deliver us from its applicableness to the church, His people of the present?



“TAKE HEED TO YOURSELF, THAT YOU ARE NOT ENSNARED.... SAYING, “HOW DID THESE NATIONS SERVE THEIR GODS? I ALSO WILL DO LIKEWISE.... WHATEVER I COMMAND YOU, BE CAREFUL TO OBSERVE IT, YOU SHALL NOT ADD TO IT NOR TAKE AWAY FROM IT.”

Deut. 12:30-32

**“BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND
EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN,
ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD,
AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST. FOR IN HIM
DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY.”**

Col. 2:8-9

Let me stress the point that I am writing to God’s people, not to those of the world. We are the ones to whom Jesus warns that we can make the Word of God of no effect by our traditions.

Santa is a “big” tradition in this country. My question to all Christian parents is whether you are fostering this fairy tale of empty deceit to your children? My parents lovingly sold me this bill of goods for a long time before I found out that they had lied to me all those years. Oh, but they were only white lies. Dear friends, lies don’t come in colors.

The Bible says that a righteous man hates lying (Prov.13:5).

What harm is it you say? Have you ever considered that you are teaching your children that this fictitious Santa Claus has the same nature and attributes as God Almighty?

**HE KNOWS WHEN YOU ARE GOOD OR BAD...
HE IS OMNI-PRESENT AND THEREFORE ABLE TO VISIT EVERY
CHILD IN THE WHOLE WORLD IN ONE NIGHT...
HE NEVER AGES...
HE LIVES IN A FAR AWAY KINGDOM...
HE CAN OVERRIDE THE LAWS OF GRAVITY BY HIS
SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES...
YOU TEASE YOUR CHILDREN TO WATCH FOR HIS APPEARING,
BUT HE COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT
JUST LIKE JESUS WILL.**

(When your children find out about this big lie, might they wonder if the story of Jesus is also a lie?)



What is pictured below is a synopsis of what we have studied so far. I realize that it is too tiny to read the minute details, but its overall imagery should quicken your mind to all that we have previously examined. If it does not, then my suggestion would be that you go back before you continue on.

I hope that you have found the first half of this book easy to read and to comprehend. The second half of this book is going to require thoughtful study and for some, perhaps intense study. It is the study of the prophetic nature of the Feasts. Because it is panoramic in content, you may need to slow down a bit to absorb it. It will be worth it.



I have always been personally challenged by this exhortation from the late Charles Finney. I am injecting it to challenge you to apply yourself to absorbing the second half of this book.

The danger for myself as a teacher, who has studied this subject matter for quite some time, is to proceed at a pace that is too fast for the reader to absorb. As my proofreader, my wife has been a good check for me in this area. I consider her to be a good student of God's Word, and therefore when she has difficulty in absorbing portions of what I have written, then I go back over the material to slow down its pace.

Regardless, I want to advise you to slow down your own pace with the rest of this book. From time to time, if need be, come back to this page and read brother Finney's exhortation again. It will help to urge you on!



Charles Finney

"LET NO ONE DESPAIR IN COMMENCING THIS BOOK, NOR STUMBLE AT THE DEFINITIONS, THINKING HE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND SO ABSTRUSE A SUBJECT..."

MY BROTHER, SISTER FRIEND- READ, STUDY, THINK; TO DEVELOP YOUR POWERS BY STUDY. GOD DESIGNED THAT RELIGION SHOULD REQUIRE THOUGHT, INTENSE THOUGHT, AND SHOULD THOROUGHLY DEVELOP OUR POWERS OF THOUGHT. THE BIBLE ITSELF IS WRITTEN IN A STYLE SO CONDENSED AS TO REQUIRE MUCH INTENSE STUDY.

MANY KNOW NOTHING OF THE BIBLE OR OF RELIGION, BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT THINK AND STUDY. I DO NOT PRETEND TO SO EXPLAIN THEOLOGY AS TO DISPENSE WITH THE LABOR OF THINKING."

(SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY- PREFACE, PAGE 9- CHARLES FINNEY)

Let us begin by considering the diverse ways in which God measures time. The first pattern will not place any stress on your mind for it is a concept with which we are quite familiar. It is the pattern of a week instituted by God in the creation account in Genesis:

A WEEK CONSISTING OF 7 DAYS



GENESIS CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 GIVE US THE INITIAL CONCEPT OF A WEEK CONSISTING OF 7 DAYS. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN 6 DAYS AND HE RESTED ON THE 7TH DAY. SINCE ISAIAH 40:28 TELLS US “THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH NEITHER FAINTS NOR IS WEARY”, THIS 7TH DAY OF CREATION UPON WHICH HE “RESTED FROM HIS LABORS” WAS NOT AN ACT OF NECESSITY, BUT RATHER IS A FORESHADOWING PATTERN OF THINGS TO COME.

This second concept is not as easy as the first, so slow down a little bit and think it through. This is the method of calculation God used in Leviticus 23 to determine when the Feast of Pentecost would occur:

A “WEEK” IN WHICH EACH “DAY” REPRESENTS A WEEK



WE SAW THIS PATTERN OF COUNTING WHEN WE CONSIDERED THE LEVITICUS 23 CALCULATION OF PENTECOST. FROM THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS, GOD’S PEOPLE WERE TO COUNT “A WEEK OF WEEKLY SABBATHS” (7X7 SABBATHS WHICH IS 49 DAYS) AND THE NEXT DAY IS THE FEAST OF PENTECOST (FEAST OF WEEKS). THEREFORE, WE HAVE “A WEEK” CONSISTING OF 7 WEEKS IN WHICH EACH “DAY” REPRESENTS A WEEK CONSISTING OF 7 DAYS.

The third method by which God is counting time is a “week of months”. This is why He has only 7 Feasts in 7 months:

A “WEEK” IN WHICH EACH “DAY” REPRESENTS A MONTH



THIS CALCULATION CAN BE SEEN BY CONSIDERING THAT THE OVERALL LENGTH OF THE SEVEN FEASTS SPANS A PERIOD OF SEVEN MONTHS. BEGINNING IN THE FIRST JEWISH MONTH OF NISAN, AND ENDING IN THE SEVENTH MONTH OF TISHRI. WITHIN A 12 MONTH YEAR, THERE IS THIS “WEEK OF MONTHS” IN WHICH EACH “DAY” WOULD REPRESENT ONE MONTH.

You don't need to memorize these patterns but rather just see that they exist in God's Word! These are Biblical-based calculations of time. You will see the significance in a moment. Up to this point we have established:

- (1) a week based on **DAYS**, (2) a week based on **WEEKS**, and (3) a week based on **MONTHS**. Let us add the next higher measurement which would be (4) a week based on **YEARS**:

A "WEEK" IN WHICH EACH "DAY" REPRESENTS A YEAR



IN LEVITICUS 25, ISRAEL WAS GIVEN A 7 YEAR CYCLE IN WHICH THEY WERE TO "REST" THE LAND AFTER SIX YEARS OF PLANTING. THIS IS PATTERNED AFTER THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION IN WHICH GOD CREATED FOR SIX DAYS AND THEN "RESTED" FROM HIS LABORS ON THE 7TH DAY. GOD ORDAINED THAT THE LAND WAS TO KEEP A SABBATH REST JUST AS WERE GOD'S PEOPLE ISRAEL TO DO. EACH "DAY" IN THIS WEEK IS 1 YEAR IN LENGTH.

Do you see that we are progressing from a calculation of a week based on **DAYS**, to a week based on **WEEKS**, to a week based on **MONTHS**, to a week based on **YEARS**? What would be the next progressive step? It would be a week based on **WEEKS** consisting of **SEVEN YEARS** (a week of years). This higher calculation is based upon the previous Leviticus 25 pattern above. It just takes it one step higher:

A "WEEK" IN WHICH EACH "DAY" IS 7 YEARS IN LENGTH (A WEEK OF WEEKS OF YEARS)



LEVITICUS 25 GOES ON TO ESTABLISH AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL OF COUNTING BASED ON THE LAND KEEPING THOSE SABBATH RESTS. NOW THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO COUNT A "WEEK" AS CONSISTING OF SEVEN SABBATH RESTS THAT THE LAND WAS TO OBSERVE. NOW WE HAVE $7 \times 7 = 49$ YEARS. THE NEXT YEAR WAS TO BE THE YEAR OF JUBILEE. NOW WE HAVE A "WEEK" IN WHICH EACH DAY BECOMES A WEEK OF SEVEN YEARS IN LENGTH.

We have a week based on **DAYS**, a week based on **WEEKS**, a week based on **MONTHS**, a week based on **YEARS**, and a week based on a **WEEK OF YEARS**. Let us now take it to the ultimate and highest method by which God is calculating time. It is a week consisting of each day being **ONE THOUSAND YEARS** in length:

A "WEEK" IN WHICH EACH "DAY" IS A THOUSAND YEARS



HERE IS THE MAIN POINT: ULTIMATELY, GOD COUNTS IN A MANNER IN WHICH A "WEEK" WOULD HAVE ITS SEVEN DAYS COMPRISED OF EACH DAY BEING 1,000 YEARS IN LENGTH. WE ARE NOW GOING TO BEGIN TO UNFOLD A BIBLICAL CONCEPT THAT WILL BRING UNDERSTANDING UNTO TWO IMPORTANT PHRASES STATED THROUGHOUT GOD'S WORD IN BOTH THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENT, (1) "THE LAST DAYS", AND (2) "THE DAY OF THE LORD".

To begin, let me inject a very prophetic chapter from Peter's second epistle. I cannot print out the whole chapter so I suggest that you read it in its entirety from your Bible. Here are the main highlights needed for our study:

**"...BE MINDFUL OF THE WORDS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BEFORE BY THE HOLY PROPHETS, AND OF THE COMMANDMENT OF US, THE APOSTLES OF THE LORD AND SAVIOR, KNOWING THIS FIRST:
THAT SCOFFERS WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS, WALKING ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN LUSTS, AND SAYING,
"WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING? FOR SINCE THE FATHERS FELL ASLEEP,
ALL THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY WERE FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION."
...BUT, BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD
ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY.
THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME COUNT SLACKNESS, BUT IS LONGSUFFERING TOWARD US,
NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.
BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, IN WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A GREAT NOISE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT; BOTH THE EARTH AND THE WORKS THAT ARE IN IT WILL BE BURNED UP. THEREFORE, SINCE ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS, LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, BECAUSE OF WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL BE DISSOLVED, BEING ON FIRE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT? NEVERTHELESS WE, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, LOOK FOR NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH..."** 2 Peter 3:1-13 excerpts

(1) On this page, at the top and at the bottom, are reprints of the first and the last methods by which we saw how God is calculating time.

