

A Voice In The Wilderness

Canada - USA

Yahweh, The Almighty God of Israel, is With Us!

THE FEAST DAYS OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL

The Feast Days commanded in the Bible belong to JEHOVAH, the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's Feasts. "These are the Feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons", says the Almighty in His Word.

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The Feast Days of The God of Israel 777

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**All Praise to Yahweh, The Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob – Israel
May He bless you all as only He can bless.
Amen**

Elders: Max W. Mader & Chris A. Yenni

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**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak
unto the children of Israel, and say unto them,
Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall
proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are
my feasts . . . These are the feasts of the LORD,
even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in
their seasons.**

(Leviticus 23:1, 2 & 4)

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PART ONE

Introduction

By far, the best way to determine the real interests of a person is to note the festivals he/she attends. Festivals are generally happy events, when people with similar interests assemble to celebrate something. At a festival, all the age-old barriers of race, colour and class are usually swept aside as people give themselves over to the "*spirit of the occasion*". And so, we have *music festivals, sports festivals, film festivals, wine festivals, carnivals, fetes, fairs, religious festivals and feasts* of various kinds. Indeed, there is a festival to suit almost every taste and they are all normally well attended.

Festivals are often held to commemorate some important event and in this connection they may be referred to as **memorial festivals**. Many religious festivals fall into this category; they are 'memorial festivals', held to commemorate the actions of the various gods people worship.

This study is of the **Feast Days of Yahweh the Holy One of Israel**, the Creator of the mighty universe, the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the One who is intensely interested in the welfare of every soul on earth. Yes, the Almighty has certain memorials. He calls them '**My Feasts**' for they are the **Sacred Memorial Banquets** of His greatest acts in the Programme of Salvation; banquets to which all His subjects are invited.

Lev. 23:1-4 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **Feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even **these are MY FEASTS** . . . These are the **Feasts of the LORD**, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*

Note the Almighty's words "**These are My Feasts**" and "**These are the Feasts of the Lord**".

Undoubtedly, Yahweh's Feasts were initially given to the people of Israel, for it was His plan that through them salvation was to be proclaimed to the world. But the Feasts themselves are the LORD'S, not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's. Remember this vital fact.

Unlike the popular festivals of Ash Wednesday, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, whose observance is nowhere commanded in the Scriptures, the Feast Days of Yahweh are described in the Bible in considerable detail. They are to be **proclaimed** and **observed by** all true believers in the LORD God of Israel. Read about these sacred memorials in Leviticus

23, Numbers 28 & 29, and Zechariah 14. There you will see overwhelming evidence of their divine origin and everlasting nature.

Stewarton Bible School/A Voice In The Wilderness Canada-USA's aim is to draw the church's attention to these appointed Feasts of the Most High; to proclaim them to all the world in accordance with this divine direction:

Lev. 23:4 ***These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.***

A holy convocation is a **commanded assembly**. In other words, you are commanded to attend and join with fellow worshippers of the God of Israel. This publication is part of that proclamation. It outlines the reasons why you should attend the Feasts of the Holy One of Israel.

What do these sacred Feasts commemorate?

The answer is: ***They are the spiritual anniversaries of Yahweh's mightiest deeds; each and every one of them being an eternal memorial of some distinct, divine accomplishment in the great Programme of Salvation.*** If you read this booklet to the end, you will see that statement proved over and over again.

Let us now consider Yahweh's Feast days in turn, for there are several, and open our minds to the profound spiritual realities they represent.

The Passover Service

The Passover Service introduces us to the first of the annual memorials in the sacred calendar. It was first kept in ancient Egypt when, after four hundred years of slavery, the Almighty rescued His people Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. In that well known episode, Yahweh "***passed over***" the houses of the believers who had obeyed His command to apply the blood of a literal lamb to the lintel and doorposts of their houses. The Almighty spared the lives of Israel's eldest sons, but authorized the **Destroyer** to kill all the firstborn of the Egyptians who had refused to obey.

Exo. 12:29-30 ***And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of the cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.***

Surprising as it may sound, that awesome experience in ancient Egypt on the night of the 14th Abib (the first month in the sacred calendar) was merely a **“scaled-down preview”** a **“miniature object lesson”** a **“dramatised prophecy”** a **“spiritual blueprint”** of a far greater deliverance of Jehovah's people scheduled to occur at the **midnight** of this age. For the real meaning of the Passover is this:

- JEHOVAH (Yahweh), **the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel**, plans to deliver from eternal death ALL who express their faith in Him and accept His offer of eternal life made possible by the death of His Son Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.
- **Yeshua the Messiah's death on Calvary was prefigured by the death of the Passover Lamb** (John 1:29, 1 Cor. 5:7).
- Yeshua sacrificed His life on the Passover, at the **divinely appointed time**, to rescue mankind from the *'slavery of sin'* and its tragic consequences - eternal death!
- And all those who express faith in the Almighty and His Son, the **'Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world'**, will be pardoned, spared, and granted eternal life according to His promise.

“And how”, you may well ask, “is the blood of the real Passover Lamb, the Son of the Almighty God, applied to a believer in this electronic age?” The answer is: by taking part in a special **memorial service** called the **Passover Service** on the evening of the 14th Abib each year, which is the **divinely appointed time**. The Passover Service is a memorial of the Saviour's death on Calvary and every believer in the Messiah is commanded to keep it. **“This do in remembrance of me”**, said the Messiah, the Lamb of God. Memorial services, incidentally, are **not** observed several times a year; neither should they be observed at any time people fancy. The time to observe the Passover Service has been **divinely appointed**; and that time is the evening of the 14th day of the month of Abib. Let all who read, pause and take note.

The new covenant emblems of the Saviour's body and blood are **“unleavened bread and wine”** (Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). These emblems have replaced the need to slay a literal lamb each year, for the **Messiah, the real Passover Lamb, has already been slain**. But the **TIME** set apart for this memorial service remains the same. It is the evening of the 14th day of the first month (Abib) in the sacred calendar (Exodus 13:5-11). The date is important and can never be altered because it is the **memorial date** of our Saviour's death, when he paid with His life to rescue mankind from extinction at the hands of the **Destroyer**. When a believer takes part in this service, he/she is, figuratively speaking, applying the blood of the Messiah to **his/her mind**, which is the *lintel of the soul*. This act of faith is a clear sign to the

Almighty that soul seeks pardon, protection, and salvation. This is how the Passover Lamb's blood is applied to the lintel of a believer's mind in this century.

Incredible as it may seem, the fulfilment of the Passover (the **day itself**, not the Lamb) is still future. According to Scripture, that **day** will be fulfilled in the Kingdom of Heaven. Even the Saviour is awaiting the approaching **midnight of this age** when the Destroyer will be compelled to spare or **passover** all those who are displaying the sign of the **Lamb's blood**.

Luke 22:15-16 *And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.*

Note those words, “**until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God**”. This points to a still future fulfilment of the Passover, an event which will take place just prior to our entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. I repeat, the Passover Lamb, (Yeshua the Messiah), has been slain; it now remains for believers to symbolically apply his blood to their hearts and minds **before the midnight of this age** when the Destroyer will once again circle the earth on his mission of death!

Believers in the Almighty who, therefore, celebrate the Passover Service on the appointed evening each year will be greatly blessed; for as they eat the **unleavened bread** and drink the **wine** (the new covenant emblems of the Saviour's body and blood) they are, in truth, **applying the Saviour's life-giving blood to the lintels of their souls**.

Put differently, we may say Yahweh's main purpose in staging such a breathtaking Passover display in ancient Egypt was His way of giving the entire universe a ‘**prophetic preview**’ of His earth-encompassing plan to ‘**pass over**’ and deliver His people in the closing days of this age. Yes, the LORD God of Israel is in the near future going to personally visit all the nations of the world, and as before, ‘**pass-over**’ (pity, spare, and deliver) all those who faithfully display the Sign of His Son's blood on the lintels of their minds and the door post of their supporting actions. Thus, we can see ancient Israel's exodus from Egypt was a “**prophetic drama**”, a “**living blueprint**”, a “**meaningful model**” of a far greater deliverance of Yahweh's people, which is scheduled to take place on a world scale in **our day**. In view of this, believers in the Messiah should beware of failing to keep this memorial service at its appointed time. (Write to us or see our website for more information on how to hold the Passover in your own home. For our address information, see the back cover of this booklet.)

The Week of Unleavened Bread

The **week of unleavened bread** is often referred to as the **Passover Week**. The first and last days of this week (15th and 21st Abib) are Sabbath days, on which all believers are commanded to rest from their labours and to assemble to worship the Almighty (Leviticus 23:5-8).

Leaven (yeast) is a symbol of sin, hypocrisy, and false doctrine; a **week** represents eternity and a **house** represents the church of God. Thus, the week of unleavened bread, (when every trace of leaven is cleared from the houses of believers), symbolises the church, which is to be purged by God of sin, hypocrisy, and false doctrine for all time. Only when that work has been done will the church be a fit **Temple of God**; a spiritual home the Almighty will inhabit for all eternity. Yes, before Yahweh's Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in His house (the church), He has scheduled Himself to purge His people of every trace of (leaven) sin (Matt. 16:6-12, 1 Cor. 5:6-8, Luke 12:1).

I repeat, there is coming a time when the Almighty will purge **hypocrisy, false doctrine, and sin (leaven)** from the minds of His people; and only when that time arrives will the Week of Unleavened Bread have found its fulfilment, not before.

Scripture tells us this Feast of Unleavened Bread is a **Sacred Sign on the believer's hand and mind the Almighty's law is inscribed therein**. This Feast is, in fact, the appointed sign of faithful obedience, as opposed to the Mark of the Antichrist, which is the brand mark of disobedience.

Exo. 13:6-10 *Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. **And IT shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth:** for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.*

Note: specific reference to this Feast being a sign on the hand and a memorial between the eyes (the mind).

The Feast of Pentecost

The **Feast of Pentecost**, also called the **Feast of First Fruits**, falls on the 50th day after the Passover Sabbath. **This feast is a reminder, a guarantee of Yahweh's power to produce spiritual fruit in the field of human salvation.** The literal *first fruits* of the soil are merely the physical types or expressions of the real **first fruits of the Holy Spirit**.

The first fruits of the Holy Spirit are the true believers won to God by **His Son the firstborn** (1 Cor. 15:20 & 23, James 1:18, Rev. 14:4).

The ancient ceremony of presenting the Almighty with the firstfruits of the earth (Deut. 26:1-11) with two oven-baked loaves, in which the leaven had been de-activated (Lev. 23:15-17), was a *figure, a type, a shadow of the spiritual harvest* of human souls in whom the **yeast of sin** will one day cease to exist. There is coming a day when the power of sin will be de-activated in us believers just as the power of leaven is neutralised in an oven baked loaf.

The breathtaking experience recorded in Acts 2 was but the **early harvest**, a kind of “**firstfruits**” of an even greater out-pouring of **divine power** scheduled to fall upon the church in the near future when the main harvest of human beings will be gathered in.

The Feast of Pentecost, in short, prefigures, guarantees, and commemorates the early harvest, the **first fruits of human souls**: and those who celebrate it declare their willingness to be part of the spiritual multitude which will one day be gathered in and presented to the Almighty by His Son - the **Firstborn!**

The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets is celebrated on the first day of Ethanim (Tishri) the seventh month in the sacred calendar (Lev. 23:24).

