

The **Feast Days** of the God of Israel

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Introduction

By far the best way to determine the real interests of a person is to note the festivals that 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, color 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 Yahwehs people worship.

This study is of the **Feast Days of Yahweh the Holy One of Israel**, the Creator of the mighty universe, the Elohim 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 Program of Salvation; banquets to which all His subjects are invited.

Leviticus 23:1-4 *And Yahweh spoke unto Moses, saying. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **Feasts of Yahweh**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even **these are MY FEASTS!** ... These are the **Feasts of Yahweh**, 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 Yahweh.**"

Undoubtedly Yahweh's festivals 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 Yahweh's, not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's. Remember this vital fact.

Unlike the popular festivals of Ash Wednesday, Easter, Hallowe'en 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 to** and **observed by** all true believers in Yahweh, Elohim 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.

Our aim is to draw the assemblies' attention to these appointed feasts of the Most High; to proclaim them to all the world in accordance with this divine direction:

Leviticus 23:4 ***"These are the feasts of Yahweh, 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 Elohim 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 Program 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.

Exodus 12:29-30 ***"And it came to pass, that at midnight Yahweh 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 "**dramatized prophecy**," a "**spiritual blueprint**" of a far greater deliverance of Yahweh's people scheduled to occur at the **midnight** of this age. For the real meaning of the Passover is this:

- **Yahweh, the Almighty Elohim 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 Yahshua the Messiah.
- **Yahshua the Messiah's death on Calvary was prefigured by the death of the Passover Lamb.** (John 1:29, 1 Cor. 5:7).
- Yahshua 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 by express faith in the Almighty and His Son, the '**Lamb of Yahweh which takes 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 Elohim, 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 Savior'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 Yahweh. 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 Savior'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 Savior'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 that soul seeks pardon, protection and salvation. That 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 fulfillment 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 Savior 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 *"I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" said the Master, "because I tell you, I shall not eat it again **until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of Yahweh.**"*

Note those words, "**until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of Yahweh.**" This points to a still future fulfillment of the Passover, an event which will take place just prior to our entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. I repeat, the Passover Lamb (Yahshua 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 Savior's body and blood) they are, in truth, **applying the Savior's life-giving blood to the lintels of their souls.**

Put differently, we may say that 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, Yahweh, Elohim 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 that 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.

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 labors 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 assembly of Yahweh. Thus the week of unleavened bread (when every trace of leaven is cleared from the houses of believers) symbolizes the assembly which is to be purged by Yahweh: of sin, hypocrisy and false doctrine - for all time. Only when that work has been done will the assembly be a fit "**Temple of Yahweh,**" a spiritual home the Almighty will inhabit for all eternity. Yes, before Yahweh's Ruach HaKodesh takes up permanent residence in His house (the assembly) 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 & sin (leaven)** from the minds of His people; and only when that time arrives will the Week of Unleavened Bread have found its fulfillment, not before.

Scripture tells us that this Feast of Unleavened Bread is a **Sacred Sign on the believer's hand and mind that 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.

Exodus 13:6: *Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to Yahweh. 7: 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. 8: And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which Yahweh did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.*

9: And IT shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that Yahweh's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath Yahweh brought thee out of Egypt. 10: Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

Note: that 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 Ruach HaKodesh.**

The first fruits of the Ruach HaKodesh are the true believers won to Yahweh 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 neutralized 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 assembly 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 that 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)
- To call the leaders of Israel together (verse 4)
- To sound the alarm for war and to signal an attack (verse 9, Judges 3:27, Job 39:25)
- To accompany the praises of Israel at the appointed festivals and the days of the new moon (Numbers 10:10)
- To proclaim the accession of kings (2 Sam. 15:10, 1 Kings 1:34, 2 Kings 9:13)
- And to 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 trumpets past and future used 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)

- Signaling the events scheduled for the close of this age. (Revelation chapters 8 & 9)
- The Second Advent of Messiah Yahshua; 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 climatic 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.**"*

Zechariah 9:14 *"**And Yahweh shall be seen over them, and His arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and Yahweh, the Elohim 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)

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

On some future Feast of Trumpets the mighty **Trumpet of Yahweh** 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:

Zechariah 9:14 *"**And Yahweh shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and Yahweh the Elohim shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with the whirlwinds of the south.**"*

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.**"*

Only when that event happens can we justifiably say that the Feast of Trumpets has found fulfillment.