(2) Removing the other calculations that were in-between these two, I have placed in the middle Peter's prophetic passages: →

(3) I have highlighted five important concepts in the context:

1. **THE LAST DAYS**
2. **THE DAY OF THE LORD**
3. Reference to **THE BEGINNING of CREATION**
4. Concept that with the Lord **ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS , AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY**
5. The coming of **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH**

**A WEEK
CONSISTING
OF 7 DAYS**

1st
DAY

2nd
DAY

3rd
DAY

4th
DAY

5th
DAY

6th
DAY

7th
DAY

“...BE MINDFUL OF THE WORDS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BEFORE BY THE HOLY PROPHETS, AND OF THE COMMANDMENT OF US, THE APOSTLES OF THE LORD AND SAVIOR, KNOWING THIS FIRST: THAT SCOFFERS WILL COME IN

THE LAST DAYS,

WALKING ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN LUSTS, AND SAYING, "WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING? FOR SINCE THE FATHERS FELL ASLEEP, ALL THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY WERE FROM **THE BEGINNING OF CREATION.**"

...BUT, BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD **ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY.**

THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME COUNT SLACKNESS, BUT IS LONGSUFFERING TOWARD US, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE. BUT IT

THE DAY OF THE LORD

WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, IN WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A GREAT NOISE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT; BOTH THE EARTH AND THE WORKS THAT ARE IN IT WILL BE BURNED UP. THEREFORE, SINCE ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE DISSOLVED,

WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS, LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, BECAUSE OF WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL BE DISSOLVED, BEING ON FIRE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT? NEVERTHELESS WE, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, LOOK FOR

NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

IN WHICH RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS."

2 Peter 3:1-13 excerpts

**A "WEEK"
IN WHICH
EACH "DAY" IS A
THOUSAND YEARS**

1st
THOUSAND
YEARS

2nd
THOUSAND
YEARS

3rd
THOUSAND
YEARS

4th
THOUSAND
YEARS

5th
THOUSAND
YEARS

6th
THOUSAND
YEARS

7th
THOUSAND
YEARS

(THE CREATION WEEK
CONSISTING OF 7 DAYS)

1st DAY 2nd DAY 3rd DAY 4th DAY 5th DAY 6th DAY 7th DAY

(1) Let us consider
the one thing that
Peter does not
want us to forget:

ONE DAY
IS AS A
1,000
YEARS,

“SCOFFERS WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS,
SAYING “WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?
...ALL THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY WERE
FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION...”

AND A
1,000 YEARS
IS AS
ONE DAY

BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING:

(A “WEEK” IN WHICH EACH
“DAY” IS A 1,000 YEARS)

1st THOUSAND YEARS 2nd THOUSAND YEARS 3rd THOUSAND YEARS 4th THOUSAND YEARS 5th THOUSAND YEARS 6th THOUSAND YEARS 7th THOUSAND YEARS

Notice Peter tells us that the last days will be marked by scoffers who believe in creation, not evolution. This statement implies that we are talking about believers rather than unbelievers. They will hold the concept that things have not changed one bit since the days of creation and believe it will continue on in that condition. Peter is warning of “believers” who do not believe we are presently living in what the Bible calls “the last days”. In other words, they do not consider that the end is near but rather that everything is just going to keep on keeping on-unchanged! To this concept Peter gives one single thought that he does not want us to forget. It is a reminder that “one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day”. This is Peter’s cure for resisting the scoffers skepticism of the promise of the coming of the Lord. What is in the back of Peter’s mind but the fact that **THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION** contain a pattern for defining the set time limits God has placed on the last days. The week of creation in which God labored for six days and rested on the seventh is but a type and shadow that man shall have six days (six thousand years), but the seventh day (the seventh thousandth year), will be the Lord’s day or as it is properly called, **THE DAY OF THE LORD**. The seventh day, the seven thousandth year, will be the “day” in which the promise of His coming will be fulfilled!

On the next page are some scanned copies of historical sources showing that this 6,000 year theory was the clear understanding of many of the early church fathers. The quality is not very good, but the content is important.

There is a document known as the Epistle of Barnabas which was written to the early churches. Many early church leaders, including Origen and Jerome, believed this document to be genuine ...

As you know, Barnabas was the first partner of the Apostle Paul when he began his missionary journeys. In this Epistle, Barnabas speaks of the creation account in Genesis: "And God made in six days the works of His hands; and He finished them on the seventh day, and He rested on the seventh day and sanctified it. Consider, my children, what that signifies, He finished them in six days. The meaning of it is this: that in six thousand years the Lord God will bring all things to an end. For with him, one day is a thousand years; as Himself testifieth, saying, behold this day shall be as a thousand years. Therefore children, in six days, that is, in six thousand years, shall all things be accomplished. And what is it that He saith, and He rested the seventh day; He meaneth this; that when His Son shall come, and abolish the season of the wicked one [the Antichrist], and judge the ungodly; and shall change the sun and the moon, and the stars, then He shall gloriously rest in that seventh day."

In A.D. 1552, Bishop Latimer wrote the following words regarding his understanding of this one thousand year period which will start around A.D. 2000: "The world was ordained to endure, as all learned men affirm, 6000 years. Now of that number, there be passed 5,552 years [as of A.D. 1552], so that there is no more left but 448 years [ending in A.D. 2000]"

Rabbi Ketina said in Gemara, a commentary on the Talmud, "The world endures six thousand years and one thousand it shall be laid waste [that is, the enemies of God shall be destroyed], whereof it is said, 'The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.' As out of seven years every seventh [is a] year of remission, so out of the seven thousand years of the world, the seventh millennium shall be the millennial [1000 years] years of remission, that God alone may be exalted in that day."

Lactantius, a Christian scholar who lived around A.D. 300, wrote in his seventh Book of Divine Institutions: "Because all the works of God were finished in six days, it is necessary that the world should remain in this state six ages, that is six thousand years. Because having finished the works He rested on the seventh day and blessed it; it is necessary that at the end of the sixth thousandth year all wickedness should be abolished out of the earth and justice should reign for a thousand years."

Writings could be produced in great numbers from other early church fathers including Victorinus, Bishop of Petau, Hippolytus, Justin Martyr and Methodius to illustrate this belief that the Millennium would commence upon the completion of six thousand years from Adam. This widespread evidence, together with 2 Peter 3:8, is a strong argument that this belief was, in fact, the genuine teaching of the apostles and the early Church.

Rabbi Elias, who lived two hundred years before Christ, said, "The world endures six thousand years: two thousand before the law, two thousand under the law, and two thousand under Messiah."

Irenaeus, another church father writing in A.D. 150 about Genesis in his book Against Heresies states as a belief of the early church the following:

"This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years; and in six days created things were completed; it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the sixth thousand years."

(Quotes from "Appointment With Destiny"-Grant R. Jeffrey and "The Apostolic Fathers"-J.B. Lightfoot)

As a reminder, here are the five important concepts that I stated earlier from 2 Peter 3:

HIGHLIGHTS:

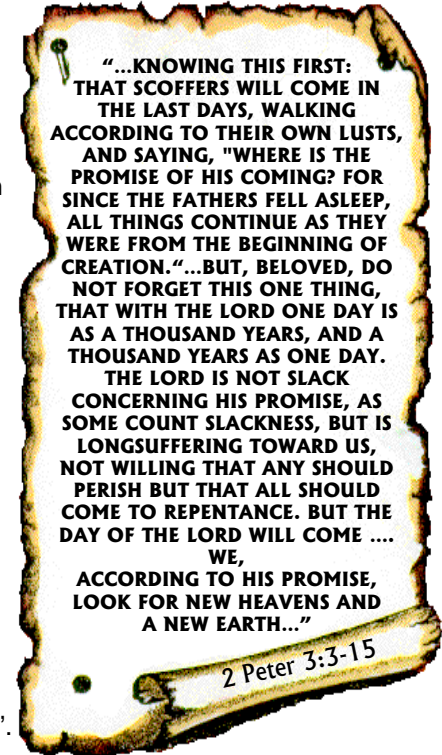
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. "THE LAST DAYS" | 4. Concept that with the Lord |
| 2. "THE DAY OF THE LORD" | "ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS
AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY" |
| 3. Reference to
"THE BEGINNING
of CREATION" | 5. Coming of "NEW HEAVENS
and a NEW EARTH" |

As a writer, at times I find it frustrating that I do not have sufficient room on a given page to print out for you the entire contextual thought and then still have room to discuss it. Therefore I must urge you to read it yourself, and then re-read it again. What Peter is presenting in the entire third chapter of his second epistle is a concept that spans from the creation in Genesis 1 over to Revelation 21 where we find the coming forth of the promised **"NEW HEAVENS and the NEW EARTH"** (Rev. 21:1). After setting those parameters, he then tells us how we ought to live in light of what is going on. Although these are all vital truths, we are confining ourselves to the highlights of his overall message. In essence, Peter is setting a time frame for us in the form of a riddle:

**"ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS,
AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY".**

I have showed you how a few of the many notable early church fathers interpreted this riddle. Man's days on earth would be six days, or six thousand years. The seventh day would bring in "the promise of His coming", the second coming of Jesus Christ. After the seventh day of the 1,000 Millennial year reign of Christ, we will inherit the second promise Peter gives of "a new heavens and a new earth". Moral to the story: "Man's days are numbered", believe it!

Two things are left for consideration from our list above. They are Peter's references to **"THE LAST DAYS"** and the **"THE DAY OF THE LORD"**. Let us now ponder the significance of these phrases and how they relate to our main subject of the Feasts of the Lord.



ARE WE PRESENTLY IN THE PERIOD OF TIME WHICH THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL AS

"THE LAST DAYS" "THE END OF THE AGES"

If we allow the Scriptures to answer this question
for us, it will be a resounding
YES!

The Bible tells us that "in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established" (2 Cor. 13:1).
Let us begin to answer the above question by considering what witness is recorded that establishes the fact that
we are presently in the period known as the last days.

Let us first consider the words of Paul and Peter:



PAUL

**"...WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD
THERE IS NO REMISSION OF SIN...
BUT NOW, ONCE AT
THE END OF THE AGES,
HE HAS APPEARED TO PUT AWAY SIN BY
THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF"**

Heb. 9:26

**"...YOU HAVE BEEN REDEEMED...WITH
THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST...HE
INDEED WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE
THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD,
BUT WAS MANIFEST
IN THESE LAST TIMES**

FOR YOU..."
1 Pet. 1:18-20



PETER

Paul calls it "the end of the ages". Peter identifies it as "these last times". Notice that they both are speaking of the same dispensation of time in which Jesus Christ shed His blood for us. It is **THE DEATH OF CHRIST** of which both Paul and Peter speak as being "the end of the ages" and "these last times". In a moment we will add a third witness which will use the specific phrase "the last days", but let us register right now that we are not speaking of some future period of time, but rather something that has already begun. The countdown unto the end of the ages began at the cross with the death of Christ! We are in the last days!

“But WHEN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME HAD COME, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION AS SONS.”

Gal 4:4-5

The banner above conveys that God the Father sent His Son “when the fullness of the time had come”. This confirms that God is following a specific time table which, as we shall continue to see, is the Feasts of the Lord! Let us add a third Scriptural witness stating that we are presently in the last days. The verse below from Hebrews (top of triangle) uses the phrase “in these last days”. Notice that, just like the two previous passages (bottom of triangle), this one is also tied to the death of Christ. The last days began “when He had by Himself purged our sins”.

“GOD, WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS SPOKE IN TIME PAST TO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, HAS **IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON... WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH...”**

Heb 1:1-4

**THE LAST
DAYS
BEGAN**

THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS

**WITH
THE CROSS
OF CHRIST**

**“...WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD
THERE IS NO REMISSION OF SIN...
BUT NOW, ONCE
AT THE END OF THE AGES,
HE HAS APPEARED TO
PUT AWAY SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF”**

Heb. 9:26

**“ ...YOU HAVE BEEN REDEEMED...WITH
THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST...
HE INDEED WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE
THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD,
BUT WAS MANIFEST
IN THESE LAST TIMES FOR YOU...”**

1 Pet. 1:18-20

“GOD, WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS SPOKE IN TIME PAST TO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, HAS IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON, WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE AGES...”