Trumpets were used by Yahweh's command in ancient Israel to:

- assemble the congregation and to start journeying (Numbers 10:2)
- call the leaders of Israel together (verse 4)
- sound the alarm for war and to signal an attack (verse 9, Judges 3:27, Job 39:25)
- accompany the praises of Israel at the appointed Feasts and the days of the new moon (Numbers 10:10)
- proclaim the accession of kings (2 Sam. 15:10, 1 Kings 1:34, 2 Kings 9:13)
- announce the Jubilee year of freedom (Lev. 25:9)

The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial Sabbath, a day of special significance, designed to bring the faithful into remembrance before the Almighty. The two silver trumpets mentioned in Numbers 10 were types of the great originals in the heavens - the **Trumpets of Yahweh & His Son**. Those divine originals are mentioned several times in the Scriptures, and at their sounding, events of awesome importance have and **still will** take place. We read about the trumpet's past and future use in:

- The giving of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:14-19)
- **The world wide warning still scheduled for the future when Yahweh Himself will blow the trumpet** (Zech. 9:14, Isaiah 18:3, Zeph. 1:14-16)
- Signalling the events scheduled for the close of this age (Revelation chapters 8 & 9)
- The Second Advent of Jesus Christ; at which the resurrection will take place (Matt. 24:31, 1 Cor. 15:51-52)

A study of the texts listed above will show how Yahweh Himself has planned to use His heavenly trumpets again. **He and His Son will blow them** to gather His people as in days gone by; gather them for the climactic events scheduled to take place at the Messiah's return. Did he not say:

Isaiah 18:3 *All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when He lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and **when He bloweth a trumpet, HEAR YE.***

Zech. 9:14 ***And the LORD shall be seen over them, and His arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with the whirlwinds of the south.***

The prophecy of the Revelation tells of the sounding of heavenly trumpets - possibly starting at a Feast of Trumpets - which will probably coincide with the gathering of Yahweh's people in the last days and the final war in heaven between the forces of good and evil (Rev. 12). (Write to us or see our website for the booklet titled, **Understand the Revelation**, in which the Seven Trumpets are explained.)

No one will doubt but the Feast of Trumpets has still to find even partial fulfilment; and it is because of this fact and the many texts which tell of the use of the Trumpets of God **in the future** that believers should beware of ignoring this important Feast day.

On some future Feast of Trumpets the mighty **Trumpet of the LORD** will sound. It will be heard **throughout the world** and will reverberate with tones as awesome as the rushing sound which filled Jerusalem on the

Day of Pentecost some 2000 years ago (Acts 2:2). All of mankind will hear the Trumpet, for the Bible says:

Zech. 9:14 *And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: **and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet**, and shall go with the whirlwinds of the south.*

Isa. 18:3 *All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; **and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.***

Only when that event happens can we justifiably say the Feast of Trumpets has found fulfilment. (For further information, write to us or see our website for the article, "The Shofar, Herald of the Coming Kingdom".)

The Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement is observed on the 10th day of the seventh month of Ethanim (Tishri) by abstinence from daily labour, by a holy convocation, and by **fasting**. It is the only commanded **fast** in the year and is, doubtless, the most solemn day in the sacred calendar (Lev. 16, Lev. 23:27-32). On this day, the high priest laid aside his official ornaments and, dressed in a white linen garment, entered the Most Holy place to make atonement for himself, the priesthood, and the congregation of Israel. The Epistle to the Hebrews (chapter 9) explains this annual entry by the High Priest in the Holy of Holies foreshadowed the entrance of the Messiah, the High Priest of the Melchizedek Order (Heb. 7:15-17) into Yahweh's presence to secure salvation for His people.

Our salvation, in other words, will only be complete when we are actually brought into the very presence of the Almighty.

The word "atonement" means to make amends for, to reconcile, to restore, to repair, to make **at-one** again. And that is exactly what the Day of Atonement prefigures. **It points to a specific time in the future when the great High Priest of the Melchizedek Order (Yeshua the Messiah) will literally bring the redeemed host of mankind right into the very presence of His Father, in order that we may be AT-ONE with YAHWEH.**

That indeed will be reconciliation beyond compare, when the Almighty's estranged human family - alienated from Him by sin - will actually be brought into His presence to be **AT ONE with Him**. Can you now begin to see the plan of salvation prefigured in the Feasts?

Yahweh's family of true believers will be:

- Ransomed at the Passover and liberated by the blood of His Son - the Passover Lamb.
- Purged of sin, hypocrisy, and false doctrine during the Days of Unleavened Bread to become a holy Temple of God.
- Filled with the power of the Holy Ghost in order to bear fruit for all eternity.
- Victoriously gathered and defended at the Feast of Trumpets when the trumpets of Yahweh will sound throughout the earth.
- Finally, on the Great Day of Atonement, brought into the very presence of the Almighty by his Son the High Priest to be **at-one** with Him for all eternity.

Oh, what a glorious day of reconciliation that will be! Catch a glimpse of it in these words from the famous parable of the Prodigal Son:

Luke 15:22-24 *But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths or Shelters) is celebrated on the 15th day of Ethanim (Tishri), the seventh month in the sacred calendar.

This feast begins a week during which all **'Israelites born'** are required to live in temporary dwellings or shelters (Lev. 23:39-43). It is, at its basic level, a memorial of the time when Yahweh made His people live in tents and temporary shelters in the wilderness when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

At a higher level it is also a reminder or memorial of the fact the Almighty came down from heaven to live in a Tabernacle (a tent) amidst His people Israel (Exodus 33:7-11 & chapters 35 to 40).

The Westminster Dictionary of the Bible has this to say about the Tabernacle in the wilderness: "The moveable sanctuary in the form of a tent which God directed Moses at Sinai to make, **that God might dwell as king among His people**" (Exodus 25:8-9). Hence, it was called a sanctuary.

- **that I may dwell among them** (Exodus 25:8), and as the place where Jehovah met His people
- **tent of the congregation** (Exodus 40:34,35), and as the depository of the tables of the Law of testimony
- **the tabernacle of the testimony** (Exodus 38:21, Exodus 25:21, Numbers 9:15)
- It was also known by the general designation **house of Jehovah** (Exodus 34:26, Josh. 6:24)

From these and other passages, we can see the literal Tabernacle, which Moses built according to the Almighty's design, was merely a type, a shadow, a physical expression of:

- Yahweh's real spiritual habitation
- His point of contact with His people
- His law court or seat of justice, which not only housed his commandments, but from where He personally dealt out Judgment

These three functions of the physical Tabernacle find fulfilment in **Yeshua the Messiah**, the only begotten Son of the Most High, who is, in reality, the true **Tabernacle of God**.

Consequently, we may say the Feast of Tabernacles is also a memorial of the Almighty's astonishing condescension to come down to earth to tabernacle or pitch His tent with humanity in the person of His Son. For **Jesus Christ is Immanuel, GOD WITH US, God incarnate; that is the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel taking up his abode in the tabernacle of a human body, in order to redeem and enable mankind to obey His eternal law.**

Rom. 8:3-4 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Is it any wonder the profound reality of this fact (that God is going to tabernacle with mankind for eternity) drew from the lips of an angel these amazing words:

Rev. 21:3 *. . . Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

I repeat, Yeshua the Messiah is the Tabernacle of God!; and on the earth made new, He will again dwell in the midst of His people just as surely as

He occupied the tabernacle built by Moses in the days of old. This is what the Feast of Tabernacles is a reminder and foretaste of.

The Last Great Day

The Feast, known as the Last Great Day, occurs just after the week of Tabernacles. It is celebrated on the 22nd Ethanim (Lev. 23:36).

The Last Great Day prefigures the endless cycles of eternity when the life-giving power of the Almighty God will flow to and through His people on the earth made new. At the moment (2003), the reality of the Great Day of the Feast is an event to **look forward to**; but in the hereafter, when the saints occupy the new universe, the breathtaking bliss of the Great Day will begin to be appreciated as each anniversary - through the endless ages of eternity - brings unspeakable joy to the ransomed host. The Great Day will have begun - never to end!

A special invitation to this great spiritual banquet of an endless life of bliss is given to you by the Master Himself in:

John 7:37-39 *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

Here is an invitation that tells of how the true believer will not only live with the Almighty for all time, but will go on with the Creator to become the channel and co-producer of life everlasting to others, just as a young wife is the potential mother of many generations to come. Oh, the astonishing wonder of that declaration in John 7:37-39. Can you afford to ignore it?

These, then, are the appointed, **memorial Feasts** in the Almighty's Programme of Salvation. As you can, see each and every one of them commemorates in a special way a unique accomplishment of the Holy One of Israel.

- **Passover** - when Yahweh, the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel paid the price for the redemption of mankind by sacrificing His Son Yeshua, the Passover Lamb for the sin of the world.
- **The Week of Unleavened Bread** - when the Almighty puts sin, hypocrisy, and false doctrine out of His church, His house, His Temple - for all time!

- **Pentecost** - when the Almighty begins to produce **spiritual fruit**, the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, patience, kindness, etc.) in the lives of His true followers.
- **Trumpets** - when He calls, gathers, protects, and battles in their defence.
- **Atonement** - when the ransomed church is brought by the Almighty's Son into the very presence of His Father to be made **'at-one'** with Him.
- **Tabernacles** - when Yahweh takes up His eternal abode and *tabernacles* with His people in the person of His Son.
- **The Last Great Day** - when through the power of the Holy Ghost Yahweh's church will become the channel of blessing to the entire universe - for the **great day** which we call ***Eternity!***

This is the message of the Bible concerning the Feast Days of Yahweh the Holy One of Israel. And it is concerning these Sacred Feasts He says:

Lev. 23:2-4 *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are MY FEASTS . . . These are the FEASTS OF THE LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*

Who are the Children of Israel?

The true children of Israel, astonishing as this may sound, are those who have put their faith in the LORD God of Israel and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ.

Gal. 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Rom. 2:28-29 *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

Gentiles who believe in the Messiah of Israel are, according to the Holy Scriptures, grafted into the ***Olive of Israel***. They become part of the ***commonwealth of spiritual Israel*** and thereafter share all the blessings

of the chosen race. Paul's letter to the Romans (chapter 11) makes this fact abundantly clear.

Rom. 11:17-27 *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; . . . Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shall be cut off. **And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again . . .** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

What do these facts mean? They mean exactly what they say: **all true believers in the LORD God of Israel and His Son Yeshua are Israelites** and are included in this gracious invitation to become part of the **Olive of Israel**. As Israelites we rejoice greatly and gladly observe the Feasts of the LORD; the eternal memorials of our salvation!

Lev. 23:2 *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my Feasts.*

If you are a believer in the Son of the Most High, then the invitation to keep His appointed Feasts is extended to you. Accept it without delay.

The Feast Days Were Ordained at the Creation

The very first reference in the Scriptures to the sacred seasons and Feasts of the Almighty was made on the fourth day of creation: that is, before mankind had even entered the picture.

Gen. 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for SIGNS, and for SEASONS, and for DAYS, and YEARS:***

The capitalized words in this verse are extremely meaningful; because they link the creation of the sun, moon, and stars with the **sacred**

seasons and Feast days of the Creator. Using Strong's dictionary, a close look at those words reveals:

- **SIGN #0226 'owth'** {oth} is translated a *signal, a distinguishing mark, a banner, a remembrance, an omen, a warning, a token, an ensign, banner, miracle and proof!*

In other words, the sun, moon, and stars were created primarily to signal events of special importance. More about this later.

- **SEASONS #04150 'mow`ed' {mo-ade} or mo`ed {mo-ade}** is translated a *congregation 150, feast 23, season 13, appointed 12, time 12, assembly 4, solemnity 4, solemn 2, days 1, sign 1, synagogues 1, making a total of 223 times.*

In other words, the sun and moon would signal the **TIMES** of the **appointed FEAST DAYS, SACRED SEASONS (Passover, Tabernacles, etc.), and SABBATICAL YEARS** when the people of God were to meet with their Creator.

The verse, Genesis 1:14, right there in the very first chapter of the Bible, is the earliest reference concerning the awe-inspiring **signs** mankind would witness in the heavens on the Almighty's Feast days, sacred seasons, and Jubilee years. It proves beyond any doubt Jehovah's Feasts were an integral part of His emergency plan, which would come into action should Adam and Eve choose to sin. The Plan of Salvation and the Feast days, which concern the timing of that plan, were not a divine after-thought hurriedly put together by the Almighty when Adam sinned: but a pre-planned, standby schedule in which each major act in the drama of salvation was to occur at a **divinely appointed time**. It was a rescue programme held in readiness in the event of mankind sinning. Yahweh's solemn Feasts, in other words, are part of the Plan of Salvation; for they not only prefigure the seven major events in His plan, but they specifically identify the **appointed times WHEN** those mighty events are scheduled to take place.