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 labor, 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 also 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 that 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 (Yahshua 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 a 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:

- 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 Yahweh.
- Filled with the power of the Ruach HaKodesh 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.
- And 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 that famous parable of the Prodigal Son.

Luke 15:11-32 *"Quick, bring the best robe and put it on him. Give him a ring for*

*his hand and sandals for his feet. Bring the fatted calf, kill it and let us eat and be merry. **For my son here was dead and he has come to life. He was lost and he is found.***"

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 that 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 movable sanctuary in the form of a tent which Yahweh directed Moses at Sinai to make, **that Yahweh might dwell as king among His people.**" (Exodus 25:8-9) Hence it was called:

- **"the dwelling"** (chs 25:9 margin of RV 26:1) and as the place where Yahweh met His people.
- **"the tent of meeting"** (Exodus 40:34,35 RV), and as the depository of the tables of the Law of testimony,
- **"the tabernacle of the testimony"** (Exodus 38:21, ch 25:21,22, Numbers 9:15)
- It was also known by the general designation **"house of Yahweh"** (Exodus 34:26, Josh. 6:24)"

From these and other passages we can see that 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 fulfillment in **Yahshua the Messiah** the only begotten Son of the Most High, who is, in reality, the true **Tabernacle of Yahweh.**

Consequently, we may say that 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 **Messiah Yahshua is Immanuel, Adonai WITH US, Elohim incarnate; that is Yahweh, the Elohim 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.**

Romans 8:3 *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, Yahweh sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

4. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Ruach."

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

Revelation 21:3 ***"Behold, the Tabernacle of Yahweh is with men and He will dwell with them and they shall be his people and Yahweh himself shall be with them and be their Elohim."***

I repeat, **Yahshua the Messiah is the Tabernacle of Yahweh!**; 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. That 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 Elohim will flow to and through His people on the earth made new. At the moment 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.

John 7:37 **"In the last day, the Great Day of the Feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.** 39. (But this spoke he of the Ruach, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Ruach HaKodesh was not yet given; because that Yahshua 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 Program 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, Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Israel paid the price for the redemption of mankind by sacrificing His Son Yahshua, 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 assembly, His house, His Temple - for all time!
- **Pentecost** - when the Almighty begins to produce **spiritual fruit**, the *fruit of the Ruach HaKodesh (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 defense.
- **Atonement** - when the ransomed assembly 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 Ruach HaKodesh, Yahweh's assembly 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 that He says:

Leviticus 23:2 **"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are MY FEASTS... 4. These are the FEASTS OF YAHWEH, 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 Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel and His only begotten Son Messiah Yahshua.

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

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

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.

Romans 11:17 ***"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... 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of Yahweh: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shall be cut off. 23 And they also, if they abide not in unbelief, shall be grafted in; for Yahweh is able to graft them in again... 25 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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 26. 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. 27. 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: that ***all true believers in Yahweh, Elohim of Israel and His Son Yahshua 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 Yahweh; the eternal memorials of our salvation!

Leviticus 23:2 ***" Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them. Concerning***

*the feasts of Yahweh, 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.

Genesis 1:14 *"And Yahweh 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 that:

- **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 Yahweh were to meet with their Creator.**

This 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 that Yahweh'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 program held in readiness in the event of mankind sinning.

Yahweh's solemn festivals, 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.

Genesis 1:14 *"And Yahweh 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 Feasts 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 that the Feast Days mentioned in the Bible were a **temporary feature** instituted by the Eternal only till the time of the Savior's death and resurrection: that 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.