Heb 1:1-4

Note that these passages from Hebrews reveal two distinct dispensations. One is how God the Father spoke to His people “in time past” and the other is how He has (and still is) speaking to His people in a new period of time known as “these last days”.

**“GOD,
WHO AT
VARIOUS
TIMES
AND IN
DIFFERENT
WAYS SPOKE**



**TO
THE
FATHERS
BY
THE
PROPHETS,**

HAS



**SPOKEN
TO US
BY
HIS SON...
THROUGH WHOM
HE MADE THE AGES...”**

Heb. 1:1-2

God spoke in time past by means of the prophets and is speaking in these last days by means of His Son who has made the ages (aiones”). The Greek word is indeed aiones and should not be translated as worlds (Kosmos) as the KJV renders it. Although God did create the (Kosmos) worlds, this is not what is being spoken of here in Hebrews 1:1-2. The context is a comparison between two dispensations of time labeled as “in time past” and “in these last days”. To translate the Greek word “aiones” as “worlds” takes away the added truth that God, through His Son, has made the ages or dispensations of time. This is an important point to grasp about God’s Word for the world (and the church) is in essence running out of time. For added support consider that Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth places the saints of his day dispensationally at the end of the ages:

**“NOW ALL THESE THINGS HAPPENED TO THEM (ISRAEL) AS EXAMPLES,
AND THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR (CHURCH) ADMONITION,
ON WHOM **THE END OF THE AGES** HAS COME.”**

1 Cor. 10:11

**“GOD,
WHO AT
VARIOUS
TIMES
AND IN
DIFFERENT
WAYS SPOKE**



**TO
THE
FATHERS
BY
THE
PROPHETS,**



**HAS
SPOKEN
TO US
BY
HIS SON...
THROUGH WHOM
HE MADE THE AGES...”
Heb. 1:1-2**



**“BUT BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD
ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY.”**

2 Pet. 3:8

Using the seven days of creation as a pattern (each day being 1,000 years in length), we have seven **AGES** which were created by Jesus Christ as Heb. 1:1-2 state above. The first four ages (1,000 year days) qualify as “time past” in which God spoke to man by the prophets. The cross changed how God now speaks to man in these last days.

Look again at the above diagram and consider that the cross divides the fourth day from the fifth day. That means that there would have been four days or ages (1,000 years each in length), spanning from the creation of the **FIRST** Adam to the death of Jesus, the **LAST** Adam (1 Cor.15:45). It is important to understand that the New covenant did not start at the birth of Jesus Christ but rather at His death (Heb. 9:16-17). Therefore the cross becomes the center focus of all things. How God spoke to man changed at the cross. If the first four days or ages represent “time past” as depicted above, then the last three days define for us the meaning of the phrase **THE LAST DAYS!** Now we have a solid basis of understanding as to why the Scriptures label this time as “the last days”. It is the last three days of the seven days of creation! When did “the last days” begin? It was at the death of Jesus Christ!

Let us go over it one more time.

“In time past” refers to the first four ages or days that are one thousand years each in length. It is commonly believed that the Old Testament period spans nearly 4,000 years. There is no accurate dating available. Due to the centrality of the cross in the Scriptures, I would suggest that it is more likely that the first four days span from the creation of the first Adam to the death of the last Adam Jesus (1 Cor. 15:45).

God made the sun and the moon to give light to the earth, on the fourth day of creation (Gen.1:15-19). Consider the parallel that Jesus came to the earth near the close of the fourth day and His purpose was to give light to the world. In fact, it is one of His titles (Jn.1:9, Luke 2:32).

Jesus’ crucifixion would begin the fifth day, which is the beginning of the last (3) days or ages typified by creation. Five is the biblical number representing grace and Titus 2:11 identifies Jesus as:

“THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGS SALVATION HAS APPEARED TO ALL MEN...”

Let us add one more important phrase which we will develop as we go along. If the last days indeed are the last three days typified by the seven days of creation, then **THE LAST DAY** of the **LAST DAYS** would be **THE DAY OF THE LORD** spoken of throughout the Scripture! As in the creation pattern, the 7th day belonged to the Lord, so likewise will the last day of the last days belong to the Lord. That is why it is called The Day of the Lord.



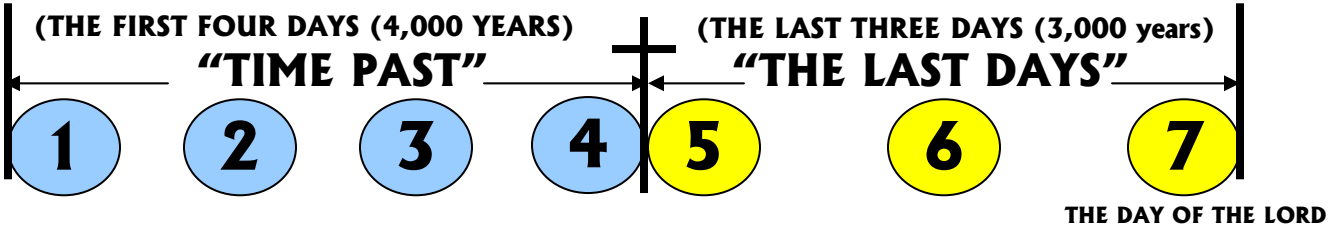
“THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING,

THE LAST ADAM BECAME A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT”
1 Cor. 15:45



“BUT BELOVED, DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, THAT WITH THE LORD ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS AS ONE DAY.”

2 Pet. 3:8



Let us now consider an incredible Old Testament prophecy of God’s future dealings with Israel which will clearly support the above concept of **“ONE DAY IS AS A THOUSAND YEARS”**.



“I (GOD) WILL RETURN AGAIN TO MY PLACE TILL THEY (ISRAEL) ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR OFFENSE... IN THEIR AFFLICTION THEY WILL DILIGENTLY SEEK ME. COME, AND LET US (ISRAEL) RETURN TO THE LORD; FOR HE HAS TORN, BUT HE WILL HEAL US; HE HAS STRICKEN, BUT HE WILL BIND US UP. AFTER TWO DAYS HE WILL REVIVE US; ON THE THIRD DAY HE WILL RAISE US UP THAT WE MAY LIVE IN HIS SIGHT.”

Hosea 5:15-6:1-2

Jesus returned again to His place (Heaven) after His resurrection on the fifth day. The prophet says it will take **TWO DAYS** of affliction of the Jews to cause them to diligently seek their God. Those “two days” represent the last two thousand years which are nearly up. Who is not aware of the severe world-wide affliction of the Jews over the last 2,000 years?

After two days the prophet foretells that God will raise them up to live in His sight. It will happen on the third day which coincides with the last of the last days (the Day of the Lord) (day 7 in our overall chart above).



**“I (GOD) WILL RETURN AGAIN TO MY PLACE TILL THEY (ISRAEL) ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR OFFENSE...
IN THEIR AFFLICTION THEY WILL DILIGENTLY SEEK ME.
COME, AND LET US (ISRAEL) RETURN TO THE LORD; FOR HE HAS TORN, BUT HE WILL HEAL US;
HE HAS STRICKEN, BUT HE WILL BIND US UP. AFTER TWO DAYS HE WILL REVIVE US;
ON THE THIRD DAY HE WILL RAISE US UP THAT WE MAY LIVE IN HIS SIGHT.”**

Hosea 5:15-6:1-2

After two days the prophet foretells that God will raise them up to live in His sight. It will happen on the third day which coincides with the “last of the last days (the Day of the Lord) Listen now to how specific Jesus speaks about the events which are to take place at the last day:



“THIS IS THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO SENT ME, THAT OF ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.39).
“AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME THAT EVERYONE WHO SEES THE SON AND BELIEVES IN HIM MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.40).
**NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS THE FATHER WHO SENT ME DRAWS HIM;
AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.44).**
**“WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE,
AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS. 54).**

In Revelation Chapter 20:1-5 we find a resurrection of the dead who were martyred during tribulation. They are to “live and reign with Christ for a thousand years” (vs.4). I believe this event fulfills for Israel the words of Hosea the prophet “on the third day He shall raise us up that we may live in His sight” (Hosea.6:2 above).

We must also see that the passages above from John Chapter Six include those in the church as well, those who “believe on Him unto eternal life”. These too will be “raised up at the last day”.

We must keep in mind that God is dealing with **TWO SEPARATE IDENTITIES** within the confines of the last days.

Those two identities are Israel (the Jews) and the Church (the Gentiles).

“...TO PROVOKE THEM TO JEALOUSY, SALVATION HAS COME TO THE GENTILES...HARDENING IN PART HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAS COME IN. AND SO ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED, AS IT IS WRITTEN: “THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION...WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

Romans 11:11, 25-27



“THIS IS THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO SENT ME, THAT OF ALL HE HAS GIVEN ME I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.39).
“AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME THAT EVERYONE WHO SEES THE SON AND BELIEVES IN HIM MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.40).
NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS THE FATHER WHO SENT ME DRAWS HIM; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS.44).
“WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE, AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY” (VS. 54).

Jesus is talking about the foundational doctrine Paul called **THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD** (Heb. 6:2). The reason we have theological problems with the timing of the rapture is because it has been divorced from the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. To properly interpret the timing of the rapture we need only to keep it attached to its doctrine of origin which is the resurrection of the dead. For centuries Christianity has been fed a diet of “no man knows the day nor the hour” when it comes to the event known as the rapture. Countless sermons have been preached on the premise that Jesus could come at any moment or any hour over the last two thousand years. Is that true? Look carefully at the above passages from John Chapter Six. Actually Jesus is telling His church when the rapture will take place because it is an intricate part of the resurrection of the dead as we shall establish in a moment. He repeats the timing of this event four times to make sure we get the message. It will be at the last day (of the last days) which we now know is The Day of The Lord. The rapture must be viewed as a piece of the whole just as this cut piece of cake reveals that it was removed from a larger part. →

Some of God's people openly profess that they do not believe in the concept of the rapture. Actually, to disbelieve in the rapture is also not to believe in the resurrection of the dead for the Scriptures state that they are one and the same event! The dead in Christ will rise first, then the rapture follows afterward (1 Thess. 4:15-17).



**IS THE RAPTURE
CONNECTED TO
THE RESURRECTION
OF THE DEAD?**



IS THE RAPTURE CONNECTED TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?

1.

“BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY; WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP (DIE), BUT WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED-IN A MOMENT, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMPET. FOR THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND, AND THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED. FOR THIS CORRUPTIBLE MUST PUT ON INCORRUPTION, AND THIS MORTAL MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY.”

1 Cor. 15:51-53

Both of Paul's detailed accounts of the rapture tie this event to the resurrection from the dead. When will the dead be raised?

Four times Jesus tells believers in John Chapter Six

“I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY”.

It is folly to espouse that “no man knows the day nor the hour” of the rapture when Jesus is so specific as to when the dead are raised.

It is at the last day!

The rapture follows on the heels of this event in

“a twinkling of an eye”
(1Cor. 15:52).

2.

“FOR THIS WE SAY TO YOU BY THE WORD OF THE LORD, THAT WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD WILL BY NO MEANS PRECEDE THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP (DIED). FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN...WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM (THE DEAD) IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND THUS SHALL WE ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD. THEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.”