Gen. 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

In other words: **Let there be SIGNS in the sun, moon and stars to signal the Feast days, sacred seasons (Passover and Tabernacles) and the Sabbatical/Jubilee years of the Creator!**

The Feast Day Commandments and their Eternal Nature

Many sincere believers suppose the Feast days mentioned in the Bible were a **temporary feature** instituted by the Eternal only till the time of the

Saviour's death and resurrection: they were '**done away with**', '**nailed to the cross**', and are, therefore, of little importance to Christians under the new covenant. Nothing is further from the truth. To prove this, we will examine Yahweh's commandments concerning His Feasts to see if they were in fact temporary or eternal.

The commandments concerning the Feasts of Yahweh are found in the following passages: Exodus 12:14-24, Exodus 13:5-16, Leviticus 23 - the whole chapter, but note carefully verses 14, 21, 31 and 41. Space does not allow us to quote all these verses, but let us look at one or two and refer to Strong's dictionary in order to appreciate the kind of **language** Yahweh used when giving His Feast day commandments. The verse I have selected is in the book of Exodus, but the other verses mentioned above are just as meaningful because they use similar or identical terms.

Exo. 12:14 *And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance*
FOR EVER.

According to Strong's dictionary the word **Forever # 05769 owlam {o-lawm'}** or **olam {o-lawm'}** means: *everlasting, perpetual, evermore, always, continuous, unending future or for eternity!* In other words, Yahweh's Feasts were appointed by Him to be celebrated from generation to generation, age after age, for all time, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity! They were **never to be abrogated**. The word "abrogate" means to cancel, to nullify, to repeal, to do away with, to abolish. Does that sound as if He would a few hundred years later do away with them? Certainly not. The very suggestion is insulting the intelligence of the Almighty and casting doubt on His ability to say what He means and mean what He says. Also, remember there are other Bible verses - every bit as powerful as the one given above - which in exactly the same way define the **eternal nature** of Yahweh's Feasts. Turn to them in Leviticus 23 verses 14, 21, 31 and 41. There, over and over again, you will see how the Holy One of Israel commands His people in **everlasting tones** to celebrate His Feast days for **all time**.

So do not let anyone confuse you by saying the Feast Days of the Almighty God of Israel have been done away with: because they haven't. All who make such wild and totally irresponsible claims - and you will hear them - are insulting the intelligence and ability of the Most High to formulate His own laws; and it is unthinkable He who knows the end from the beginning would have used such enduring language, terms such as '**for ever and ever**', '**perpetual**', and '**from generation to generation**,' if all along His plan was to do away with the Feasts at Calvary. The very idea borders on blasphemy and is only being given this coverage because of the untold damage false doctrine is causing in the ranks of the Christian church.

The plain truth is this: as the supreme Judge and Advocate in the law court of Heaven, Yahweh knew perfectly well what He was saying when He commanded His solemn Feasts to be celebrated **for ever, from age to age, for ALL TIME!**

Further confirmation of this fact will be given later where you will see in the coming millennial age, and in the age after that (on the new earth), the redeemed host of mankind will celebrate the Feast Days of the Almighty with great gladness and respect.

The Feast Day Sacrifices

Even a quick survey of this subject will surprise the reader; for whereas the Daily Sacrifice was 2 lambs, the Feast day sacrifice was a bull, a ram, 7 lambs and a male goat. Indeed during the Passover week some 49 lambs were slain, in addition to several bulls, rams and male goats. And even this number fades by comparison when one considers during the **Week of Tabernacles** 98 lambs, 70 bulls, 14 rams and 7 male goats were slaughtered. All these sacrifices were made in addition to the Daily Sacrifice of 2 lambs. See Numbers 28 & 29 where these sacrifices are detailed.

This multiple slaughter of innocent victims was, bear in mind, carried out by the Almighty's command. "What was the purpose of all this killing on the Feast Days?", you may well ask. "Wasn't the sacrifice of **one lamb** at the Passover enough to illustrate the innocence of the Saviour?", or "What was the point in slaying some 200 animals at the Feast of Tabernacles when Christ - to whom all the sacrifices pointed - was slain at the Passover some six months earlier?"

The answer, briefly, is this: whereas the sacrificial lamb symbolized the innocence of Yeshua (Jesus) the Lamb of God, the multiplied slaughter of victims - the sheer number of animals - prefigured in mathematical terms the **manifold results** the single sacrifice of the Saviour would bring about at certain **appointed times** in the great Plan of Salvation. For it is a fact, numbers describe the magnitude, the capacity, the value, and the overall results of an achievement far more accurately and meaningfully than all the adjectives in the dictionary. Thus, the significance of Yahweh's Feast Days are also numerically described by the **massive number** of sacrifices made upon them as days of supreme importance when the Almighty's greatest achievements will be made manifest to the whole universe.

The Sin of Jeroboam, Israel's Catastrophic Blunder

After the death of King Solomon, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin (and some Levites) stayed loyal to Solomon's son Rehoboam and formed the **Kingdom of Judah**.

The other tribes broke away under a man called Jeroboam the son of Nebat. They retained the title the **Kingdom of Israel**. The city of Jerusalem was in Judah and its crowning glory was the Temple, which Solomon had built. Three times a year, all Israelite males were commanded by God to go up to Jerusalem: at the **Passover**, at **Pentecost** and at the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Exodus 23:17, Deut. 16:16). Israel's new king, Jeroboam, feared his rebellion against Rehoboam would collapse if his people went up year-by-year to Judah for the **sacred feast of the LORD**. He was extremely worried. At all costs, he must prevent the men of Israel from going to Jerusalem for the Feasts of Yahweh. And this is the record of what he said.

1 Kings 12:27-33 *If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the Land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. **And this thing became a sin:** for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam **ordained a feast** in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, **like unto the feast that is in Judah**, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month **which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel:** and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.*

Believe it or not, that seemingly insignificant act of worshipping two metal idols on **unsanctified feast days** was the most catastrophic blunder ancient Israel made. It is a sin so grievous that over and over again the wickedness of succeeding kings was measured against it. Repeatedly these words appear: 1 Kings 15:34, 16:2 & 26, 2 Kings 3:2-3, "**And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin**".

Why was Jeroboam's sin so grievous? Because by it, with one master-stroke, he allowed Satan to sever the nation's main spiritual link with Yahweh's appointed Sabbaths and form of worship. The sacred Feasts were times for spiritual instruction and revival, when the men and families

of Israel gathered in Jerusalem to learn of the Almighty and His requirements (Exodus 34:23). Jeroboam's bogus festivals and substitute form of worship at Bethel broke that spiritual link and like a rudderless ship the nation of Israel began to drift away from the Creator.

The results were appalling, for very soon millions of Israelites completely lost their spiritual bearings and adopted the basest forms of paganism. Many were the calls to repentance, but the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat **(the sin of using substitute forms of worship on unsanctified festivals)** was not given up. As a result, the Almighty carried out His predicted threats given through His servants the prophets and handed the people of Israel over to their enemies. After a series of devastating defeats, they were deported from the Promised Land and sold like cattle in the markets of the Middle East.

2 Kings 17:20-23 *And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until He had cast them out of His sight. For He rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and **Jeroboam drave Israel from following the Lord, and made them sin a great sin.** For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; **Until** the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.*

The action of Jeroboam, apparently trivial as it may seem, was obviously a most grievous sin. It was spiritual adultery at its worst; the **act of mixing and diluting truth with error**. In essence, it consisted of merging the laws of the Almighty with human tradition and trying to worship Him on **bogus festivals** and **sabbaths**, which were nothing but unauthorised imitations of Yahweh's appointed Feasts.

Hundreds of years earlier the prophet Moses had foretold Israel's scattering and deportation if they forsook the commandments of God and here it was happening exactly as foretold.

Deut. 28:64 *And the LORD shall scatter thee among **all** people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

Strange as it may seem, that selfsame sin of adulterating truth with error, of introducing bogus religious feasts into true worship has been repeated on a world scale by the Christian Church. Yes, it is true, the mighty congregations of Christendom have done - and are still doing - what ancient Israel did under king Jeroboam. Over the centuries,

truth has been diluted with error and the introduction and acceptance of **unsanctified sabbaths and feast days** is now so widespread that comparatively few believers are even aware of the deception. This may sound like a shocking statement, but it is absolutely true; and if the reader **is not afraid of truth** he/she must read on, for proof of this fact will follow in abundance.

At this very moment, the whole of Christendom is steadily - yea, almost imperceptibly - splitting into two distinct camps:

1. Those who respect the laws of the LORD God of Israel and add to their faith **obedience**, especially that form of obedience which manifests itself in keeping the Bible Sabbaths.
2. And those who look upon **obedience** almost as though it were a competitor of faith. This persuasion, surprisingly, sees little amiss in clinging to the popular but unsanctified feasts of Christendom and the bogus sabbath of Sunday. Like Israel of old these believers are, in the main, refusing to keep the Almighty's Feasts; but like Jeroboam of old, they worship on man-made feasts which have no divine authority whatsoever.

Sooner or later all those who classify themselves as believers in the Creator will move into one or other of these two camps.

The Feast Days - Times for Spiritual Revival

No one can study the history of Israel as recorded in the Scriptures without becoming impressed with the fact that whenever Yahweh's people chose to break His law, they suffered the consequences. And, if they persisted in their rebellion by refusing to forsake the path of disobedience, then the Almighty invariably withdrew His blessings and allowed their enemies to rule over them. This tragic sequence of **disobedience (sin), always being followed by punishment of one kind or the other**, happened over and over again in Israel's past; and it happened in direct fulfilment of the divine pronouncements made through the patriarch Moses. A survey of Deuteronomy 28 will prove this point and a study of the books of Judges, Kings, and Chronicles will fix the lesson in your mind for life.

In short, when Yahweh's people disobeyed Him, they were punished - often very severely - but when they repented of their sins and turned back to the pathway of obedience they were blessed; blessed in a measure that was quite breathtaking in its effect and out of all proportion to their obedience. The Almighty literally showered upon His people the spiritual riches of heaven and the bounties of the earth. **When they obeyed His commandments they prospered in all they did, and when they**

refused to obey, they suffered the consequences. In a sentence, that summarizes Israel's history.

Now, bear in mind **Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel**, has not changed (Mal. 3:6). He still blesses those who obey Him and punishes those who sin. No matter how people try to ignore this fact, it will not go away, because it is a fundamental teaching of the Scriptures. If you trust and obey the Most High, you will be blessed. But if you persist in sinning, you will be punished; it's as basic as that.

Let us now look at four revivals recorded in the Scriptures to illustrate this point.

1. The Revival under King Hezekiah

Before Hezekiah came to the throne, the Temple in Jerusalem had been tragically desecrated. The holy lamps had been put out and the Temple doors shut. Organised worship of the Creator had been more or less suspended. As a result, the Kingdom of Judah was spiritually bankrupt. But when Hezekiah came to the throne a great change took place. On the **first day of the first month** in the sacred calendar - the **real** New Year's Day - he ordered the doors of the Temple be opened and the filth that lay in the Holy Place removed (2 Chron., chapters 29 & 30).

This cleansing work was soon finished and royal invitations to come to Jerusalem for the Passover were sent out by special couriers to every corner of the Promised Land. The record reads:

2 Chron. 30:5-9 *So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should **come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel** at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written. So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you. For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall*

find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

The vast majority of the Israelites treated this invitation with blasphemous contempt. **"They laughed them to scorn, and mocked them,"** (verse 10). Nevertheless, a great multitude of believers humbled themselves and assembled in Jerusalem to keep the Passover. Thus, began one of the greatest revivals in Israel's history.

The Spirit of the Almighty was present at that **sacred season, the Passover**; and there followed a great outpouring of blessing on the assembled worshippers. A revival shook the city of Jerusalem and it sent spiritual vibrations to the furthestmost corners of Israel. The nation once again began to obey Yahweh's Law and to remember His sacred Feasts. For His part, the Almighty in His great mercy pardoned their sins and blessed them abundantly. When did that extraordinary revival begin?

It began, as pointed out above, on New Year's Day (1st Abib) and it came to a climax at the sacred season called the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**. Bear that little known fact in mind because it has deep spiritual significance.

2. The Revival under King Josiah

After Hezekiah died, the nation of Judah under their next king (Manasseh) soon slipped back into the ways of heathenism.