Exodus 12:14 *"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations, ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance **FOREVER.**"*

According to Strong's dictionary the word **Forever # 05769 `owlam {o-lawm'} or `olam {o-lawm'}** means: *everlasting, perpetual, evermore, always, everlasting, 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 that 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 festivals. 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 that the Feast Days of the Almighty Elohim 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 that 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 that false doctrine is causing in the ranks of the Christian church.

The plain truth is this: That as the supreme Judge and Advocate in the law court of Heaven, Yahweh knew perfectly well what He was saying when He commanded that His solemn festivals were 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 that 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 that 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 Savior?" or "What was the point in

slaying some 200 animals at the Feast of Tabernacles when Messiah - to whom all the sacrifices pointed - was slain at the Passover some six months earlier?"

The answer, briefly, is this: that whereas the sacrificial lamb symbolized the innocence of Yahshua the Lamb of Yahweh; the multiplied slaughter of victims - the sheer number of animals - prefigured in mathematical terms the **manifold results** the single sacrifice of the Savior would bring about at certain **appointed times** in the great Plan of Salvation. For it is a fact that 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 Yahweh 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 that his rebellion against Rehoboam would collapse if his people went up year by year to Judah for the **sacred feast of Yahweh**. 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 *"If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again to their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28. 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. 29. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. 30. **And this thing became a sin:** for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. 31. And he made a house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not the sons of Levi. 32. 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 has made.

*33. 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, the 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 3:3

"And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh, 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 feasts 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 *"And Yahweh 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. 21. For He rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and **Jeroboam drave Israel from following Yahweh, and made them sin a great sin.***

*22. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them. 23. **Until** Yahweh 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 unauthorized 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 Yahweh and here it was happening exactly as foretold.

Deuteronomy 28:64 *"And Yahweh shall scatter thee among **all** people from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there you shall 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 festivals 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 Yahweh, the Elohim 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 festivals 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 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 fulfillment 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 that they did, and when they refused to obey they suffered the consequences.** In a sentence, that summarizes Israel's history.

Now bear in mind that **Yahweh, 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. Organized 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 that 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 Chronicles 30:5 *"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 Yahweh Elohim of Israel** at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it is written.*

6. 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 Yahweh, Elohim 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.

7. And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren which transgressed against Yahweh, Elohim of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

8. Now be ye not stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto Yahweh your Elohim, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

*9. For if ye turn unto Yahweh, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for Yahweh your Elohim 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 furthest 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 Years 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 Chronicles 33:1 **"Manasseh** was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: 2: But did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom Yahweh had cast out before the children of Israel. 3: 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. 4: Also he built altars in the house of Yahweh, whereof Yahweh had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. 5: And he built altars for all the **host of heaven in the two courts of the house of Yahweh**. 6: 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 Yahweh, to provoke him to anger.**"

The spiritual repercussions of these blatant sins came with frightening severity. verse 11. *"Whereupon Yahweh 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 Yahweh 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 Yahweh in accordance with His law. (2 Chron. 34) King Josiah then organized the Passover celebrations and invited the whole nation to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 35:17 *" And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. 18: 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. 18. 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..."

Once more revival swept the nation and Yahweh blessed Josiah with a blessing that will clothe him with honor 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 Chronicles 36:14 *" 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 Yahweh which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. 15: And Yahweh, Elohim 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:*

16: But they mocked the messengers of Yahweh, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh arose against his people, till there was no remedy. 17: 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. 18: And all the vessels of the house of Yahweh, great and small, and the treasures of the house of Yahweh, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. 19: And they burnt the house of Yahweh, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

*20: 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: 21: To fulfill the word of Yahweh by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill 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:

Lamentations 1: 4 *"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.** 5: Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; **for Yahweh 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 that a mocking disregard for **Yahweh's law and especially His Feasts** was the forerunner of national catastrophe. Jeremiah could see, and that 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. Yahweh, Elohim 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 Ruach 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 assembly 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, that 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 (Yahshua)
- 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
- And finally the return to the Promised Land.