1 Thess. 4:15-18

Paul, in the verses above, is adding to the revelation of Jesus by informing the saints that “the dead in Christ will rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them”.

Notice that word **T-O-G-E-T-H-E-R!**

When the dead in Christ are raised it will be followed immediately by the rapture of the living saints. Confusion reigns over the rapture because this piece of the cake is being presented as the whole. The rapture cannot stand alone; it must be kept tied to the resurrection of the dead which takes place at the last day.

That day is **THE DAY OF THE LORD** as we shall see is the clear teaching of the apostle Paul.

“FOR THIS WE SAY TO YOU BY THE WORD OF THE LORD, THAT WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD WILL BY NO MEANS PRECEDE THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP (DIED). FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN...WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM (THE DEAD) IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND THUS SHALL WE ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD. THEREFORE COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.”

1 Thess. 4:15-18

“Much confusion has been wrought in Bible exposition and much damage done to Christianity, by the careless habit of concentrating on an isolated verse of Scripture, with no proper reference to its relationships. The context is often a sufficient commentary on a difficult verse. No solitary, minute portion can be expected to yield its meaning without a full consideration of its illuminating surroundings.”

Harold Horton-1934 Gifts of the Sprit

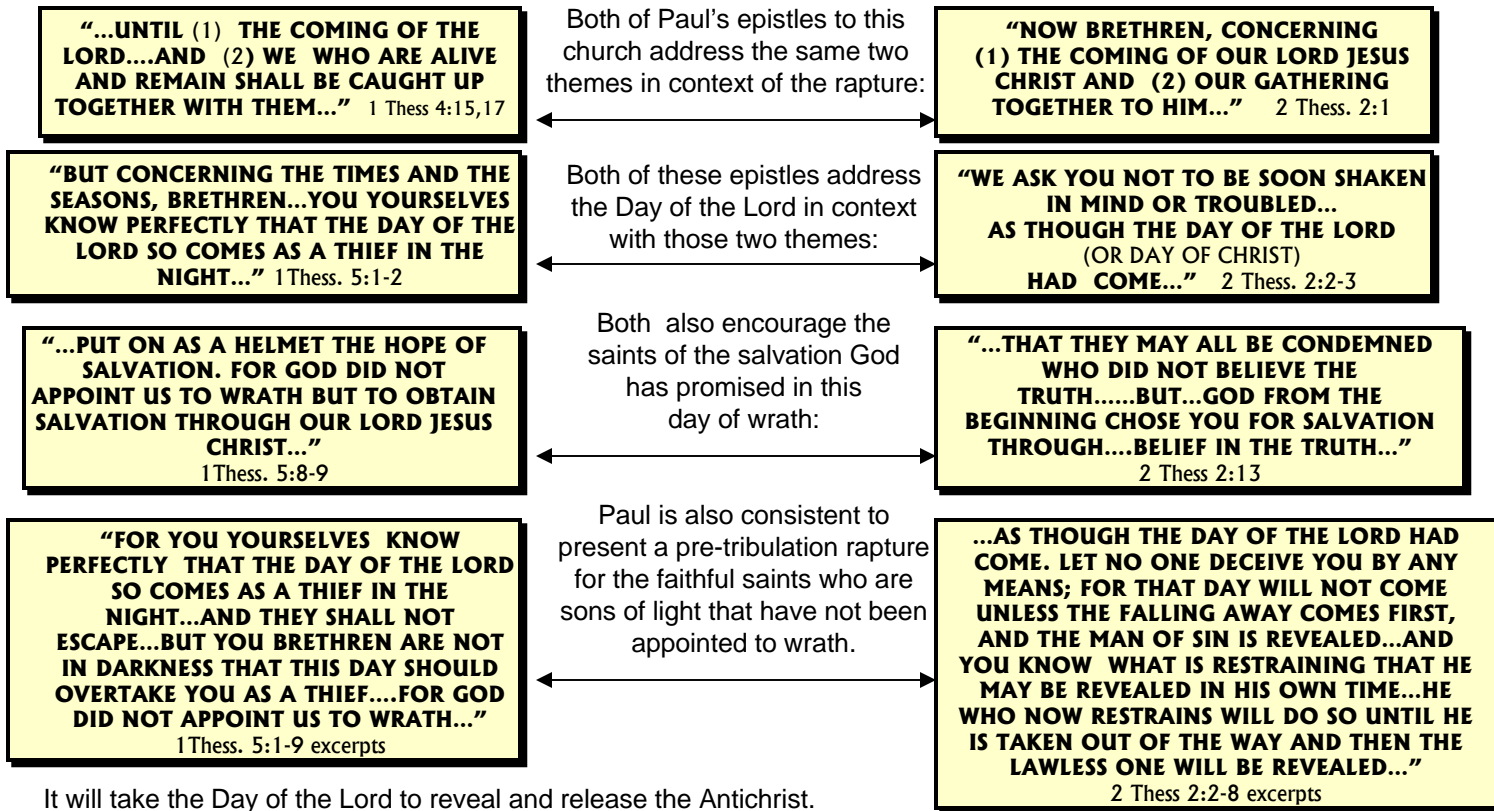
“BUT CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, BRETHREN, YOU HAVE NO NEED THAT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU. FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. FOR WHEN THEY SAY, “PEACE AND SAFETY!” THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THEM AS LABOR PAINS UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN. AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE. BUT YOU BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF.... FOR GOD DID NOT APPOINT US TO WRATH BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST...”

1 Thess. 5:1-9

Context, as Harold Horton states above, is the antidote for confusion. The times and seasons of which Paul speaks of in chapter five is the rapture which is previously addressed at the close of chapter four. The opening word “**BUT**” in chapter five ties them together. Paul would scoff at the application of “no man knows the day nor the hour”, for he himself reminded the saints that they know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. Why is it, dear saint, that we today do not also know perfectly that the rapture in which Jesus comes as a thief in the night takes place at the beginning of the Day of the Lord? Just as the rapture cannot be divorced from the resurrection of the dead, neither can Jesus’ coming as a thief in the night be divorced from where it originated- the Day of the Lord!

In Paul's second epistle to this same church at Thessalonica, he picks up this very same theme again as proven by these comparisons:



It will take the Day of the Lord to reveal and release the Antichrist. First must come the appearance of Jesus Christ, as a thief in the night, on the Day of the Lord, and that event will bring forth the release of Antichrist on the earth.

Keep in mind that the theme of 1 and 2 Thessalonians deals with “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him”. Paul’s first epistle relates when Jesus would come, and his second one conveys what must happen before Antichrist can appear. This second epistle is giving us added detail to what must happen at the Day of the Lord. The saints in Paul’s day were receiving letters from false apostles saying that the Day of the Lord had already begun. They were teaching that Nero was the Antichrist (amazingly, his name did total 666 in the Hebrew language). Paul writes to quench their fears. He does so by stating the prerequisite that must take place first. It is “the falling away”. Again, I must stress the importance of context to properly interpret Paul’s words. The falling away that must come first is not a “falling away from the faith” for this is not Paul’s theme at all in these passages. How could such an event as a “falling away from the faith” be measured as a visible sign that the Day of the Lord had come? How many would have to fall away from the faith to fulfill such a sign? Paul did say that in the latter times “some” would depart from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1). How does one measure “some” as a definite sign that Antichrist is about to appear? We have shown that we are already in the latter times and have been for nearly 2,000 years. History will show indeed that there has always been a falling away of “some” in the church due to doctrines of demons. Jesus addressed such in His letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 only thirty years after Pentecost!

Such a falling away is an on-going sign of the last days rather than a sign of the beginning of it! The context of the falling away applies to “the taking away” of He who restrains the coming of the lawless one (2 Thess. 2:6-7). It is such a falling away (taking away) that will release the man of sin (Antichrist) rather than an indefinable falling away from the faith by “some” of the saints of God. The Amplified Bible footnote states a possible rendering of “a falling” is “a departure”. Such a rendering would be in perfect harmony with the themes and context of Paul’s words which are (1) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and (2) our gathering together to Him. Paul is merely giving us the sign of our gathering together to Him. It is the departure of He who restrains Antichrist. The “He” is the Holy Spirit which Jesus said “He will abide with you forever” (Jn. 14:16). When He (the Spirit) is taken out of the way it is “then” that the lawless one is revealed (2 Thess. 2:8). The rapture removes The Holy Spirit as a restraining force. It is only the combination of the Holy Spirit and His work in the church that is restraining the rise of the lawless one on earth. The Day of the Lord begins the wrath of God with the releasing of Antichrist. It is important to see that the coming of Antichrist will be a strong delusion sent by God upon those who love the lie instead of the truth (2 Thess. 2:9-12).

Let us now consider the Old and the New Testament perspectives pertaining to The Day of the Lord.



"THE DAY OF THE LORD"



ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS



**"...THE TERROR OF THE LORD...
THE DAY OF THE LORD...WAIL! FOR
THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND!
IT WILL COME AS DESTRUCTION FROM THE
ALMIGHTY...BEHOLD THE DAY OF THE LORD
COMES, CRUEL, WITH BOTH WRATH AND FIERCE
ANGER, TO LAY THE LAND DESOLATE; AND HE
WILL DESTROY ITS SINNERS FROM IT...
THE EARTH WILL MOVE OUT OF ITS PLACE,
IN THE WRATH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS AND IN
THE DAY OF HIS FIERCE ANGER."**

Isa.2:10-12, 13:6-9,13

**"THE DAY OF THE LORD
UPON ALL THE NATIONS
IS NEAR; AS YOU
HAVE DONE, IT SHALL
BE DONE TO YOU..."**

Obadiah 1:15

**"WOE TO YOU WHO DESIRE
THE DAY OF THE LORD!
FOR WHAT GOOD IS
THE DAY OF THE LORD TO YOU?..
IS NOT THE DAY OF THE LORD
DARKNESS..."**

**IS IT NOT VERY DARK,
WITH NO BRIGHTNESS IN IT?"**

Amos 5:18-20

**"BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION,
AND SOUND AN ALARM...
FOR
THE DAY OF THE LORD IS
COMING... A DAY OF DARKNESS
AND GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF
CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS...
FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS
GREAT AND VERY TERRIBLE;
WHO CAN ENDURE IT?"**

Joel 2:1-2, 11,

**"MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES
IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION!
FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD
IS NEAR IN THE VALLEY OF DECISION."**

Joel 3:14

**"...THE LORD AVENGES AND IS
FURIOUS...HE RESERVES HIS WRATH
FOR HIS ENEMIES...
WHO CAN STAND BEFORE HIS
INDIGNATION?
AND WHO CAN ENDURE THE
FIERCENESS OF HIS ANGER?
HIS FURY
IS Poured OUT LIKE FIRE..."**

Nahum 1:2-6

**"... THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND...
THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR, IT IS NEAR
AND HASTENS QUICKLY, THE NOISE OF THE DAY OF
THE LORD IS BITTER...THAT DAY IS A DAY OF WRATH,
A DAY OF TROUBLE AND DISTRESS,
A DAY OF DEVASTATION AND DESOLATION,
A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOMINESS,
A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS,
A DAY OF TRUMPET AND ALARM...
IN THE DAY OF THE LORD'S WRATH..."**

Zeph. 1:7,14-18

**"BEHOLD,
THE DAY OF THE LORD IS
COMING... I WILL GATHER
ALL THE NATIONS TO BATTLE
AGAINST JERUSALEM...
HALF THE CITY SHALL GO
INTO CAPTIVITY..."**

Zech. 14:1-2

**"THIS IS
THE DAY
OF THE LORD...
A DAY OF VENGEANCE,
THAT HE MAY
AVENGE HIMSELF
ON HIS ADVERSARIES..."**

Jer. 46:10

**"BEHOLD,
I WILL SEND YOU
ELIJAH THE PROPHET
BEFORE THE COMING OF THE
GREAT AND DREADFUL
DAY OF THE LORD...LEST I STRIKE
THE EARTH WITH A CURSE."**

Mal. 4:5-6

Read all that the prophets have to say about the Day of the Lord and you will still not be able to establish a clear picture of it. We must add to what they saw that which was revealed to the apostles. The distinction between what the prophets saw and what was revealed to the apostles is simply that Paul and Peter are shown the parameters that establish the **BEGINNING** and the **END** of the Day of the Lord. All that the prophets were shown fall **IN-BETWEEN** those parameters. You cannot have a complete understanding of the Day of the Lord without combining the words of the prophets with those of the apostles. Peter tells believers to “be mindful of the words spoken by the holy prophets and apostles” (2 Pet. 3:1-2).