2 Chron. 33:1-11 **Manasseh** was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the **host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD**. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of

God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

The spiritual repercussions of these blatant sins came with frightening severity; verse 11: *"Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon."* Tremendous confusion broke out in Judah and when Manasseh died his twenty-four-year old son ascended the throne; but he was murdered in the palace after reigning only two years. It was the same old story: **sin degrades a nation and punishment always follows disobedience.**

Then onto the stage of time came **Josiah**, one of Judah's greatest kings. Josiah was only eight years old when he came to the throne; but he accomplished more for the truth of God by the age of twenty five than all the kings of Israel and Judah before him. The reformation under Josiah was swift and astonishing in its effect. With terrifying ruthlessness, he demolished the altars of Baal and cut down the Asherim (heathen poles) in the high places. He literally purged the land of paganism and humbly reinstated the worship of Jehovah in accordance with His Law (2 Chron. 34). King Josiah then organised the Passover celebrations and invited the whole nation to Jerusalem.

2 Chron. 35:17-18 *And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

Once more revival swept the nation and Yahweh blessed Josiah with a blessing that will clothe him with honour and glory throughout the endless

cycles of eternity. When did that nation-wide revival begin? The answer is: it began at the sacred season of the **Passover in the month of Abib**. Bear that little known fact in mind because its significance will be explained later in this study.

3. The Revival under Ezra and Nehemiah

After Josiah's death the nation again sank into grievous sin. It seemed as though a devilish addiction for disobedience had gripped the people. They simply refused to obey the Almighty and continued to follow the practices of the heathen around them. As for the Almighty's sacred Sabbaths, they totally forsook them. The lessons of the past were all forgotten and the warnings of Yahweh's prophets were treated with blasphemous contempt.

2 Chron. 36:14-21 *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: **But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.** Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.***

The prophet Jeremiah lived during this period of rebellion and his book of Lamentations is, perhaps, the saddest book in the Bible. What did Jeremiah say about Yahweh's Feasts? He said this:

Lam. 1: 4-5 *The ways of Zion do mourn, **because none come to the solemn feasts:** all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness. Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; **for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions:** . . .*

The tragically misunderstood prophet Jeremiah could not imagine anything more distressing than his country's destruction, her capital city burned to the ground and her beautiful Temple reduced to a pile of rubble. Yet he knew within his bones a mocking disregard for **Yahweh's Law and especially His Feasts** was the forerunner of national catastrophe. Jeremiah could see, and very plainly, that Yahweh's law - **the irrevocable constitution of the mighty universe** - was being contemptuously set aside by the masses who were being deluded by their blind and stubborn religious leaders.

The nation of Israel rejected Jeremiah's call to repentance and in the course of time the inevitable happened. The LORD God of Israel allowed the city of Jerusalem to be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. His well disciplined but ruthless battalions stormed the capital and literally tore it apart. Thousands of terrified half-naked captives were brutally deported to Babylon and the land of Judah was subdued and lay desolate for seventy years. Note that significant reference to the Sabbath which even the land was to keep every seventh year (Lev. 25:1-7).

Time passed, the predicted seventy year captivity ended and the returning exiles came back in waves to the Promised Land. Under **Zerubbabel** the governor, **Nehemiah** the prophet, and **Ezra** the priest, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of Yahweh were rebuilt. There followed a revival of mighty significance and one which caused the enemies of truth to tremble throughout the Middle East. With astonishing speed, the wall of Jerusalem and the Temple of Yahweh were rebuilt and the **sacred Feast days of the Almighty** proclaimed. A holy spirit of dedication swept the country and all pagan associations and alliances were broken off. Multitudes of believers attended the sacred Feasts and the blessings of the Almighty poured down on the nation.

These events are recorded in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah and what thrilling reading they make. Yahweh's people, after a long and painful exile, return to the land of promise and to the city they love. The spiritual lessons for the church of today are too numerous to tell, though thousands of worthy sermons have been based on them. What is not generally known is this fact, all those recorded experiences of ancient Israel and Judah:

- the slavery in Egypt
- salvation through the blood of the Lamb

- the exodus under Moses and the giving of the Law at Sinai
- the entry into Canaan under Joshua (Yeshua)
- the nation's repeated backslidings and the revivals at the sacred seasons
- the punishment during times of apostasy
- the blessings during times of obedience
- the defeats and the dispersion because of national sin
- finally, the return to the Promised Land

Yes, all those experiences were **figures, types, dramatised real-life examples**, and **prophetic illustrations** of what was later to happen to Yahweh's Church on a world scale in days to follow. Here is proof of this amazing fact.

1 Cor. 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

Yes, believe it or not, the Christian church, for all its boasted knowledge and wealth, is, in fact, repeating those ancient experiences on the **spiritual plane** in this very day: and what is even more amazing is she is doing so according to a **divinely appointed schedule** which parallels those revivals of long, long ago. In this revival under Nehemiah and Ezra, take special note of these points.

- The burnt offerings to the Eternal were resumed on the 1st day of the seventh month - the Feast of Trumpets (Ezra 3:6).
- Ezra, the scribe of the Law of God, set out from Babylon on the 1st day of the New Year (1st Abib - not 1st January) and arrived at Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month (Ezra 7:9).
- A programme of separation from pagan alliances began on the 1st day of the tenth month and was completed exactly 3 months later, by the 1st day of the first month (Ezra 10:16-17).

Are these facts and times significant? I believe they are. Indeed, if you were to take a concordance and read every text in the Scriptures where the word **month** is mentioned, your eyes will be opened to this astonishing truth: **Jehovah is working to a carefully planned schedule in which every future stage of the plan of salvation has already been prefigured by a literal event, a 'type', a 'shadow', a 'miniature demonstration', a 'spiritual blueprint' which has already taken place in the history of His people at an appointed time.** And those appointed times of long ago - all of them - are directly linked to end-time events in the Almighty's calendar. We refer to it as The Sacred Calendar of the God of Israel.

- The exact moment when the Abyss burst open in Noah's day (Gen. 7:11) and the tops of the mountains appeared (Gen. 8:5)

- When the covering of the ark was removed (Gen. 8:13)
- The date of Israel's exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12 and 13)
- The date the Tabernacle was erected in the wilderness (Exodus 40:17)
- The day Moses re-iterated Yahweh's law to Israel (Deut. 1:3)

All these and numerous other events are specifically referred to **by date**: which means the details of those ancient events **and their dates** should be closely studied by believers living in the closing days of this age (1 Cor. 10:11).

Why? Because when the **spiritual realities portrayed by those ancient events** occur in our day, we can be certain they will occur on the **same dates** in the sacred calendar as their Old Testament counterparts did in days gone by. In other words, **future events have not only been foreshadowed, but the dates on which they will occur have also been specified.**

Just as Noah removed the covering from the ark on New Year's Day (1st Abib) after having been shut in by Yahweh for almost a year (Gen. 8:13), so, too, will the Almighty remove - **on an appointed day** - the covering that is draped over the minds of millions.

Isa. 25:6-8 *And in this mountain shall the LORD of Hosts make unto all people **a feast** of fat things, **a feast** of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And He will destroy in this mountain the **face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.***

4. The Revival under the Apostles

No revival in the history of the church can compare with the one which began on the Day of Pentecost in the year of the Messiah's resurrection. For forty days after his passion, the Master appeared several times to his disciples and proved he was alive. During those days, He talked with them about the **Kingdom of God** and gave them this specific order:

Acts 1:4-5 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be **baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.*

Here the Saviour was commanding the Apostles to wait for the **Feast of Pentecost**, to gather and stay in Jerusalem till that sacred season arrived. In obedience to his command, they stayed in the city and awaited the day of Pentecost and the promised gift.

Acts 2:1-4 *And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

This outpouring of Yahweh's Spirit was, and still is for that matter, accompanied by **power to witness effectively**; not merely to perform miracles. Note these words:

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

This prophecy began to come to pass within a few days of being spoken with an experience on the Feast of Pentecost that transformed the early church from a small timid group of believers into a spiritual dynamo that lit up the whole civilised world with the glorious gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven. Then for the very first time, the real significance of **Yahweh's Feast Days** became apparent; for here indeed was the Almighty setting before His obedient church a **spiritual banquet** of undreamed-of content; a divine infilling so glorious the finest feast of literal food could only be a faint shadow. Here was spiritual nourishment for the soul: a banquet of power for the whole church that was scheduled to come at the **appointed time** in Yahweh's programme: supernatural power which would enable the disciples to take the Gospel to the civilised world.

Now, let no-one suppose the mighty outflow of spiritual power which came on the church at **Pentecost** some two thousand years ago was all the Eternal has planned for His people. Oh no! The prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 goes far beyond the happenings on that memorable day in Jerusalem. The events recorded in Acts chapter 2 are by comparison only the '*appetisers*,' the '*starters*,' the '*foretaste*' and '*beginnings*' of a much greater **Banquet of Power** still to be set before the obedient church in the near future. On some coming Feast Day - any year from now - the LORD God of Israel is going to astound the universe with the next great event in His Programme of Salvation. And we can be certain it will be an event more spectacular, more wonderful, more powerful and more effective than all the sons of men have hitherto seen or even remotely imagined.

Now pause a while and consider – yea, analyse the revivals recorded in the Scriptures. Did you notice they were **all** directly linked with the **sacred seasons** in the Almighty's calendar? They all either began with or climaxed on one or the other of the **Feasts Days**?

And why not? For that is exactly why the Eternal, at the creation of the world, ordained His Feasts. The Feasts are His **appointed times and sacred seasons**, and are entered in His diary as days of special significance, days to keep, days to look forward to, days to remember, sacred memorial days set aside to mark the times when He would perform His greatest acts in the Programme of Salvation. That is why He has commanded His followers to remember them, to celebrate them with feasting, joy and gladness; for they are the **sacred memorial days of our salvation**.

The Feast Days in the New Covenant

"Just a moment," someone will say, "are not these Feasts all part of the old covenant? And as such, they have been fulfilled by Jesus and nailed to the cross at Calvary. They are, therefore, obsolete and it is no longer necessary for believers to observe them. Besides, are they not Jewish?" Doubtless, some of you may have heard these and similar statements. But are you sure they have the backing of Scripture? Have you examined the evidence to see if that is what the Bible says? Have you looked into the New Testament record to see what the early church did **after the Saviour's resurrection**? Have you read the **prophecies** concerning the **new covenant** and the **Feasts of Yahweh**, prophecies identifying **who** the new covenant is made with and what's new about it? Prophecies which tell of the coming millennium (the 1000 year Reign of Peace) when **all the nations of the earth** will obediently keep the Feasts? Have you considered that weighty Scripture which tells of the Sabbaths of Yahweh being observed for **all eternity on the New Earth**?

Or are you believing what you want to believe because you are secretly afraid of the truth, incorrectly supposing it will somehow ruin your life if you accept it? Always bear in mind **facts do not cease to exist because people refuse to accept them**. Facts are stubborn things, and the only effective way to deal with them is to examine them and then act upon them.

In view of this, I would advise before you make any lasting judgment one way or the other, before you settle your mind in a fixed position which you may well find impossible to abandon, examine what the Scriptures have to say about the **new covenant** and the Sabbaths of the Most High under it.

1. New Covenant Basics

Consider these four eye-opening facts about the new covenant mentioned in the Scriptures:

- **FIRST: The new covenant is not made with ANY Gentile church, however dedicated, large and special it may consider itself to be. Instead, it is made between the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and His people ISRAEL & JUDAH!** That is the first stunning fact the Christian church must come to terms with.
- **SECOND: The new covenant became necessary because 'God found fault with them;'** that is, with those early Israelites, because deep within their hearts they didn't really want to obey the Almighty, but rebelled against Him time and time again.
- **THIRD: In the new covenant the Law of the Almighty still abides;** however this time it is not written on stone tablets, but on the hearts and minds of His people Israel! Note it is the **same law** under consideration here; albeit it is written in a different place. Before it was written on stone tablets. In the new covenant it is written on the true believer's mind.
- **FOURTH: Once the new covenant is ratified and becomes fully operational, there will no longer be a need for teachers to teach spiritual lessons about the LORD; because every Israelite who accepts the new covenant will know Him.** At that time we will no more need instruction about things spiritual than we currently need instruction as to how to breathe air or digest our food. This last fact proves that these vital aspects of the new covenant have still to be ratified. Now let us consider the texts, which prove the above statements.