Yes all those experiences were **figures, types, dramatized real-life examples** and **prophetic illustrations** of what was later to happen to Yahweh's assembly 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 that she is doing so according to a **divinely appointed schedule** which parallels those revivals of 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 Yahweh, 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 program 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: **that Yahweh 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 Elohim 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 12:13)
- 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 that 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 that 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 being 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.

Isaiah 25:6-8 *"And in this mountain shall Yahweh 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 Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces: and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth; for Yahweh hath spoken it."***

4. The Revival under the Apostles

No revival in the history of the assembly 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 that He was alive. During those days He talked with them about the **Kingdom of Yahweh** and gave them this specific order:

Acts 1:4 *"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 heard of me. 5. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be **baptized with the Ruach HaKodesh** not many days hence. "*

Here the Savior 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 *"And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place. 2. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them. 4. And they were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to speak with other tongues as the Ruach gave them utterance."*

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

Acts 1:8 *"You shall receive **power** after that the Ruach HaKodesh is come upon you: and you 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 assembly from a small timid group of believers into a spiritual dynamo that lit up the whole civilized 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 assembly a **spiritual banquet** of undreamed-of content; a divine infilling so glorious that 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 assembly that was scheduled to come at the **appointed time** in Yahweh's program: supernatural power which would enable the disciples to take the Gospel to the civilized world.

Now, let no-one suppose that the mighty outflow of spiritual power which came on the assembly at **Pentecost** some two thousand years ago was all that 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 *'appetizers,'* the *'starters,'* the *'foretaste'* and *'beginnings'* of a much greater **Banquet of Power** still to be set before the obedient assembly in the near future. On some coming Feast Day - any year from now – Yahweh, Elohim of Israel is going to astound the universe with the next great event in His Program of Salvation. And we can be certain that 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 analyze the revivals recorded in the Scriptures. Did you notice that they were **all** directly linked with the **sacred seasons** in the Almighty's calendar? That 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 Program 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 assembly did **after the Savior'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 that it will somehow ruin your life if you accept it? Always bear in mind that **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 that 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 Yahweh, Elohim 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 'Yahweh 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 that 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 Yahweh; 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 breath 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 ***"Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of ISRAEL, and with the house of Judah:***
 32: *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 Yahweh:*
 33: ***But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of ISRAEL; After those days, saith Yahweh, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people.*** 34: *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Yahweh; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Heb.8:7 *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8: **For finding fault with THEM, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the house of ISRAEL and with the house of Judah:***
 9: *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 Yahweh.*
 10: ***For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of ISRAEL after those days, saith Yahweh; I will put my laws into their***

mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them an Elohim, and they shall be to me a people: 11: And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

These four facts mean that 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!

The Savior's Advice

Matthew 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 that 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 Yahweh that 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 that the Sabbath commandment would still be valid long after his resurrection and he wanted his followers to keep it. He knew very well that 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 - that He advised His followers to pray about Sabbath observance some 40 years **after the crucifixion** - proves that the Sabbath commandment was not abolished at the cross. Historical records tell us that the early assembly fled from Jerusalem in the middle of the week when the Roman armies mysteriously withdrew their forces from the besieged city. This indicates that 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 that these events took place in the **new covenant era** - some 40 years after the Messiah's death on the cross.

2. 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 Savior's resurrection. Here is proof:

Acts 17:2 *"And Paul, **as his manner was**, went in into them, and **three***

Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures."

Acts 18:20 "When they desired him (Paul) to tarry a longer time with them, he consented not; 21. 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 time in Asia, for he hasted if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the **day of Pentecost.**"

Acts 13:14 "But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue **on the Sabbath day**, and sat down. ... 42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the **next Sabbath.** 43: 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 Yahweh.

44: And the **next Sabbath day** came almost the whole city together to hear the word of Yahweh."

Acts 18:4 " And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue **every Sabbath**, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks."