Paul



Isaiah



Jeremiah



Ezekiel



Joel



Amos



Obadiah



Nahum



Zephaniah



Zechariah



Malachi



WHEN THE DAY OF THE LORD BEGINS:

WHEN THE DAY OF THE LORD ENDS: *Peter*

“BUT CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, BRETHREN, YOU HAVE NO NEED THAT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU. FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. FOR WHEN THEY SAY, “PEACE AND SAFETY!” THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THEM, AS LABOR PAINS UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN. AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE. BUT YOU BRETHREN, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, SO THAT THIS DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF... THEREFORE DO NOT SLEEP AS OTHERS DO, BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER... FOR GOD DID NOT APPOINT US TO WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.” 1 Thess. 5:1-9

“BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, IN WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A GREAT NOISE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT; BOTH THE EARTH AND THE WORKS THAT ARE IN IT WILL BE BURNED UP. THEREFORE, SINCE ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS, LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, BECAUSE OF WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL BE DISSOLVED BEING ON FIRE, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT? WE LOOK FOR NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH IN WHICH RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS.” 2 Pet. 3:1-13

The message of the Day of the Lord was imparted to ten Old Testament prophets and to three of the New Testament apostles. The apostle Paul tells us how it is going to begin-Jesus will come as a thief in the night. Peter tells us how it is going to end-the heavens and the earth will be burned up. The prophets are given bits and pieces of all that falls within the beginning and the end. A more detailed account of the in-between was given to the apostle John. →

The number 3 in the Bible depicts divine completeness. It takes the revelation given to a third apostle (John) to complete what has been shown to the apostles Paul and Peter:



"...YOU KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT..."

1 Thess.5:1-2

THE APOSTLE PAUL

gives us the beginning of the Day of the Lord. It will commence with Jesus Christ suddenly coming as a thief in the night. At a time in which the world will be proclaiming "Peace and Safety!", the rapture will take place and release "sudden destruction" upon the world. Paul says they will not escape this destruction, but by means of the rapture the wise virgins will! What follows is Antichrist and seven years of tribulation on the whole world. The Day of the Lord God will release a strong delusion on the earth in the person of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:9-12)



"...I WAS IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD'S DAY, AND I HEARD BEHIND ME A LOUD VOICE AS A TRUMPET, SAYING...WHAT YOU SEE WRITE IN A BOOK..."

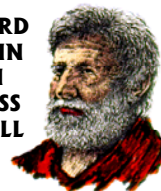
Rev. 1:10

THE APOSTLE JOHN

gives us the blow-by-blow account of the Day of the Lord. The majority of Revelation is the account of the Day of the Lord. It is significant that John hears a voice like a trumpet speaking **BEHIND** him. The vision that is **IN FRONT** of him is the Day of the Lord. However, Jesus appears **BEHIND** John, still in the church age, which has not yet ended. This is symbolically depicting a pre-tribulation rapture that takes place prior to the Day of the Lord beginning. The letters to the churches contain a call to repentance to 5 out of the 7 churches or face judgment by Jesus as the Righteous Judge. The church of Philadelphia is given the promise to be kept from the hour of trial which is coming to test all those who dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10). This faithful church will be raptured prior to the Day of the Lord.

"...THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY ...THE EARTH WILL BE BURNED UP..."

2 Pet. 3:10



THE APOSTLE PETER

also speaks of the Day of the Lord coming as a "thief in the night". However, his version is different than Paul's. Peter goes right to the heavens and earth passing away. Why is this so? Because Peter was commissioned to record how the Day of the Lord ends. Paul tells us how it begins. Peter mentions nothing of what happens between the events of the rapture and of heaven and earth passing away. This is because the apostle John was given the commission to fill in the blanks in the book of Revelation he authored.



Considering what we have looked at pertaining to the last days and the Day of the Lord, do you now thoroughly comprehend this diagram? If you do, then let us begin to add what we have learned in our previous study of **THE FEASTS OF THE LORD.**



**BEGINS
 THE DAY OF THE LORD
 (LAST DAY OF THE LAST DAYS)**

Taken all together, the seven Feasts of the Lord graphically depict the last days. We have seen that the last days begin with the cross. What is the first Feast? It is Passover. What is its theme? It is the depiction of the death of Jesus Christ. It is the Feast of Passover that begins the last days.

What is the last Feast? It is Tabernacles which is the depiction of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. The completion of the Feast of Tabernacles will end the last days. The time frame of the Feasts of the Lord spans the last days, from the beginning to end!



"THE LAST (3) DAYS"

THE
FIRST
COMING
OF CHRIST



THE
SECOND
COMING
OF CHRIST



"...IN THESE LAST DAYS GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON..." *Heb. 1:2*

5

"THE LAST DAYS"

6

7

"THE LAST DAY OF THE LAST DAYS"

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"



(THE FOUR FEASTS THAT ARE PAST)

YOU ARE
HERE



PRESENT
CHURCH
AGE



(THE THREE THAT ARE FUTURE)



There are only three Feasts left that have not been fulfilled by Christ. They are: Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, and that is because there are only three prophetic events left for Jesus to fulfill. Those yet future events are the rapture, the second coming and the millennial reign of Christ. These three events will take place respectively on the last three Feasts of the Lord, count on it! The first four were completed on their appointed days and so will the remaining ones!

All seven Feasts comprise the last days which, as we have shown, begins with the cross of Jesus at His first coming, and it will end with the crown Jesus will wear on earth at His second coming (Rev. 19:12). The event known as the Day of the Lord will begin at Trumpets with the rapture, and it will end with Tabernacles when the millennium is over and "earth and heaven flee away" (Rev. 20:11). The Day of the Lord spans Trumpets through Tabernacles. How close are we to the Day of the Lord? Look at the "you are here" marker in the above diagram. We are nearing the close of the sixth day and the beginning of the Day of the Lord! The Book of Revelation is about to become a reality on earth!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**“THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION
OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD”** Romans 1:5

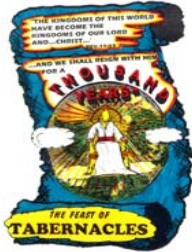
**RAPTURE
BY CHRIST**



**RETURN
OF CHRIST**



**REIGN
OF CHRIST**



**“HIDE US FROM THE WRATH OF THE LAMB...
FOR THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH HAS COME!”**
Rev. 6:16-17

I cannot over emphasize the importance of seeing that the last three Feasts find their fulfillment in the Book of Revelation. The Feasts of the Lord are progressively walking their way through the New Testament in the order that it is written. The first three Feasts found their fulfillment in the four Gospels. The Book of Acts specifically singles out that the Holy Spirit was given “when the Day of Pentecost had fully come” (Acts 2:1). The rest of the Book of Acts records forty years of the history of the early church. The 21 epistles that follow Acts contain all of the Holy Spirit’s inspired teachings that pertain to living a sanctified life as a follower of Christ in order to be prepared for the rapture. The Book of Revelation opens with John on the Isle of Patmos in which we read:

“I WAS IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD’S DAY...” Rev. 1:10
The Book of Revelation depicts the Day of the Lord!

The phrase “The Lord’s Day” is not referring to the weekly Sabbath. Such Sabbath phraseology was not circulating in John’s day. Rather he is in the Spirit on what we have come to see is **THE DAY OF THE LORD!** The whole Book of Revelation is a blow-by-blow account of the last day of the last days, which is the Day of the Lord. John is looking at the coming of “the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 2:5). The apostle Peter reminds the church that “Judgment begins at the house of God- if the righteous one is scarcely saved...” (1 Pet. 4:17-18). That scenario is why Jesus begins Revelation by writing letters to His churches in which He calls five out of the seven to repentance “or else”. The Rapture is going to take place on the Feast of Trumpets as we have seen. This first of the last three Feasts is going to start the awful seven years of tribulation on the earth. Therefore the Book of Revelation, and especially the seven letters, must become a priority for the church of Jesus Christ in these last days.



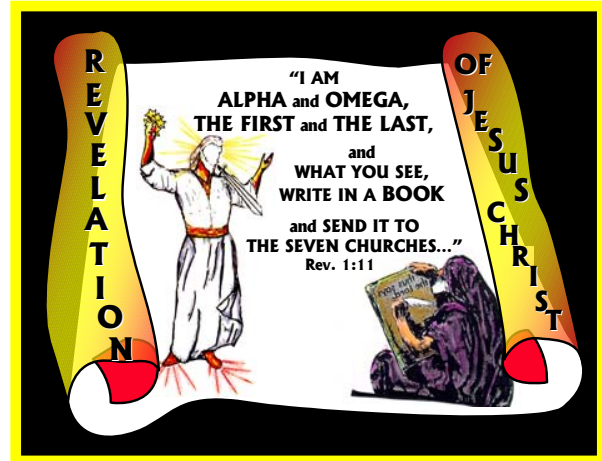
“THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS NOT ONLY A PROPHETIC BOOK, IT IS A SYMBOLIC BOOK, THAT IS, IT IS WRITTEN LARGELY IN SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE, THAT IS THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT IN THE TITLE- HE SENT AND “SIGNIFIED” IT BY HIS ANGEL UNTO HIS SERVANT JOHN. THE WORD SIGNIFIED MEANS GIVEN IN SIGNS AND SYMBOLS AND SHOULD BE PRONOUNCED “SIGN’IFIED”. THERE ARE MORE SIGNS AND SYMBOLS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION THAN IN ANY OTHER BOOK IN THE BIBLE...THE SYMBOLISM OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION SHOWS THAT IT WAS WRITTEN FOR A SPECIAL CLASS, FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORD OF GOD AND WHO HAVE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT, AND NOT FOR THE CARNALLY MINDED... THE BOOK OF REVELATION WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL OR DISCLOSE THE PURPOSE OF GOD... WE ARE NOT PRYING INTO GOD’S SECRETS WHEN WE READ AND STUDY IT...”

Clarence Larkin

(Book of Revelation- Clarence Larkin, page 3)

Revelation is going to unfold hidden truth by the use of signs and symbols. May God give you the needed discernment to see it clearly. John is in the Spirit on the Lord’s day in Rev.1:10 (the Day of the Lord). The Holy Spirit, author of all prophecy, has caught him up in the Spirit, as He does in several other places in Revelation (see Rev. 4:2, 17:3, 21:10 for examples).