Jer. 31:31-34 ***Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of ISRAEL, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of ISRAEL; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of***

them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Heb. 8:7-11

*For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. **For finding fault with THEM, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of ISRAEL and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that **I will make with the house of ISRAEL** after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.***

These four facts mean if **any believer** wishes to be party to the new covenant, he/she must agree to be grafted into the **Olive of Israel** and then have Yahweh's Law written on his/her mind. Those who stumble at this prospect have absolutely no place or function in the new covenant! Write to us or see our website for the article titled, "Sacred Covenants".

2. The Saviour's Advice

Matt. 24:20

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day:

We now ask, for the sake of all the respect and honest analysis this subject deserves, what was the point of the Master giving this kind of advice to his predominantly Jewish followers, who all kept the seventh day Sabbath (Saturday) if the Sabbath commandment was going to be abolished at the cross? Why advise them to keep a commandment, and even pray to God He would arrange circumstances to facilitate its keeping, if the Sabbath command would supposedly be obsolete at the time of Jerusalem's fall?

The answers are perfectly obvious. The Master knew the Sabbath commandment would still be valid long after his resurrection and he wanted his followers to keep it. He knew very well at the approaching fall of Jerusalem they would be in danger of breaking the Sabbath command; so he advised them to pray to the Father to make it possible for them to be obedient. And this unequivocal fact - he advised His followers to pray

about Sabbath observance some 40 years **after the crucifixion** - proves the Sabbath commandment was not abolished at the cross. Historical records tell us the early church fled from Jerusalem in the middle of the week when the Roman armies mysteriously withdrew their forces from the besieged city. This indicates those early believers followed the Master's advice and prayed to the Father **about Sabbath observance** and the Almighty in His great mercy answered their prayers and made it possible for them to keep the Sabbath amidst all the confusion that accompanied the fall of Jerusalem. Do remember these events took place in the **new covenant era** - some 40 years after the Messiah's death on the cross.

3. Paul's Example

According to the Scriptures, the Apostle Paul and his companions were keeping the seventh day Sabbath **and the Feast days of the Almighty** many years after the Saviour's resurrection. Here is proof:

- Acts 17:2 *And Paul, **as his manner was**, went in unto them, and **three Sabbath days** reasoned with them out of the Scriptures,*
- Acts 18:20-21 *When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means **keep this feast** that cometh in Jerusalem: . . .*
- Acts 20:16 *For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the **day of Pentecost**.*
- Acts 13:14-44 *But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue **on the Sabbath day**, and sat down . . . And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the **next Sabbath**. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the **next Sabbath day** came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.*
- Acts 18:4 *And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue **every Sabbath**, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.*
- 1 Cor. 5:7-8 ***Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore LET US KEEP THE FEAST, not with old leaven, neither with***

the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The above verses prove Paul observed Yahweh's Sabbath law and went to great lengths to dispel any doubts the early church may have had that he was abandoning God's Law given through the patriarch Moses. Spend a little time reading Acts 21:17-24 and there you will see to what extraordinary lengths Paul went so *"all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and KEEPEST THE LAW."*

In Hebrews 4:9 we read:

There remaineth therefore a REST to the people of God.

According to **Strong's dictionary**, the Greek word translated **rest** is **sabbatismos, #4520**. *Sabbatismos means, 1) keeping Sabbath; 2) the blessed rest from toils and troubles looked for in the age to come by the true worshippers of God and true Christians.*

In other words, here we have proof in the New Testament that not only did the weekly rest day (the Sabbath) remain; but the true worshippers of God and true Christians were still looking forward to the Sabbath's fulfilment in the age to come.

Once again, we must remember these events and observations were recorded some 30 years after the Messiah's death on the cross. They tell of the early church - including converted Gentiles - keeping the Almighty's Sabbath days; and also of how Paul went out of his way to prove he still kept the Law of God!

4. Yahweh's Sabbaths in the Millennium

When the Messiah returns to earth and begins his millennial reign over all nations, the Feasts of Yahweh will be observed by every soul on earth. Consider this astonishing passage.

Zech. 14:1-16 *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken . . . Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the*

south . . . and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. **And the LORD shall be king over all the earth:** in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one . . . And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth . . . And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even **go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the FEAST OF TABERNACLES.**

Can anything be clearer than that? Does this amazing prophecy - which has obviously still to find fulfilment - give the impression the **Feast of Tabernacles** has been done away with? Oh no, dear friend. The presence of this prophecy alone demolishes forever the delusion Yahweh's Feasts are obsolete or that they are only to be observed by the nation of Israel. Anyone with spiritual eyes will plainly see this prophecy teaches that in the millennium Yahweh's Feasts will be observed by **all the nations of the world!**

If you have an open mind, if you are not afraid of the truth, if you have 'eyes to see, and ears to hear', then you will see and hear and understand this unmistakable fact that **Yahweh's Feasts have not been done away with at all; and what is more, they will be observed by all nations of the earth during the Millennium.**

That is what the Scriptures teach.

5. Yahweh's Sabbath on the New Earth

After the millennium, (the 1000 year Reign of Peace), Yahweh will re-create the universe.

Rev. 21:1-5 **And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,**

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Will Yahweh's Sabbaths be observed on the New Earth? Yes, they will, and here is the proof.

Isa. 66:22-23 *For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from **one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.***

Here we have another plain prediction about the future age when the redeemed of **all mankind will come Sabbath by Sabbath to worship the Almighty God of Israel.**

What of those "**new moons**", are they significant? Certainly they are. Abib's new moon is New Year's Day in the sacred calendar (Exodus 12:1-2 & 18, Exodus 13:4) and Ethanim's (Tishri's) new moon determines the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24). Indeed, in the sacred calendar, every month begins on the day of the new moon. Indeed, the Almighty's church, the woman in Revelation 12, is seen **standing on the moon**; which means she takes her stand on the Sacred Calendar of the Most High and the Sabbath days and years in it.

Isaiah's prophecy highlights several important points about the Sabbaths of the Eternal. Here are two of them:

- Even the Gentiles who observe them will be allowed access to the Temple of the Most High and will share in the heritage of Jacob (Isaiah 56:1-7 and chapter 58:13-14).
- Yahweh's Sabbath days will be observed on the new earth by the redeemed host of every nation (Isaiah 66:22-23).

Now we can plainly see **why** the Almighty used those everlasting tones when He commanded His Feasts were to endure from "**generation unto generation,**" from "**age unto age,**" - "**for all time.**" He meant just that - **FOR ALL ETERNITY.** No other sensible conclusion is possible.

The Coming Spiritual Election

No doubt as you read these lines you will be wondering: What do these things mean - for me? If all this about the Almighty's Feasts is true, then why isn't the Christian church observing them? Why do most believers look upon Sunday as the weekly Sabbath? And why does almost the whole of Christendom celebrate Christmas, Easter, Halloween etc., festivals which are not sanctified or commanded in the Scriptures? Where did these festivals come from anyway?

The answer to these questions may surprise you, but briefly, here is the truth of the matter. The popular festivals of Christendom (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Ash Wednesday, etc.) together with the weekly rest of Sunday are all of pagan origin. Their observance is not commanded in the Scriptures. Where did they come from? They were adopted by the Christian church several centuries after the Saviour ascended to heaven. Here are a few authoritative statements to prove these amazing claims.

Christmas

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church ... the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt."
(**Catholic Encyclopaedia** 1911 edition)

*"There is no authoritative tradition as to the day or month of Christ's birth . . . The winter solstice was regarded as the birthday of the sun and at Rome a pagan festival of the nativity of **"sol invictus"** was introduced by the Emperor Aurelian on the 25th December, 274. **The church, unable to stamp out this popular festival, spiritualised it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness.** When Christianity spread northwards it encountered a similar pagan festival also held at the winter solstice - the great Yule feast of the Norsemen. Once again Christians absorbed heathen customs. From the various sources came the Yule Log, the Christmas tree introduced into England from Germany and first mentioned in 1789."*
(**Chambers Encyclopaedia** 1970 edition page 530)

*"Indeed, it is admitted by the most learned and candid of writers of all parties that the day of our Lord's birth cannot be determined and **that within the Christian church no festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the 3rd century, and that not till the 4th century was far advanced did it gain much observance.**"*

How then did the Romanish church fix on December 25th as Christmas day? Why, thus:

*"Long before the fourth century and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen at the precise time of the year in honour of the **Son of the Babylonian Queen of Heaven**: and it may fairly be assumed that in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the **Roman Church** giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on the part of the Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early adopted ... upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts the apostasy went on, 'till the church, with the exemption of a small remnant, was submerged under Pagan superstition.*

That Christmas was originally a pagan festival is beyond all doubt. *The time of the year and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated proves its origin. In Egypt the **Son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the Queen of Heaven**, was born at this very time, about the time of the winter solstice."*
(The Two Babylons by Alexander Hyslop, pages 92 and 93)

Easter

*"Then look at **Easter**. What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears the Chaldean origin on its very forehead. **Easter is nothing else but Ashtarte**, one of the titles of **Beltis, the Queen of Heaven**.*

*The "**buns**", known too by that identical name, were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess of Easter, as early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens - that is 1500 years before the Christian era . . .*

*The prophet Jeremiah takes notice of this kind of offering when he says, "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the **Queen of heaven**," (Jer. 7:18).*

*The hot cross buns are not now offered, but eaten, on the festival of **Astarte**: but this leaves no doubt as to whence they have been derived. The origin of the Easter egg is just as clear. The ancient Druids bore an egg as a sacred emblem of their order . . .*

In ancient times eggs were used in the religious rites of the Egyptians and the Greeks and were hung up for the mystic purposes in their temples. From Egypt these sacred eggs can be distinctly traced to the banks of the Euphrates. The classic poets are full of the fable of the mystic of the Babylonians; and

thus its tale is told by Hyginus the Egyptian, the learned keeper of the Palatine library in Rome, in the time of Augustus, who was skilled in all the wisdom of his native country.

*An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fish rolled it to the bank where the doves having settled upon it and hatched it - out came **Venus** who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess - that is **Astarte**. Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter." (**The Two Babylons by Alexander Hyslop**, pages 103, 108 & 109)*

But enough of quotations, for the reader can visit any reference library and trace the origins of Christmas and Easter back to paganism.

The question now is: Should a true believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel celebrate Christmas and Easter? Is it acceptable to enter into these festivities and keep these pagan feasts now that their heathen origins have become widely known? And will the Holy One of Israel object to one of His followers, say, attending a Christmas dinner or party? The Bible answer is absolutely clear on this point and if you have the courage to read it turn to 1 Corinthians 10 and study verses 16-22 you will find this question answered and it amounts to this:

- those who eat festival sacrifices become united with the god to whom those sacrifices are made (verse 16-18).
- though the food partaken of is itself not intrinsically changed (verse 19) when a person partakes of and shares in a pagan feast or celebration, he/she becomes partner with the spirits of evil, the demon host who daily defy the dictates of the Almighty (verses 20-21).

As Paul says:

1 Cor. 10:20-22 *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?*

In other words, when a person celebrates Christmas, which was and **still is** motivated by the forces of evil, he/she is honouring the demons who conceived that pagan festival in the first place; demons who are totally opposed to the Holy Spirit of God; and who go out of their way to prompt mankind into committing all kinds of evil at their winter festival. You may be sure the so-called **"spirit of Xmas"** is not the Holy Spirit of the LORD

God of the Bible. Greed, drunkenness, violence, and debauchery are hallmarks of the Xmas season. Everyone is now aware of this. Write to us or see our website for the article titled, "*Is Christmas Christian?*"

Sunday Observance

Millions of sincere believers all over the world are of the opinion Sunday, the first day of the week, is the **New Covenant Sabbath**, the **LORD'S DAY!**

This is a serious error and if the reader has not already done so he/she must read our article, "*Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath?*" The article examines every text in the Bible which mentions the first day of the week and proves beyond any doubt nowhere in the Scriptures is Sunday observance called for. This amazing conclusion is also verified by learned writers of several major Christian denominations.