1 Cor.5:7 "**Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Messiaht our Passover is sacrificed for us: 8: 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 that Paul observed Yahweh's Sabbath law and went to great lengths to dispel any doubts the early assembly may have had that he was abandoning Yahweh'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 "that 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 that

There remaineth therefore a REST to the people of Yahweh.

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 Yahweh and true Believers.

In other words, here we have proof in the New Testament that not only did the weekly rest day (the Sabbath) remain; but that the true worshippers of Yahweh

and true Believers were still looking forward to the Sabbath's fulfillment in the age to come.

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

3. The Feast Days 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.

Zechariah 14:1 *"Behold, the day of Yahweh cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2: For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken... 3: Then shall Yahweh go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4: 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 Yahweh my Elohim shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7: But it shall be one day which shall be known to Yahweh, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8: 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. 9: **And Yahweh shall be king over all the earth:** in that day shall there be one Elohim, and his name one.... 12: And this shall be the plague wherewith Yahweh 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... 16: 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, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the FEAST OF TABERNACLES.** 17: And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18: And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be*

*the plague, wherewith Yahweh will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**.
19: This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**."*

Can anything be clearer than that? Does this amazing prophecy - which has obviously still to find fulfillment - give the impression that the **Feast of Tabernacles** has been done away with? Oh no dear friend, the presence of this prophecy alone demolishes forever the delusion that 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 that 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.

4. Yahweh's Sabbath on the New Earth

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

Revelation 21:1 "***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. 2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from Yahweh out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and Yahweh himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim. 4: And Yahweh 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. 5: 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 Sabbath be observed on the New Earth? Yes they will and here is the proof.

Isaiah 66:22 "*For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith Yahweh, so shall your seed and your name*

*remain. 23: 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 Yahweh. "***

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 Elohim 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 assembly, 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:

- That 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)
- And that 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 that 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 festivals 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, Hallowe'en 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, Hallowe'en, 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 Savior ascended to heaven. Here are a few authoritative statements to prove these amazing claims.

Christmas

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the assembly ... 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 Messiah'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, spiritualized 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 1978." (*Chambers encyclopedia 1970 edition page 530*)

"Indeed it is admitted by the most learned and candid of writers of all parties that the day of our Messiah'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 Roman 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 honor of the **Son of 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 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, 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 - came out **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, 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 Elohim 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:

- That those who eat festival sacrifices become united with the Elohim to whom those sacrifices are made. (v16-18)
- That though the food partaken of is itself not intrinsically changed (v19), 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. (20-21)

As Paul says:

1 Cor. 10: "20: *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to Yahweh: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 21: Ye cannot drink the cup of Yahweh, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of Yahweh's table, and of the table of devils. 22: Do we provoke Yahweh 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 honoring the demons who conceived that pagan festival in the first place; demons who are totally opposed to the Ruach HaKodesh of Yahweh; and who go out of their way to prompt mankind into committing all kinds of evil at their winter festival. You may be sure that the so-called "**spirit of Xmas**" is not the Ruach HaKodesh of Yahweh, Elohim of the Bible. Greed, drunkenness, violence and debauchery are hallmarks of the Xmas season. Everyone is now aware of this.

Sunday Observance

Millions of sincere believers all over the world are of the opinion that Sunday, the first day of the week, is the **New Covenant Sabbath, Yahweh'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 that 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.
- Between **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 Elohim 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, (Yahweh, the Elohim 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 Leader by accepting in your **mind** either the Signature of Yahweh the Elohim 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 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, that Yahweh is his choice, his Elohim. We know that the Almighty's Sabbaths constitute His **SIGN (signature)** from the following verses:

Ezekiel 20:12 *"Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths to be a **SIGN** between me and them, that they might know that I am Yahweh, that sanctify them."*

Ezekiel 20:20 *"And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a **SIGN** between me and you that ye may know that I am Yahweh your Elohim."*