As John is looking at the contents of the Day of the Lord, he hears a voice **BEHIND** him like a trumpet. He **TURNS TO SEE** the voice that speaks to him (Rev. 1:10-12). The wording is very exacting because we have already seen that Paul tells us the Day of the Lord will start the tribulation which contains the wrath of God. The fact that Jesus appears **BEHIND** John conveys symbolically that what he sees is not part of the Day of the Lord but rather belongs to events just prior to it (the church age). Jesus is seen by John standing in the midst of seven lampstands which are the seven churches (Rev. 1:13,20). He is standing in the time frame of what is still the church age. Then Jesus gives John a commission to write seven letters to His churches: →



Here is the most important verse in the whole Book of Revelation for it breaks it into three divisions:

The vision that John **HAS** seen (past tense) is one of Jesus as The Righteous Judge (Rev. 1:13-16). There is a similar vision given in Daniel of the Ancient of Days sitting in judgment (Dan. 7:9-10).

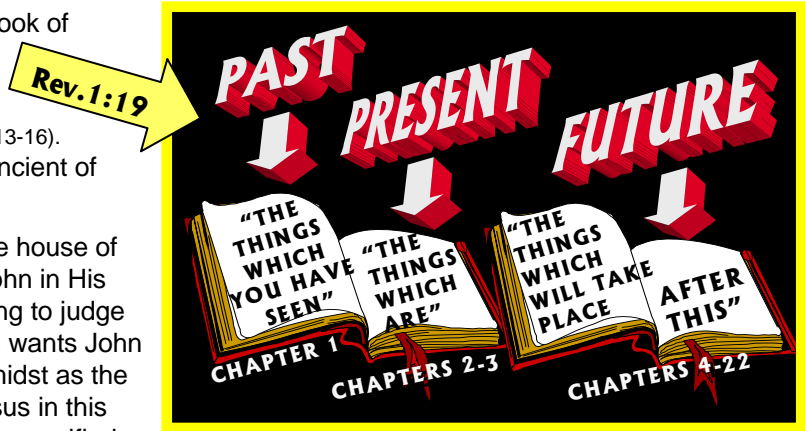
Since Peter tells us that “Judgment begins at the house of God” (1st Pet. 4:17), Jesus therefore appears to John in His role as the righteous Judge, the one who is going to judge His churches before He judges the world. Jesus wants John to tell His churches that He is standing in their midst as the Righteous Judge. God’s people need to see Jesus in this glorified state for the tendency is to only see Him crucified.

Secondly, John is told to write the things that **ARE** (present tense). This refers to the present condition of the church as revealed in chapters two and three. Jesus calls five of those churches to “repent or else”. Only to Philadelphia is there given a promise to be “kept from the hour of trial which is coming to test those who dwell on the earth” (Rev. 3:10).

Thirdly, John is to write the things that will take place **AFTER THIS** (future tense). The “after this” refers to the end of the church age, the appointed time in which the fullness of the Gentiles have come in (Rom.11:25). The reference to “after this” speaks of what John is going to be shown that takes place in the yet future Day of the Lord which begins in Chapter 6 of Revelation. If the rapture is a pre-tribulation event, as I believe it is, then we should be able to see the symbolism that depicts it taking place at the very point in time marked as **AFTER THIS**. Let us look now at amazing symbolism of the rapture found in Revelation 4:1-2:

“AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A DOOR STANDING OPEN IN HEAVEN. AND THE FIRST VOICE WHICH I HEARD WAS LIKE A TRUMPET SPEAKING WITH ME, SAYING, “COME UP HERE, AND I WILL SHOW YOU THINGS WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.” IMMEDIATELY I WAS IN THE SPIRIT; AND BEHOLD, A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SAT ON THE THRONE...”

Rev. 4:1-3





These two charts emphasize the contents of Rev.4:1. This verse you will note, opens and closes with the significant phrase "AFTER THESE THINGS" and "AFTER THIS" The symbolism of the rapture profusely marks Rev. 4:1-2.



Consider carefully all the symbolism in the charts above. The fact that John is **IMMEDIATELY** caught up in the Spirit reminds us that Paul said the rapture will take place "in a moment-in a twinkling of an eye"(1st Cor. 15:52). Secondly, John experiences the sounding of "a voice like a trumpet" in which he is called to "come up here!" This reminds us of Paul's words that we shall be "caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"(1 Thess. 4:17). John is now shown the rest of the vision from heaven for he is no longer on earth, and neither will the church be found on the earth either. Look at this special song being sung in heaven in the very next chapter after John is "caught up". Who are these people?

"YOU ARE WORTHY TO TAKE THE SCROLL, AND TO OPEN ITS SEALS; FOR YOU WERE SLAIN, AND HAVE REDEEMED US TO GOD BY YOUR BLOOD OUT OF EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE AND PEOPLE AND NATION, AND HAVE MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS TO OUR GOD; AND WE SHALL REIGN ON EARTH."

Rev. 5:9-10

This is the now raptured church of Jesus Christ! No other people fit the criteria above! Is it not most significant that there is not one further reference to the church from this point on? Revelation 3:22 records the last use of "he who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches". However, part of this saying appears in Revelation 13:9 in which we find, "if anyone has an ear, let him hear." Notice the absence of "what the Spirit says to the churches". This is no longer a message to the churches because the rapture has taken place back in Chapter 4!

“IF ANYONE HAS AN EAR LET HIM HEAR.” Rev. 13:9

If you consider the context in which this verse is found you will see that it is the chapter describing the coming of Antichrist to world power (Rev. 13:1-10). Remember Paul has taught us that the man of sin cannot be revealed until He who is restraining him is taken out of the way” (2 Thess. 2:7-8). The Antichrist is on the scene in this chapter but the church is not! The very first seal of Revelation Chapter Six is where we find Antichrist going forth “conquering and to conquer” (Rev.6:1). Remember Paul said God was going to send a strong delusion upon the world (2 Thess. 2:9-12). The coming of Antichrist is the very beginning of “the wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 2:5). God’s wrath is progressively poured out on the earth following a pattern in Leviticus 26 in which God increases His wrath seven times in intensity. That is why there are four groups of “sevens” that contain the wrath of God in Revelation. The intensity of God’s wrath in the day of the Lord is progressively increased according to the pattern of Leviticus 26.

Further proof that the rapture has already taken place is the fact that the remainder of the Book of Revelation is **VERY** Jewish. This is because “when the fullness of the Gentiles have come in, all Israel will be saved” (Rom. 11:25). After the Feast of Trumpets will come the 6th Feast which is the Feast of the Day of Atonement. Because of this switched emphasis from the church to the Jews, God now sends forth Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the prophets) as His two witnesses (Rev. 11:1-14). What do the Jews respect today? It is the Law and the prophets! So God sends Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the prophet! The days of Paul and Peter are over, and so are the days of the Church. In addition God seals 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel as His witnesses (Rev. 7:1-8). At Pentecost God commissioned the church to “be witnesses unto Me” (Acts 1:8). All of God’s witnesses are now Jewish. Why? because the church age is over! The “fullness of the Gentiles has come in”! The Gentile church is no longer His witnesses because they are no longer on the earth. Trumpets is past. The Day of Atonement lies ahead. Salvation is returning to the nation of Israel (Rom.11: 24-25).

Another theme from Revelation 4:1 tying it to the rapture is the fact that John saw “an open door in heaven” from which he heard the trumpet call. You need only to compare that thought to what Jesus said to Philadelphia, “see, I have set before you an open door” (Rev. 3:8). In context it is this door that will keep them from the hour of trial which is coming upon the whole world. You should also consider that the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins centers as well about “a door” being opened to the wise but shut to the foolish (Matt. 25:1-13).

The next page is an 11x17 color fold-out enlargement of the chart below. This chart is a condensed representation of all that we have studied about the prophetic nature of the Feasts of the Lord as well as the Seven Days of Creation. Study it until you are very comfortable with it. This is God's plan for the end of the ages, and especially for the people upon whom "the end of the ages have come" (1 Cor. 10:11). As the psalmist would say, SELAH! (think on that!).

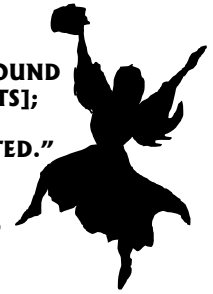




“BLESSED (HAPPY, FORTUNATE, TO BE ENVIED) ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE JOYFUL SOUND [WHO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS SYMBOLIZED BY THE FEASTS]; THEY WALK, O LORD, IN THE LIGHT AND FAVOR OF YOUR COUNTENANCE! IN YOUR NAME THEY REJOICE ALL THE DAY, AND IN YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS THEY ARE EXALTED.”

Psalm 89:15-16 Amplified

THE WAY OF THE FEASTS

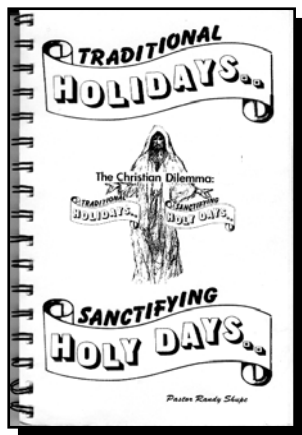


~ CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ~

Psalm 89 above in the Amplified Bible speaks of the blessing received by those “who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized by the Feasts”. If after reading the contents of this book you have come to the conclusion expressed by the psalmist above, then there are some things that I would like to express to you as one who has walked in the way of the Feasts for nearly 15 of the 30 years that I have known the Lord.

My experience has taught me that you will not find many Christians individually, and very few churches corporately, that will share your enthusiasm for the Feasts of the Lord. I say that as a word of caution based on years of experience. My counsel to you is that you do not make it a high priority to champion the cause of revealing the Feasts to either your Christian friends or attempt to forcibly introduce them into your local church. If you do, you may end up with severely strained relationships that you may not be able to bear. There is a cost to embracing the Feasts.

The observance of the Feasts of the Lord must remain a personal choice based upon personal conviction. Yes, they are the clear teaching of the Word of God as we have seen. They are also the clear high priority of God as we have seen. The dilemma attached to the Feasts are the ramifications that result from embracing them as a lifestyle.



The first book I wrote pertaining to the Feasts was

“The Christian Dilemma: Traditional Holidays or Sanctifying Holy Days”

(no longer in print). This challenging title best expresses what happens to those who become convinced that God wants His people to embrace “Sanctifying Holy Days” and forsake cherished “Traditional Holidays”. They will face a big on-going daily dilemma. Consider these words of Jesus:

“...YOU ARE NOT MINDFUL OF THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT THE THINGS OF MEN.”

Mark 8:33

“...YOU ARE NOT SETTING YOUR MIND ON GOD’S INTERESTS, BUT MAN’S.”

Mark 8:33 Amplified

Before speaking these verses, Jesus had warned clearly that **TRADITION** will make the Word of God become of no effect. You can find that statement by just backing up one chapter from the verse stated in Mark’s gospel above (see Mark 7:8-13).