What then of the coming **Spiritual Election**? And what have the Sabbaths of the Almighty and the popular festivals of Christendom to do with an election? A great deal. Very soon all humanity will be compelled to choose between:

- **The commandments of Yahweh** on the one hand and the **Traditions of Men** on the other.
- **Yahweh's Sabbaths**, which over and over again He has commanded us to keep, and the popular **Pagan Substitutes**, which have somehow inveigled their way into the Christian church.
- Between the **Signature of the Most High** and that Satanic counterfeit the **Mark of The Beast**.

According to Bible prophecy, the inhabitants of the whole world "*both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond*" will be required to accept either the Signature of the God of Israel or the Mark of the Beast. No one will be exempt (Rev. 7:1-3, Rev. 13:16-17).

In that coming spiritual election, the electorate will not be expected to enter a polling booth to put a *mark* against a candidate's name. Instead, the two spiritual candidates, (Jehovah, the God of Abraham on the one hand and Satan the Devil on the other), will set their **signatures, (an inscription of their names)**, in the **minds** of the voters. In other words, you will indicate your choice of a Leader by accepting in your **mind** either the Signature of Yahweh the God of Israel or the Mark of the Beast. The leader whose signature you mentally accept and subsequently reflect in your actions, he will be the one of your choice. That is how you will vote, whether you fully realize the eternal implications of that choice or not.

The Signature of Yahweh

This is where the Feast days of the Creator should concern you, for they are His **Signature**, His **Sign** on the human mind. When a believer remembers the Almighty's Sabbaths, when he keeps them and bears them in mind, he is indeed declaring to the whole of society and the angelic host above Yahweh is his choice, his God. We know the Almighty's Sabbaths constitute His **SIGN (signature)** from the following verses:

- Eze. 20:12 *Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a **SIGN** between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.*
- Eze. 20:20 *And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a **SIGN** between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.*
- Exo. 31:12-17 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, **Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you . . .** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant. It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel for ever: . . .***

Where does the Almighty place His Sign, His signature? He inscribes it in the human mind and actions, figuratively referred to as "**between the eyes**" (in the forehead), and "**in the hand**".

- Exo. 13:9 *And it (The Feast of Unleavened Bread) shall be for a **sign** unto thee **upon thine hand**, and for a memorial **between thine eyes** (in the forehead), that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: . . .*
- Deut. 6:6-8 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a **sign upon thine hand**, and they shall be as **frontlets between thine eyes**.*

Turn to Revelation 7:1-4 and 14:1 and you will see 144,000 believers receive the Father's name "**in their foreheads**". The Almighty prophesied concerning this **New Covenant** work of inscribing his law in the willing believer's mind when He said:

Heb. 8:8-11 . . . Behold the days come, saith the Lord, **when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:** . . . For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Heb. 10:16-17 *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.***

And there you have it. Yahweh's Sign, His Signature, is the Sabbath days in His law and in the **New Covenant** that Law is inscribed on the true believer's mind. So do not let anyone tell you in the **New Covenant** the Law of the Almighty is done away with. These texts plainly tell us in the **New Covenant** the Almighty writes His Law on the true believer's mind! Obedience to divine Law, in other words, is a vote for the Creator, the Holy One of Israel.

The Mark of the Beast

By way of contrast, the Mark of the Beast, the Signature of Satan, is the bogus weekly sabbath of Sunday and all those other heathen festivals which are currently posing as Christian holy days (*Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Halloween, etc.*). These festivals are the offspring of paganism and true believers should have nothing to do with them. Like the sin of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, they have been foolishly adopted by the church in place of the genuine Sabbaths of the Almighty. Yes, the churches of Christendom are doing exactly what ancient Israel did under King Jeroboam; they are celebrating **unsanctified days in preference to the appointed Feast Days of the Most High**. Jeroboam's example was the **type**, the **figure**, the **local illustration** of a tragic reality we are witnessing on a world scale in our day.

Just before the end of this age, the Antichrist is scheduled to make a personal appearance on this earth (2 Thess. 2:7-8, Rev. 17:8). With **breathhtaking miracles** and **lying wonders**, he will seduce the inhabitants of the world into worshipping him (Rev. 13:13-15). His hatred of truth will focus on Yahweh's Law and particularly on the Sabbath days in His law. Vainly will the Antichrist imagine he is able to change and replace God's Sabbaths with days of his own choosing. The prophet Daniel has this to say about the Antichrist's activities:

Daniel 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the Most High . . . and **think to change times and laws:** and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

What does "**He will think to change times and laws**" mean? It means this power will vainly imagine he can change the commandments in God's Law which deal with the **element of time**. That means he will seek to alter the **Sabbath commandments; for they alone deal with the element of time**. Oh, what monstrous pride and self-delusion is here displayed; that anyone should dare to think he is able to change the Laws of the Almighty God! Listen to what the Saviour has to say about the eternal nature of His Father's commandments:

Matt. 5:17-18 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.***

The word "**fulfil**" means *to do, to carry out, to perform, to execute, to comply with, to obey*. And that is exactly what the Saviour did. He carried out and **obeyed** His Father's commandments to the letter and in doing so set us a perfect example (John 15:10).

And you, dear reader, are now being given the opportunity to choose between:

- Yahweh's Sign and the Antichrist's Mark
- The Truth and the Lie
- The 7th day Sabbath of the 4th commandment and Sunday the pagan counterfeit
- The Feast Days of the God of Israel and the festivals of heathenism
- Obedience and disobedience/sin (1 John 3:4)

The Bible says:

1 John 2:3-4 ***And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

The Apostle James tells us **faith without obedience is a dead thing, a spiritual corpse!**

James 2:17-20 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works:*

shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Yahweh expects His followers to demonstrate their faith in Him by endeavouring to keep His commandments. To remember the true Sabbath and Feast Days in God's Law is a vote for the Almighty; a proclamation to the community and the universe at large that Yahweh, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) is your God, your choice. It is standing up to be counted with God's people. It is accepting the Father's Name in your forehead, your mind. **Sabbath observance is a declaration of faith in the Creator of the mighty universe - the One who is LORD of the Sabbath day.**

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Matt. 12:8 ***For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.***

How long you personally have before you make your choice and finalize your vote we cannot tell. But you may be sure the time is short and to delay is dangerous. Carefully consider your decision before you make it, for the issues at stake are momentous and the consequences of a wrong choice are too dreadful to even contemplate. Read Revelation 14:9-11 for your own safety.

To help you further understand this matter, Stewarton Bible School/A Voice In The Wilderness Canada-USA has produced a lesson entitled, *"The Mark of the Beast"*. It contains information of great importance, so read it today if you have not already done so.

If you decide to obey the Almighty you will be bountifully blessed; blessed and protected from the terrors of Abaddon's regime which is about to tear our civilisation apart (Rev. 9:4). Yes, obedience will bring blessing.

Rev. 22:14 ***Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.***

If, on the other hand, you reject **Yahweh's Sign (the sacred Sabbaths detailed in His law)** then you will only have yourself to blame when Abaddon's reign of terror begins; for you can never honestly say you didn't know. **Stewarton Bible School/A Voice In The Wilderness Canada-USA** has warned you of the danger of accepting the **Mark of the**

Beast, the bogus sabbaths of Christendom. To help you decide your future course of action, we will summarise this study and end this section.

SUMMARY

1. **The Feast days commanded in the Bible belong to JEHOVAH, the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's Feasts. "These are the Feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons",** says the Almighty in His Word.
2. The Feasts of the LORD God of Israel are, by royal decree, the **appointed memorials of His mightiest deeds in the Programme of Salvation**; each and every one of them being a **sacred anniversary** of some distinct, divine achievement in that programme. So the keeping of them is a declaration of faith in the Almighty and His Son **Yeshua**, through whom the free gift of salvation is offered to mankind.
3. These selfsame Feasts figured in the mind of the Almighty at the **creation of the world**, some 2000 years before the first Jew was born. Look out for **signs** in the sun, moon, and stars on the Feasts; for those heavenly bodies were created primarily to signal to the universe the **'sacred seasons', 'days', and 'years'** in the Almighty's calendar.
4. The commandments concerning the Feasts of Yahweh are worded in the most permanent of legal terms, which plainly state they will continue from **"generation to generation," "age after age", "for ever"!**
5. The staggering total of clean animals (bulls, rams, lambs, goats, etc.) sacrificed on the Feast days give some indication of their great importance and the manifold blessings the Messiah's sacrifice on Calvary has won for the ransomed people of God.
6. Israel's apostasy reached a climax in the sin of **Jeroboam** son of Nebat when the nation of Israel forsook the appointed Feasts of the LORD and began to celebrate days of their own choosing. Alas! Christendom, in the main, is doing exactly the same thing on a world scale in our day. In other words, **the Church is duplicating Jeroboam's sin.**
7. All the great revivals recorded in Scripture began or climaxed on one or the other of the sacred seasons and Feasts of the Most High; those ancient revivals themselves being **"prophetic previews," "living blueprints"** and **"types"** of much greater

outpourings of spiritual power and blessing still to be bestowed upon the obedient church in these end times.

8. **The new covenant is made between the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and His people, Israel and Judah.** Jehovah has scheduled Himself to inscribe His law, which includes His Sabbath and Feast day commands, on the true believer's mind. The Almighty's weekly and annual Sabbaths:

- were observed by the **Apostles and the early church** for many years after the Saviour's resurrection.
- will also be observed **during the millennium by all the nations of the world.**
- finally, will be celebrated on the new earth (after the millennial age) for **all eternity!** These facts amply justify the wording of the Feast Day commandments mentioned at point 4 and prove Yahweh's Feasts will indeed last **"from generation to generation, age to age, for all time - for ever!"**

9. By way of contrast, the popular holidays of Christendom: Easter, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Sunday, Halloween etc., are not sanctioned by the Almighty. In fact, **they are ALL ancient heathen festivals which over the centuries have found their way into the Christian church** and because of their popularity have temporarily pushed aside the true Sabbaths of the Creator. They are, in fact, an abomination to the LORD God of Israel. Like the sin of **Jeroboam**, they have diverted Yahweh's people from His appointed times of worship - His sacred seasons, Feasts and Sabbaths. The time has come to jettison these pagan celebrations and to return to the divinely appointed memorials of our salvation - the Feasts of God Almighty.

10. True believers in the LORD of Hosts who really want to please Him should, therefore, stop celebrating the pagan religious festivals of Easter and Christmas, etc.; **for when a person joins in a pagan religious festival, he/she becomes partner with the spirits of evil, the demon host who daily defy the dictates of the Almighty God.**

11. Just before the Saviour's return to earth, the Antichrist will make his appearance and all the world will be compelled to choose between the **Sign of Yahweh** and the **Mark of the Beast**, between the **Sabbaths of the LORD God of Israel** and the **Festivals of Paganism**. The lead-up to this **spiritual election** has already begun. Multiplied millions, in and out of the church, have already decided what they will believe and do concerning

this issue. Now it's your turn. This publication merely outlines the momentous issues at stake. Read it several times.

And now we will leave you to make up your mind, to decide one way or the other - to cast your **"spiritual vote"** so to speak. Satan, no doubt, will do his utmost to stifle the rising tide of conviction which this truth about Yahweh's Feasts will produce in your mind. That is Satan's unholy delight. You see, he does not want believers to **obey** the Almighty. He does not mind them acknowledging God's presence, singing His praises, shouting Hallelujahs, reading His Word, or even exhausting themselves in apparently worthwhile causes: just so long as they **do not obey Yahweh's commandments**. That is why Satan constantly stirs up hostility in the hearts of men for God and His Law: because he wants mankind to break the divine commandments, to sin and go on sinning; to join him in his hateful rebellion against the authority of the Most High.

But from the throne of the Almighty you may hear another call. And if you do, it will be the voice of the Master, the call of **Yeshua the Messiah, the only begotten Son of the Most High**. His voice will overwhelm your whole being as only the voice of the Saviour and the presence of the Holy Spirit can. And this is what He will be saying dear reader to **you**:

Matt. 19:17 . . . ***If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.***

PART TWO

Question 1

I've heard it said the law of God has been abolished at the cross and is now obsolete. Is this true?