Exodus 31:12 *"And Yahweh spoke unto Moses, saying, 13: 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 Yahweh that doth sanctify you.** ... 16: Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a **perpetual covenant.** 17: **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."**

Exodus 13:9 *"And it (The Feast of Unleavened Bread) shall be a **sign** unto thee **upon thine hand** and for a memorial **between thine eyes** (in the forehead) that Yahweh's law may be in thy mouth."*

Deut.6:6 *" And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7: 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
. 8: 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 & Rev. 14:1 and you will see that 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,

Hebrews 8:8 " ... Behold the days come, saith Yahweh, **when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah....** 10. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith Yahweh; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them an Elohim, and they shall be to me a people. 11. And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying 'Know Yahweh:' for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

Hebrew 10:16 **"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith Yahweh, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17. 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 that in the **New Covenant** the law of the Almighty is done away with. These texts plainly tell us that 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, Hallowe'en* 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 the ancient Israel did under King Jeroboam; they are celebrating **unsanctified days in preference to the appointed festivals of the Most High.** Jeroboam's example was the **type**, the **figure**, the **local illustration** of a tragic reality that 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 **breathtaking 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 that he is able to change and replace Yahweh'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 times." "*

What does "**He will think to change times and laws.**" mean? It means that this power will vainly imagine that he can change the commandments in Yahweh'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 Elohim! Listen to what the Savior has to say about the eternal nature of His Father's commandments:

Matthew 5:17-18 *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. **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 "**fulfill**" means *to do, to carry out, to perform, to execute, to comply with, to obey*. And that is exactly what the Savior 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
- Between the Truth and the Lie
- Between the 7th day Sabbath of the 4th commandment and Sunday the pagan counterfeit.
- Between the Feast Days of the Elohim of Israel and the festivals of heathenism.
- Between obedience and disobedience or 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 that **faith without obedience is a dead thing, a spiritual corpse!** (James 2:17-20). Yahweh expects His followers to

demonstrate their faith in Him by endeavoring to keep His commandments. To remember the true Sabbath and Feast Days in Yahweh's Law is a vote for the Almighty; a proclamation to the community and the universe at large that Yahweh, the Father of our Adonai and Savior Yahshua the Messiah is your Elohim, your choice. It is standing up to be counted with Yahweh'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 & Matt 12:8)

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 Rev. 14:9-11 for your own safety.

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 civilization apart. (Rev. 9:4) Yes, obedience will bring blessing.

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

If in 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 that you didn't know. **We** have 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 summarize this study and end this section.

Summary

1. **The Feast days commanded in the Bible belong to YAHWEH, the Almighty Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's Feasts. "These are the Feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."** says the Almighty in His Word.
2. The Feasts of Yahweh, Elohim of Israel are, by royal decree, the **appointed memorials of His mightiest deeds in the Program of Salvation**; each and every one of them being a **sacred anniversary** of some distinct, divine achievement in that program. So the keeping of them is a declaration of faith in the Almighty and His Son **Yahshua**, 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 that 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 Yahweh.
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 Yahweh 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 Yahweh, Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and His people Israel and Judah.** Yahweh 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 assembly** for many years after the Savior's resurrection.
 - They will also be observed **during the millennium by all the nations of the world.**
 - And finally they 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 that Yahweh's Feasts will indeed last from **"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, Hallowe'en 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 Yahweh, Elohim 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 Yahweh Almighty.
10. True believers in Yahweh 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 defies the dictates of the Almighty Elohim.**
 11. Just before the Savior'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 Yahweh Elohim 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 Yahweh's presence, singing His praises, shouting Halleluyah, 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 Yahweh 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 **Yahshua the Messiah, the only begotten Son of the Most High**. His voice will overwhelm your whole being as only the voice of the Savior and the presence of the Ruach HaKodesh can. And this is what He will be saying dear reader to **you**:

"...If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."
(Matthew 19:7)

Adapted from article by:

Elder: David B Loughran

Stewarton Bible School, Stewarton, Scotland

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