Paul also gave warning about **TRADITION** being able to cheat God’s people out of the things that are in Christ:

“BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD, AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.” Col. 2:8

Holidays are tangible expressions of the values and priorities of the society and culture in which we live. Jesus is stating a charge above that creates a dilemma, “You are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s”. A modern-day application and paraphrase could be, “you are not setting your mind on God’s Holy days, but rather on man’s holidays”. The Feasts present us with a choice between what God cherishes and what man cherishes. You will never be able to follow both the Holy Days and the holidays. Why so? Because the Holy days are pure in God’s sight but the holidays are profane due to their pagan based rituals. God is not a God of mixture! Let me remind you once again of His words to Israel who were serving the pagan gods of the land as well as Jehovah God:

“...WILL YOU...WALK AFTER OTHER GODS WHOM YOU DO NOT KNOW AND THEN COME AND STAND BEFORE ME IN THIS HOUSE WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, AND SAY, “WE ARE DELIVERED TO DO ALL THESE ABOMINATIONS?”

Jeremiah 7:9-10

“NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ELSE HE WILL BE LOYAL TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER...”

Matthew 6:24

SANCTIFYING HOLY DAYS

**IF YOU LOVE THE HOLY DAYS OF GOD,
(PASSOVER...UNLEAVENED
BREAD...FIRSTFRUITS...PENTECOST...
TRUMPETS...ATONEMENT...TABERNACLES)
THEN YOU WILL HATE THE PAGAN-
BASED HOLIDAYS OF MAN...**



TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS

**IF YOU HATE THE HOLY DAYS OF GOD,
THEN YOU WILL LOVE THE PAGAN-
BASED HOLIDAYS OF MAN...
(CHRISTMAS...EASTER....
VALENTINE'S DAY...HALLOWEEN...)**

Not all holidays are pagan based, please hear this distinction. Thanksgiving for instance is a holiday that I endorse because it is “A public declaration of the goodness and mercy of God”. Oh yes, the world views it as “turkey day” or “football Day”, but it can be a sanctified day in which we can give public acknowledgement of our thankfulness to God.

The dilemma centers around what has become the sacred golden calf of Christmas. Yes, that is a hard saying, but it is a hard reality. This holiday with all of its pagan-based traditions is a sacred cow not only among the worldly unsaved, but among God's people as well. The forsaking of this cherished holiday has been a costly decision for this pastor over the years. I will say it has been the single “rock of offense” which has limited our growth as a local expression of the Body of Christ. Many have expressed a love for the teaching gift that God has given to me, but there is this one thing... That one thing has been my emphasis on the Holy Days at the expense of this cherished holiday.

MAN-CENTERED HOLIDAYS OF



Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND MAN-CENTERED HOLIDAYS:

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what is the central theme of these five major holidays of the world in which we live, especially here in America. It is the cherished theme of "happiness." The Constitution of the United States is founded upon the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These five traditional holidays are an ongoing means of expressing those cherished man-centered rights. The holidays systematically enforce this pursuit of happiness as they repetitiously cycle year after year. In reality, this is a philosophy Satan wants to firmly plant. Look at them carefully for none of them convey any message about the future. Holidays such as portrayed above are based on this present life. All the imagery above is readily found on the internet as one types in the names of the holidays. I was amazed at the childishness this imagery portrays. As I built the above visual portrayal of these major holidays, I was quickened by the Holy Spirit of Paul's instruction to believers pertaining to childish things:

"WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I SPOKE AS A CHILD, I UNDERSTOOD AS A CHILD, I THOUGHT AS A CHILD; BUT WHEN I BECAME A MAN, I PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS." 1 Cor. 13:11

When we become a man (or woman) of God, we are called to put away such childish celebrations as these pagan-based holidays magnify. We are called to no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, but rather grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ (Eph. 4:14-15). The world's holidays are a means for the merchants of the earth to manipulate the masses to spend, spend and spend all the more! I have watched how Halloween has come right along side of Christmas as the two most decorated holidays! What does Halloween glorify? Just what its name implies: it "hallows" all that belongs to the demonic world! Should a follower of Christ be hallowing the likes of Halloween?

"DO NOT LEARN THE WAYS OF THE GENTILES...FOR THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE ARE FUTILE..." Jer. 10:2-3
"COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN..." 2 Cor. 6:17

GOD-CENTERED **HOLY DAYS** OF



THE
SEVEN
FEASTS



DEATH
OF CHRIST



BURIAL
OF CHRIST



RESURRECTION
OF CHRIST



HOLY SPIRIT SENT
BY CHRIST



RAPTURE
BY CHRIST



RETURN
OF CHRIST



REIGN
OF CHRIST

OF THE
LORD
Lev. 23

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND GOD-CENTERED HOLY DAYS:

As believers, are we to focus our rejoicing upon childish, pagan-based, materialistic, man-centered holidays, or in God-centered holy days that prophetically reflect the work of Christ on earth, past, present and future? The apostle Paul in describing the New Testament believer's relationship to the Old Testament feasts states:

“.....WITH REGARD TO A FEAST DAY... SUCH THINGS ARE ONLY THE SHADOW OF THINGS THAT ARE TO COME, AND THEY HAVE ONLY A SYMBOLIC VALUE. BUT THE REALITY (THE SUBSTANCE, THE SOLID FACT OF WHAT IS FORESHADOWED, THE BODY OF IT) BELONGS TO CHRIST.” Col. 2:16-17 Amplified.

What is Paul's view of the feasts? They foreshadow what belongs to Christ, past-present-future! Also in the Book of Hebrews Paul speaks of the Old Testament Law as containing a foreshadowing of good things yet to come:

“...THE LAW HAS MERELY A RUDE OUTLINE (FORESHADOWING) OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME...” Heb.10:1 Amplified

Unlike worldly holidays, the feasts focus on the future and therefore can be used as constant reminders for God's people to set their mind on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:2). Celebrating the feasts can stir us up so that we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13). The feasts will continually remind us to confess (to be) strangers and pilgrims while on the earth (Heb. 11:12). Celebrating the feasts will cultivate a vision that here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come (Heb. 13:14), ever reminding us that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

**“BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE JOYFUL SOUND, WHO UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS SYMBOLIZED BY THE FEASTS. THEY WALK, IN THE LIGHT AND FAVOR OF YOUR COUNTEenance!
IN YOUR NAME THEY REJOICE ALL THE DAY”** Ps. 89:15-17 Amp.

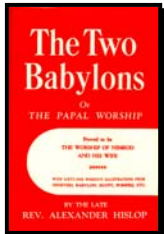
MAN-CENTERED HOLIDAYS OF



Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas

Celebrating Holidays do make us happy, but God did not say to us as His people, “Be happy, for I am happy”, but rather “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet.1:15-16). Actually, there is nothing holy about such holidays as displayed above. Three of those holidays have their origins steeped in religious paganism.



Alexander Hislop

Easter was an ancient pagan holiday to celebrate the birth of the goddess of fertility “Ishtar” (pronounced Easter) Lavishly decorated Easter eggs as well as the known fertility of the bunny rabbit still represent what this holiday was all about. This is not a day about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Go to a store that boasts of being “Your Easter Headquarters” and see for yourself. This is a mixture of the profane and the pure. It was the king of tradition, the Roman Catholic Church, that married together the pagan day of Easter to the resurrection of Christ.

Christmas (Christ-Mass) is also a Roman Catholic blending of the profane with the pure. The ancient pagan holiday was the time of the Winter Solstice (Dec. 25th). It was a day of worship of the son of the goddess Isis, the Queen of Heaven. It was the Babylon “Yule-Day” or birth of the infant child god. And what of Santa? Just an innocent tradition? Santa is a substitute for God as he is all-knowing, ageless, omnipresent etc. He is the myth figure we lie to our children about being real. Maybe Jesus is a myth too, reasons our children, when they find out Santa isn't for real.

Is Halloween just another innocent holiday that doesn't harm anyone? Is it really just childish fun? When children masquerade as evil creatures or we decorate our homes, schools, businesses and churches with occult symbols, satanic power is glorified. While you may have participated "all in fun," be assured, Halloween is serious business for satanists and witches. Those who oppose Christ are known to organize on Halloween, satanic rituals, to cast spells, to oppose churches and families, to perform sacrilegious acts, and to even offer blood sacrifices to Satan. Christian: abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:22)

GOD-CENTERED HOLY DAYS OF



THE SEVEN FEASTS



DEATH OF CHRIST



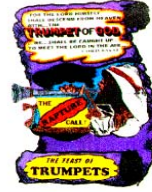
BURIAL OF CHRIST



RESURRECTION OF CHRIST



HOLY SPIRIT SENT BY CHRIST



RAPTURE BY CHRIST



RETURN OF CHRIST



REIGN OF CHRIST

OF THE LORD
Lev. 23

Let the world celebrate pagan-based holidays, but let the Christian be different. Embrace the God-given seven feasts of the Lord as revealed in Leviticus 23. These are the feasts of the Lord-the Lord Jesus Christ that is. Christ died on the feast of Passover (1 Cor. 5:7), was buried on the feast of Unleavened Bread (Luke 22:1), rose from the dead on the feast of Firstfruits (1 Cor.15:20), and sent the Holy Spirit to fill God's people on the very day of the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Three feasts remain to be fulfilled. It is reasonable to assume Jesus Christ will fulfill them on the very days specified as feast days in Leviticus 23. Those three future events will be the rapture on the feast of Trumpets, the Second Coming of Christ on the feast of the Day of Atonement, and the millennial reign of Christ to begin on the feast of Tabernacles. Even the true time of Christ's birth is typified in the feast of Tabernacles. Systematically, feast by feast, year by year, the dedicated followers of Christ can be reminded of all that Christ has done, is doing, and will do according to these joyous holy days.

If this concept is new to your ears, I recommend this book I wrote on the subject. It will validate that the feasts of the Lord of Leviticus 23 are indeed God's prophetic appointment calendar. I also give practical hints about how to celebrate these feasts.



Our local church congregation has observed these joyous feasts for over 18 years. However, it has been costly since in doing so we have ignored the traditional holidays such as Easter and Christmas.

So many of God's people are so entrenched in these holidays that they were unwilling to let them go. Such is the power of tradition over God's Word.

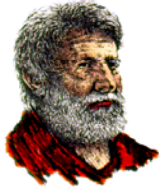
I have observed that over the last five years the fervor for the holidays have greatly increased. This is very evident if you look at what is happening on the lawns of America. The decorations being placed outside the homes for both the holidays of Christmas and Halloween are becoming humongous enterprises in which neighbor competes against neighbor for the biggest and the best display. My wife and I drove by a Christmas display in our neighborhood recently and were overwhelmed at what we saw. The full span of everything that is Christmas was sprawled out over the entire yard and even on the roof. There was Santa and his reindeers on the roof, elves in the windows, numerous decorated Christmas trees in the yard, Santa's workshop, the North Pole, and of course, an elaborate display of the manger scene. We could only wonder what amount of time, energy and money went into what we saw. Is it the exception? Hardly, for you could find two or three such displays within a three block radius. This only confirmed in my thinking the depth of idolatry that exists under the banner of "the birth of Christ". If we were able to poll the owners of all these radical, fanatical fervent displays, I wonder how many would be Christians? I fear the answer would be more than I suspect. Why so? Because God's people are not having their zeal and fervency guided toward the interests of God but rather toward the interests of men. The Biblical call such as is found in Hebrews Chapter 11 to confess to be "strangers and pilgrims on earth" has been swallowed up by world-centered cherished traditions. Let us consider what is recorded in this chapter of faith:

"THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AFAR OFF WERE ASSURED OF THEM, EMBRACED THEM AND CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH. FOR THOSE WHO SAY SUCH THINGS DECLARE PLAINLY THAT THEY SEEK A HOMELAND. AND TRULY IF THEY HAD CALLED TO MIND THAT COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY HAD COME OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN. BUT NOW THEY DESIRE A BETTER, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY COUNTRY. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM."