Answer

No, it isn't. The Saviour did not come to abolish his Father's Law, but to fulfil it (Matt 5:17-20). The word **'fulfil'** means to *'carry out'*, to *'do'*, to *'perform'*, and **'obey'**. Had the Messiah abolished the law, he would have contradicted his own words when he said, *"Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"*.

It is evident the heavens and the earth are still here, so the law must still exist. The Bible classifies **all** men as sinners: *'All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;'* (Romans 3:23). This means Yahweh's Law must still exist, for to be a **'sinner'** one must have transgressed an existing law. **We** could hardly be called **'sinners'** if there were no law to transgress; for **"sin"** by the Bible definition is ***"the transgression of the law"*** (1 John 3:4) and as the Apostle Paul so clearly put it, ***"for where no law is, there is no transgression"*** (Romans 4:15). In short, the

presence of sin and sinners in the world is proof positive the Almighty's Law still exists.

The Bible tells us at the end of this present age and in the ages to come, true believers will be keeping the commandments of God. How could this be possible if the commandments were abolished at Calvary?

Rev. 12:17 *And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which **keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***

Rev. 22:13-15 *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. **Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

Incidentally, laws are not abolished by obedience or disobedience. Consult any member of Parliament if you have any doubts about this legal fundamental. Christians who speak and write against the Law of the Most High are unwittingly further the cause of Satan, the Lawless One. They are adding to the enormous catalogue of sin of which the world and the church is already guilty: for when they teach God's Law is done away with, they encourage the spiritually blind to persist in their sins. For further information about Yahweh's commandments, see the Divine Law index page located on our website.

Question 2

Where does faith and grace come into this matter of keeping the Feast Days? Surely, Stewarton Bible School/A Voice In The Wilderness Canada-USA must know Christians are **under grace** and not under law!

Answer

To begin with, let us make it perfectly clear we know every sinner who accepts salvation **is saved by the GRACE of the Almighty; and salvation is a FREE GIFT made available to us by God through His only begotten Son Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.** This well known fact is clearly taught in articles linked to the Everlasting Gospel Library index page on our website. We also know the main reason for our salvation is not merely that we live forever, but:

Eph. 2:7 *That in **the ages to come** He (the Almighty) might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us through Christ Jesus.*

Furthermore, we know **Yahweh's grace** towards mankind was evident in **past ages**:

- **Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** (Gen. 6:8)
- **Moses found grace in the LORD's sight.** (Exo. 33:13-16)
- **Israel found grace in the wilderness.** (Jer. 31:2)

Indeed, "*He (Yahweh) giveth grace unto the lowly*" no matter what age they may happen to live in (Prov. 3:34). The Almighty's grace, we conclude, is not just a new covenant feature, but the age-old outcome of a **personal trait** of the Most High which immediately manifested itself when man sinned and salvation became necessary. Did you know the word **grace** appears 39 times in the Old Testament alone! Yahweh's grace, in other words, has been extended to **all** His followers since Adam sinned in the garden of Eden. Indeed, every time an Old Testament believer offered an animal sacrifice for sin, he was pardoned **by the grace of God**.

What, then, is the relationship between grace and law? And what does it mean to be **under grace**? Briefly, here are the facts concerning this misunderstood matter.

1. All mankind has sinned; and all have come short of the glory of God. What is sin? Sin, as stated above, is the transgression of Yahweh's Law. Sin is doing what the Almighty tells us not to do. Sin is breaking Yahweh's commandments. Sin is disobedience, and all of us have sinned (1 John 3:4, Isa. 53:6).
2. The punishment for sin, according to another section of Yahweh's Law, is death - eternal death. This means all mankind is under a **death sentence**, for all have sinned (Romans 6:23). Being under the **death sentence** of the law is referred to in the Scriptures as being "**under the law**".
3. But Yahweh, in His infinite mercy, provided a way of escape from that death sentence, the sentence we all came under because we all sinned. **That way of escape is Jesus Christ**, who died on our behalf. And because of this provision, because the Messiah has paid the price, the death penalty, Yahweh offers pardon and life through His Son to all who are willing to repent, forsake sin and accept salvation by faith.
4. All repentant sinners who accept Yahweh's wonderful offer of mercy and who place their faith in the Messiah (Yahweh's Son) are pardoned of their sins and they find '**grace in His sight**'. In

other words in His manifold mercies Yahweh forgives the repentant sinner his transgressions, cancels the terrible **death sentence** hanging over us and places us '**under grace**'. Please note the Almighty did not cancel the law. Had He done that at Calvary we would not be sinners, for we could hardly transgress a non-existing law. No, what He did cancel was the "**sentence of death**" we were under before we repented. To be "**under grace**" means to be a recipient of Yahweh's mercy, grace and favour; to have one's sins forgiven and to be no longer under the death sentence of the law. That is what being "**under grace**" means.

5. Now then, while we are in Christ - "**under grace**" - on the Highway of Life so to speak, the question is: Are we now permitted to break Yahweh's Law? Are we at liberty to do those things which constitute sin? Are we now free to *worship idols, blaspheme, break the Sabbath day, dishonour our parents, murder, commit adultery, steal, lie and covet another's goods*, etc.?

The answer is perfectly obvious: we must stop doing these things. Indeed, it was for doing these very things we came to be under the **death sentence** of the law in the first place. Being "**under grace**", if anything, should prompt a person to be more obedient, more righteous, and more holy than he ever was. Being "**under grace**" does not mean you are at liberty to break the Law of the Most High. For, if you continue to do so, you are being disobedient; and disobedience is sin. That is exactly the point the Apostle Paul makes when he asks:

Rom. 6:15 . . . ***Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? . . .***

His answer is:

Rom. 6:15 ***God forbid.***

Rom. 6:16 ***Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?***

6. What does all this mean? It means all believers who have accepted Yahweh's offer of life are no longer under the **death sentence of the law, but under His grace**. It also means in that environment of grace they are to live lives of obedience - unto righteousness. Not that our obedience will save us. Oh, no, for we are saved by grace, by placing our faith in Jesus Christ, by personally accepting Yahweh's measureless mercy

and **free gift of life**. That's how we are saved. But obedience, thereafter, is nevertheless vital. It exhibits a believer's *living faith*. It testifies to men and angels more effectively than a million words a believer is no longer a **blatant sinner**, but a person who is actually doing what the Almighty commands (James 2:17-26). How very true is Paul's statement when he says:

Rom. 6:16 . . . *His servants ye are whom ye obey; . . .*

Question 3

If Christians are required to keep the Sabbath days mentioned in Leviticus 23, then what do texts like Romans 14:5-6, Colossians 2:16-17, Galatians 4:9-10 and Ephesians 2:15-16 mean?

Answer

These four passages, sad to say, are amongst the most misunderstood in all of Scripture. And because they are **critical**, which means any misinterpretation of them will result in many believers sinning, it is vital they are understood. To aid understanding, we will quote each text in turn and then briefly explain its meaning.

Rom. 14:5-6 *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth no regard it . . .*

Rom. 14:10 . . . **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

In this passage Paul is **not** saying the Sabbath commandment is done away with. Nor, for that matter, is he saying Sunday is the Sabbath; or even that Saturday is the Sabbath. **The identity of the Sabbath day is not being established in this text.**

The points being made in this passage are:

1. A difference of opinion concerning the Sabbath does exist, with one person honouring one day above the next, and a second believer treating all days alike.
2. We **should not judge one another on the matter**, but make up our own minds with a view to the coming Judgment.

In other words, believers ought to investigate and examine this vital issue of which - if any - is the Sabbath day and decide the matter for themselves, **and not judge others**. Why is self-determination so important here? The answer is because **"we shall all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ"** and give our own reasons for our actions. Pleading ignorance or blaming someone else for your own actions will not help you on the **Day of Judgment**. You must decide these matters for yourself and be *fully persuaded in your own mind* as to what is right and what is wrong.

That is what Paul is saying.

Col. 2:16-17 ***Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.***

The message of these verses is similar to that in Romans 14:5-6. In Romans 14, Paul admonishes believers not to judge one another, but let each decide for themselves. In this passage, he is telling us **not to allow ourselves to be judged**.

And why does Paul mention *meat, drink, Sabbath days* and *new moons* in the same verse? The answer is, because "meat, drink, new moons, and Sabbath days" are "shadows", "tokens", or "emblem types" of great spiritual realities still to come. And though they are extremely beneficial when properly understood and applied, they are of little practical value to the Christian who spends his energies and time criticizing others.

Having said this, however, it would be very unwise for a believer to conclude since these things are **"shadows" or "spiritual tokens"** they are, therefore, of little account and Paul is here giving all Christians a free pass to ignore Yahweh's Sabbath Law.

That is most certainly **not** what Paul is saying. Indeed, when we examine the Apostle's other writings - and take a close look at his own actions - we notice he went to great lengths to honour the Almighty's Sabbaths and to prove to the brethren in Jerusalem the reports about him teaching believers to forsake the law and old customs were simply not true. The fact was he, Paul, walked in an *"orderly way and kept the law"* (Acts 21:20-24, Acts 20:16).

What, then, does this passage mean? It means exactly what it is saying. Just like the passage in Romans, it concerns a believer's **mental attitude** towards himself and others. In Romans 14, Paul says **"do not judge others, but allow them to make up their own minds as regards to their diet and the days they honour"**. In Colossians 2, he says, **"Do not allow others to judge you"**. In neither passage is the **identity** of the true Sabbath day discussed.

Gal. 4:9-10 *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, **how turn ye again** to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, months, and times and years.*

The key words in this passage are "*how turn ye again*". They mean: **how can you want to turn back to your former practices**. Bear in mind Paul was writing to the Galatian believers - to converted pagans.

What were they wanting to turn back to? The answer is they were wanting to "**turn back**" to the *weak and beggarly elements, of the days, months, and times and years* which they **had kept before they became followers of Jesus Christ**. In other words, they wanted to turn back to the **pagan festivals** they had previously observed; festivals which centred on the *beggarly elements* of **sun, moon, wind, river, and fire worship**. These are the beggarly elements which the converted Galatians used to worship. And this fact understandably amazed Paul.

Had he been writing to converted Jews who had kept the Almighty's Feasts since childhood, then we could allow the "days, months, seasons, and years" of verse 10 may well have meant Jehovah's Feasts and these pagan converts were wanting to **go back** to celebrating them. But Paul is **not** here writing to Jewish believers. He is writing to converts from Paganism; and the only celebrations to which they could possibly **go back were the heathen festivals they had previously known**; festivals which were directly linked to the **beggarly elements** mentioned above.

Also bear in mind Paul honoured Yahweh's Feasts (Acts 18:21, Acts 20:16, 1 Cor. 16:8). It is therefore unthinkable he would refer to the Almighty's Feasts as "*weak and beggarly elements*" in one instance and then strive desperately to keep them in the next. Paul's verdict in Romans 7:12 concerning the commandments of God was:

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

There is nothing "**beggarly**" about the worship of the Almighty God of Abraham. That much is certain.

Eph. 2:15-16 *Having abolished in his flesh the **enmity**, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having **slain the enmity** thereby:*

There lies hidden within the human heart a deadly element known as **sin**. At the epicentre of sin - which is disobedience to Yahweh's Law - is a spiritual ingredient called **enmity**. Enmity is hostility. In every carnal

mind, this sinful element called **enmity or hostility** towards the Almighty exists and it finds expression in acts of disobedience (sin). Elsewhere, Paul says:

Rom. 8:7 ***Because the carnal (non-spiritual) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.***

If you read Ephesians 2:15-16 again, you will see it was this inherent **enmity** in the carnal mind the Saviour came to abolish. He didn't come to abolish the Law (Matt. 5:17-18), but man's **enmity against God** which immediately manifests itself when the Almighty's Law is presented. The Law, incidentally, is incapable of subduing the sinful nature of man. The Law can only point the way to righteousness. It can only tell us what is right and what is wrong. Perfect and eternal though it is, the law is unable to subdue the hostility the carnal mind has for the LORD God.

Rom. 8:3-4 ***For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

Did you get that? Yahweh, being fully aware His Law was totally incapable of overcoming man's sinful nature, sent His Son to subdue, overcome, and deprive sin of its power over the human mind. In other words, the Almighty sent His Son to slay the **root cause of sin - which is enmity towards God and towards each other**. This enmity goes beyond man's hatred for God and His law. It expresses it in hatred between Jew and Gentile, black and white, rich and poor, educated and ignorant, the haves and the have-nots in nation after nation. The Saviour alone has the power to overcome this enmity between the races and to make of different nations **one people - one man**.

And why did the Saviour come to slay our inherent enmity against God and our fellow men? The answer is:

Rom. 8:4 ***That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

If the reader is an honest seeker after the truth, he/she will immediately recognize the Apostle Paul is not introducing strange and contradictory teachings in these passages; but is in complete harmony with all other inspired writers from Genesis to Revelation. What he is doing in these passages is highlighting some extremely important but little understood truths:

1. We should not judge others or even allow ourselves to be judged in this matter of Sabbath observance (Romans 14:5-6, Colossians 2:16-17).
2. We should not hanker after or **turn back to the festivals of paganism** as those converted pagans, the ancient Galatian believers were doing (Gal. 4:9-10). Festivals which celebrated the *"beggarly elements: the sun, moon, stars, wind, water and fire, etc."*
3. There is an inherent **enmity** (hostility) in the carnal mind against the Almighty and His law; and **also** between Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, black and white, and between nations. But in Christ we are made 'one people' (Romans 8:7).
4. The Messiah came to abolish (slay) enmity **in order to make mankind obedient to Yahweh's Law** (Ephesians 2:15-16, Romans 8:3-4). This is the ultimate objective of salvation: the Messiah came to **save his people from their sins** (Matthew 1:21).

That is what these texts are telling us.

Question 4

All right, I can see the Sabbath according to the Scriptures is the seventh day of the week, but **how can the modern believer be sure Saturday is the seventh day?**

Answer

To prove the day called Saturday is the seventh day of the week we will consider the history of mankind in three parts:

1. From the creation of the world to Israel's Exodus from Egypt;
2. From the Exodus to the Apostolic era - when the Messiah walked on this earth;
3. And from the Apostolic era to the present time.

1. From the Creation to the Exodus

We will suppose for the moment the Sabbath was **"lost"** between the creation and the exodus. It may not have been, of course, for Yahweh's laws were known and kept by faithful believers long before they were given to Israel at Mount Sinai, (see Genesis 26:5), and the sacred

calendar and weekly cycle was followed as far back as the days of Noah (Genesis 7:11, 8:9-14), but even supposing the Sabbath had been **lost**, we can be certain it was **identified and established again by the Almighty in the days of Moses**.

Here is how we know this fact. In Exodus 16:14-30, we read of how the Almighty fed Israel with manna. By the following three miracles - performed every week - Yahweh made known His Sabbath day to the whole nation.

- He gave Israel twice as much manna on the sixth day
- He withheld manna on the Sabbath, the seventh day
- He kept the manna given on the sixth day from spoiling overnight - which it normally did - in order that His people might rest on the seventh day

By these three distinct miracles which occurred every week for 40 years, Yahweh identified the seventh day as His Sabbath.

2. From the Exodus to the Apostolic Era

Was the identity of the seventh day "**lost**" between the exodus and the time of Christ? The answer is, **No**, it wasn't. But again, for the sake of this investigation, we'll assume that it was.

We can be certain it was **again identified** when the Messiah observed it, for just prior to his death on Calvary, the Saviour categorically stated he had kept his Father's commandments (John 15:10). He could hardly have said this if the day He had been keeping for some thirty three years was the wrong one. Besides, if He had kept the wrong day, He would have been a **sinner** and that would have disqualified him from being our Saviour.

We are, therefore, certain the Saviour kept the correct seventh day Sabbath.

3. From the Apostolic Era to the Present Time

Has the identity of the seventh day of the week been "**lost**" over the past 1900 years? We can assure the reader that it hasn't been. Here is the proof.

Soon after the capture of Jerusalem in AD 70, the **diaspora** took place. The **diaspora** is the scattering of the body of Jews to lands other than their own. Initially, the exiles had fled to the surrounding countries of Egypt, Syria, and Phoenicia, but, in the course of time, as persecution

mounted the Jews went further and further afield and today you will find Jewish communities in every country on the face of the earth.

With them the Jews took the Holy Scriptures and their knowledge of the true Sabbath day. Every seventh day since then orthodox Jews all over the world have remembered the seventh day.

And what do we find in this 20th century? We find the Jews still keeping the original seventh day Sabbath, the **same day** they knew at the time of the **diaspora**, which was the **same day** Jesus kept.

There is absolutely no disagreement or dispute amongst the Jews - scattered as they still are - as to which day is the seventh day of the week. Every synagogue in every country is in perfect agreement Saturday is the seventh day.

Had there been any change of the day, any loss or gain of time, any deliberate or accidental slip or alteration in the weekly cycle - which would have resulted in the Jews in one country observing a different weekly Sabbath from Jewish believers in the next - then we would readily agree the **identity** of the seventh day of the week was in doubt. But we do not find that situation anywhere on earth. Instead, we have total agreement amongst all the Jews of all nations **the day known throughout the world as Saturday is the seventh day of the week.**

Calendar Changes

Some point out the civil calendar was changed in the sixteenth century and the weekly cycle itself was altered - all over the world - so no one can be certain Saturday is the true seventh day of the week.

Those who use this argument are misinformed. Here are the facts of history: In the year 1582, the Julian calendar (named after the **Emperor Julius Caesar**) was found to be 10 days late when compared with the position of the sun. That is, the vernal equinox was not occurring on or about March 20/21 - as it should do in a correct solar calendar - but was gradually receding towards the beginning of March. The reason for this error was the Julian calendar worked on the basis that a year was 365¼ days in length, whereas, in truth, it is about 11 minutes more than that. Over the centuries, this 11-minute discrepancy accumulated causing the Julian calendar to steadily recede till by the sixteenth century it had lost 10 days and the equinox was occurring on March 11th.

To correct this discrepancy, **Pope Gregory XIII** ordered 10 days be added to the Julian calendar dates to bring them into line with the sun. The month of October was chosen for the amendment and in the calendar of **1582** that month appeared as follows:

OCTOBER 1582

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

You will notice from the above **the weekly cycle**, the order of the days of the week, **remained unchanged** even though the Gregorian calendar dates had increased by **ten** between the Thursday and the Friday. In other words, in both calendars the day after Thursday 4th was still a Friday.

This amendment understandably, was not very popular in some countries mainly because it had been organised by a Roman Catholic Pope. Several Protestant countries refused to acknowledge it and continued to use the Julian calendar; but one by one they came into line. Here is a short list of when they did:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Germany (Catholic States) | 1583 |
| Germany (Protestant States) | 1700 |
| Netherlands | 1700 |
| England | 1752 |
| Rumania, Turkey, and Russia | 1919 |

All those years between 1582 and 1919 while both calendars were in use, the sequence of the days in the **weekly cycle** was the same in every country. In other words, Sunday in Rome, 1900, was also Sunday in Russia in that year even though both countries were using a different calendar. And as each nation adopted the Georgian calendar, it simply added 10 days to its Julian calendar date. There was no need to change the order of the days of the week, because they already agreed.

To Summarize:

- Yahweh re-identified the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath in the days of Israel's Exodus from Egypt.
- The Messiah kept the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath. Had he not done so he would have been a sinner.
- Calendar changes did not affect the days of the week in the weekly cycle.
- Jewish communities around the world have since the **diaspora** kept track of the seventh day Sabbath and all agree it is the day called Saturday.

These facts prove **Saturday is the seventh day of the week.**

Question 5

How does one keep the **Sabbaths of the Almighty?**

Answer

The commandment at its basic level is ***“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”***. The second part about "resting from one's labour" is added in order that the first part ***“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”*** can be met. The original Hebrew word translated "holy" in our English Bibles is **qadosh** or **qodesh**. Besides meaning "sacred" this word means to "separate" to "set apart".

The Sabbath day, in other words, is a day Yahweh **set apart for sacred use**. He wants us to remember this fact and to keep the day holy - set apart - for sacred use. How is it done? What is involved? What does one do or not do on the Sabbath?

Without attempting to pontificate on so deep a matter, and certainly with no intention of judging another believer's performance, we offer these brief guidelines about Sabbath observance with a prayer to the Almighty. He will use them to fulfil in every reader the spiritual potential latent in him or her.

1. The Sabbath is a day of **rest from labour**. The Hebrew word translated "labour" in Exodus 20:9 is **abad**. It means "to do", "to serve". Who are we allowed to serve, what are we allowed to do on the first six days of the week? The answer is ***“Six days shalt thou labour (serve), and do all thy work.”*** In other words, you may serve **your own interests** for six days each week; but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, you must stop serving your own interests and devote that day to the service of the Almighty. Why? Because that is His holy (**qodesh**) day; it has been set apart for **His service, His work**.
2. **What is Yahweh's work and how may we become engaged in it?**

We find our answer in the Scriptures.

- It is lawful to do **good** on the Sabbath day (Mark 3:4)
- It is lawful to **heal** on the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:10)
- It is lawful to **rescue** someone on the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:11)

- It is lawful to engage in **spiritual activities** on the Sabbath, such as: attending church meetings, preaching, teaching, Bible study, prayer, visiting the sick and aged, walking in the countryside, etc. (Luke 4:31, 6:1-2).

All these activities are permissible on the Sabbath day. Indeed these are the very things the Messiah did when He walked on this earth. Sad to say, the Pharisees did not agree with the Saviour on some of these points. They incorrectly supposed he was breaking the Sabbath when he healed people. They misunderstood the fact the Sabbath - Yahweh's **qodesh** day - had been set apart for that very purpose, **for doing good, for doing the Almighty's work**. The Saviour, however, knew what he was doing. Had he not as the Creator **made** the Sabbath in the first place? He was not only aware of **which day** was the Sabbath, but he also knew **how to keep it**. The reader will not go astray if he/she endeavours to do likewise.

3. **Activities to refrain from**

There are, of course, certain things, which though permissible on ordinary days, should not normally be done on the Sabbath. For example:

- Buying, selling, and engaging in business deals
- Doing laborious field work
- Pursuing self interests

(See Nehemiah 10:31 and 13:13-21, Isaiah chapter 56, also chapter 58; but especially verses 13-14).

If you remember the Sabbath is Yahweh's holy day (the portion of time He set apart for **His work**), and if you rest from your own labours and interests, and **devote yourself to His service**, then you will be on the glorious path of Sabbath observance. And, what's more, you will be blessed in this world and the next in direct fulfilment of this amazing promise:

Isa. 58:13-14 *If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from **doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:** Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*

4. **The Sabbath is a day for holy convocations**

The Hebrew word translated "**convocation**" in Leviticus 23:2 is **migra**. It means "**a calling together**" an "**assembly**". In other words, wherever possible, a believer should attend a religious meeting on the Sabbath. Religious "convocations", or assemblies, were called for in order the church may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Most High. The seventh day of the week has been set aside for **Yahweh's service**, and it is at these **commanded assemblies** His Spirit is most active. So attend a Sabbath meeting if one is held in your area. If not, write to us or see our website on how to organize a Sabbath service in your own home in our article titled, "Sabbath Meetings".

5. **Keeping the Feasts**

The Feast Days of the Most High are also days of rest and are kept in the same way as the weekly Sabbath, except on them, extra special meals - **feasts** - are partaken of. These are literal banquets, as already pointed out to typify the **spiritual nourishment** and **power** Yahweh's church is scheduled to receive in the near future when supernatural happenings similar to those which took place on the Day of Pentecost, (Acts 2), will again occur.

Without allowing a Feast to deteriorate into a show of gluttony, try to ensure an extra special meal is served on the **Feast day**. In this way, you will declare your faith in Yahweh's breathtaking Programme of Salvation which He has made possible through His Son, and prove your desire to partake of the **real spiritual banquets** He has prepared for those who serve Him.

Yahweh has made many promises to the believer who is willing to observe His Feasts. Space does not allow us to print them all, but we will end this article with this beautiful millennial picture of multitudes of true believers keeping the Feasts of the Almighty in a Jerusalem purged of sin.

Eze. 36:33-38 *Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from ALL your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase*

them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

AMEN