Heb 11:13-16

Christianity in this country is inundated with teachings that keep God's people "mindful of the country from which they had come out". The political social gospel of this country causes God's people to constantly have "opportunity to return" to its values and traditions. The church means "the called out ones". I believe that the Feasts of the Lord were given as a constant ongoing reminder that "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one that is to come" (Heb.13:14). Finally, note in Hebrews 11:16 the very disturbing concept that "God is not ashamed to be called their God". That is, He is not ashamed of His people who do not return to the country from which they have been called out. That certainly implies that God is ashamed to be the God of His people who are steeped in earthly traditions.

THE PRACTICAL SIDE TO PRACTICING THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

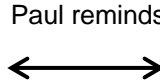


“... I WILL NOT BE NEGLIGENT TO REMIND YOU ALWAYS OF THESE THINGS, THOUGH YOU KNOW AND ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH. YES, I THINK IT IS RIGHT, AS LONG AS I AM IN THIS TENT, TO STIR YOU UP BY REMINDING YOU, KNOWING THAT SHORTLY I MUST PUT OFF MY TENT, JUST AS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SHOWED ME. MOREOVER I WILL BE CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE A REMINDER OF THESE THINGS AFTER MY DECEASE.” 2 Peter 1:12-16

More than likely, and quite sadly, you are not going to find a church that is openly practicing the Feasts of the Lord as they have been presented in this book. However, there are ways in which you individually or as a family may “be stirred up by way of reminder” as Peter exhorts above. In our concluding chapter I would like to suggest several ways in which you may accomplish that objective. I believe the Feasts of the Lord give us a very practical reminder, year-by-year and Feast-by-Feast, of the finished work of Jesus Christ in us as well as the unfinished work in us.

“BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS VERY THING, THAT HE WHO HAS BEGUN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL COMPLETE IT UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST.”

Philippians 1:6



Paul reminds us: **“...LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENSNARES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH...”**

Hebrews 12:1-2

I believe that the Feasts, if honored and observed in the Spirit of the Law and not in the letter, will provide the means to fulfill the two above exhortations of Paul.

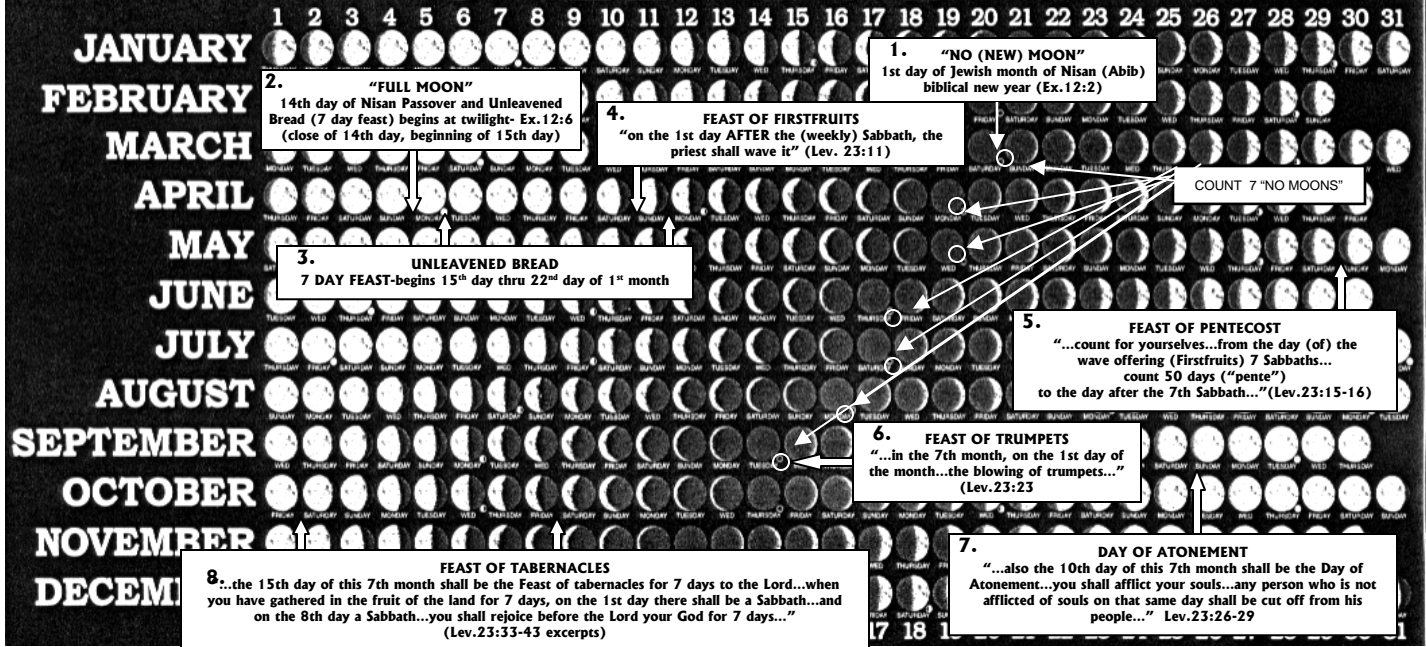


If you are going to observe the Feasts then you are going to have to know how to calculate them. On the opposite page is the Lunar Calendar for 2004. I have overlaid the instructions from Leviticus 23 on top of it. You will need to order a Lunar Calendar for each new year. The address is on the chart in the bottom right corner. Here is how to do what I have laid out on the opposite page:

1. Locate the “no moon” (black) in the month of March. This is the “1st day in the Jewish month of Nisan.
2. Count 14 days which will be April 4th which is the first Feast, Passover (usually a full moon)
3. The second Feast, Unleavened Bread, begins on the 15th day (day after Passover). It runs for seven days)
4. The Third Feast, Firstfruits, falls on the first Sunday after the Saturday Sabbath. Note this year Passover falls on Sunday evening, the 4th of April. Go to the next weekly Sabbath (10th of April) and Sunday the 11th is Firstfruits.
5. The 4th Feast is Pentecost. Count seven weekly Sabbaths (Saturday) and the 50th day will be Sun. the 30th of May.
6. The fifth Feast, Trumpets is calculated simply by counting from the first “no moon” (black) that you began with ((Mar.20th), now count seven “no moons” down the chart. If you counted right, you should be on “the first day of the seventh month (Tishri)” as Leviticus 23 states. This year it falls on Tuesday, Sept.14th.
7. The sixth Feast, Day of Atonement, takes place ten days from Trumpets. This year it falls on Saturday, the 25th of September.
8. The seventh Feast, Tabernacles begins five days after Atonement, or 15 days from Trumpets. This Feast is seven days in length with two special days (1) the first day (birth of Christ) falls on Friday, October the 1st
(2) the eighth day (Eternal reign of Christ-new heavens-new earth) falls on Friday evening the 8th Of October.

(Once you have followed through the calculations once or twice, it becomes easy. Remember however, we are not into the letter of the Law but the Spirit behind it. Even if you don't do it right, it is far more pleasing to God that you choose to do it. One year we celebrated the last three Feasts a month early because I did not count the seven “no moons” properly. We still had a great time in the Lord!)

20 MOON 04 CALENDAR



(I know its tiny, I did the best I could with the limited space I have in this book. Order one that is at least 5x10 and you will have plenty of room to work)

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18880 S. 57th Court
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Another way to use the Feasts of the Lord to “stir ourselves up by way of reminder” is to keep in mind the three great doctrinal truths that these Feasts also represent, our **JUSTIFICATION**, **SANCTIFICATION** and **GLORIFICATION**:

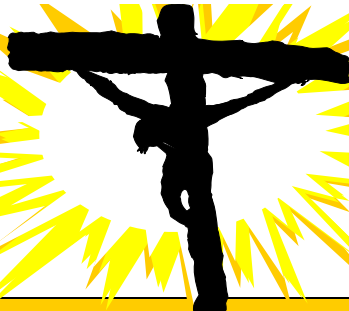
<p>JUSTIFICATION</p>	<p>SANCTIFICATION</p>	<p>GLORIFICATION</p>
<p>JUSTIFICATION: “TO BE MADE INNOCENT AND RIGHTEOUS IN GOD’S SIGHT”</p> <p>When the first three Feasts come around, we should concentrate on how it is that we have been made innocent and righteous in God's sight. It is by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. That is what Jesus said on the cross “it is finished!”. So it is with our justification. We cannot, nor need not, add anything to it. We are saved by grace through faith and not of works. This foundation can be cultivated every year as these three Feasts come into focus.</p>	<p>SANCTIFICATION: “HOLY AND UPRIGHT CONDUCT IN GOD’S SIGHT”</p> <p>Although we are not saved by works we need to cultivate that we are are saved for good works. Remember, Jesus IS measuring our works (Rev. 3:8). Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit sent down by Jesus. It is Jesus who justifies but it is the Holy Spirit who sanctifies. God does care how we live as Christians. Pentecost is where we get the power to live right!</p>	<p>GLORIFICATION: “TO BE HONORED, MAGNIFIED AND DIGNIFIED IN GOD’S SIGHT”</p> <p>The rapture at Trumpets will change our mortal bodies to immortal (1 Cor. 15:51-58). We will not all be the same in eternity. (1 Cor. 15:41-42). The one who wins souls and those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars of the firmaments (Dan. 12:3). The glory of the Body of Christ and the glory of the Bride of Christ will not be the same! We must learn to live in light of eternity! These last three Feasts are designed to accomplish that goal.</p>



JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION:
 "TO BE MADE INNOCENT AND
 RIGHTEOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT"

**"...your SPIRIT,
 PRESERVED BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST"**



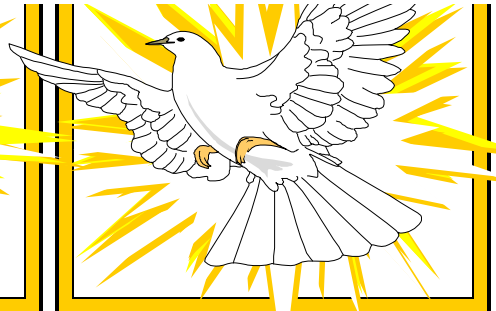
**PASSOVER,
 UNLEAVENED BREAD,
 FIRSTFRUITS**



SANCTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION:
 "HOLY AND UPRIGHT CONDUCT
 IN GOD'S SIGHT"

**SOUL,
 and BODY"**



PENTECOST



GLORIFICATION

GLORIFICATION:
 "TO BE HONORED, MAGNIFIED AND
 DIGNIFIED IN GOD'S SIGHT"

1 Thess 5:23



**TRUMPETS,
 ATONEMENT,
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



“THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE TABERNACLE”
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THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD



IN ALL OF MY YEARS OF TEACHING AND STUDY I HAVE NOT FOUND ANY GREATER KEYS TO UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES CONTAINED WITHIN THE BIBLE THAN THE TWO SUBJECTS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS BOOK.

THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD OF LEVITICUS 23 FORESHADOW *WHAT* GOD INTENDS TO DO ON THE EARTH, AND THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION IN GENESIS FORESHADOW *WHEN* IT SHALL ALL COME TO PASS. MAY GOD GRANT YOU UNDERSTANDING OF HIS WILL AND HIS WAYS AS YOU READ.

Pastor Randy Shupe

THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION

the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, the **LIFE**
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