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MARCH-APRIL 2020

RESTORATION TIMES



Looking Toward a Far Greater Future

RESTORATION TIMES

VOL. 10 | No. 2 | March-April 2020

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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

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Cover:

You can have an amazing eternal future by living for Yahweh and His Kingdom today.

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BIBLICAL FEASTS AND THE FINAL DAYS

by Alan Mansager

To understand the seven annual feast observances of the Bible is to grasp the plan of salvation. These appointed times offer a wealth of “insider” knowledge that includes keys to when Yahshua will return and who will be saved.

Even more, these days represent a covenant between Yahweh and His people. They teach a coming heavenly Kingdom on earth where the chosen will have positions of authority as priests under Yahshua.

The life of a believer is all about preparation to rule with the Messiah in that Kingdom when He returns. His annual feasts are a time of gathering to rejoice and celebrate the blessings Yahweh has given us. By keeping them we focus on the awesomeness of eternity with the King.

The Feasts more than any other biblical teaching unlock Yahweh’s plans. The seven yearly appointed times reveal seven phases in the salvation design.

Passover Marks the Beginning

Yahweh’s holy times start off with Passover in the first month, Abib, when green ears of barley develop and this first of the grains is harvested. In the

seventh month are four high Sabbaths, which complete the harvest season and end with the Last Great Day of the Feast—picturing the Great White Throne judgment of humanity, Revelation 20:5, 12-15; Ezekiel 37:13-14.

On a higher level Yahweh’s plan of redemption is all about spiritual harvesting, starting with the all-important firstfruits.

Yahshua is the first of the firstfruits in the resurrection sequence. His death and resurrection opens the way for other firstfruits by removing the penalty of death that all sins have earned: “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures,” James 1:18.

Those in the first resurrection are called firstfruits because they come first, before others who will be resurrected later. They also receive greater rewards. “...and all the assemblies shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works,” Revelation 2:23. The firstborn received the greater inheritance in Scripture.

On the physical level Passover commemorates the deliverance of His people Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. The Feast of Tabernacles,

with a week of temporary living, reminds us that Israel lived in tents or booths before they were brought into the Promised Land. It also reminds us that this life is temporary.

As with Israel’s servitude, we face virtual slavery to this world and much tribulation because of it. Yahshua steps in with His death to deliver His people from this world of bondage.

Pharaoh as a type of haSatan had enslaved the Israelites. They depict Yahweh’s people in every age. Moses, typifying our Savior, was sent to release His people enslaved by a despised ruler. When he told Pharaoh to let His people go so they could serve Yahweh in the wilderness, the metaphor was complete and remarkably transparent.

Truth Involves a Coming Out

Satan is in charge of this sinful world. Through His Passover death, Yahshua released His people from the penalty of sin and Satan’s grip to worship Yahweh in spirit and Truth. They could not do so while in Egypt but had to come out to keep Yahweh’s Feast, which was their first step in redemption.

A similar pattern is true today.

We cannot be lukewarm with one foot in the world and the other in

Scripture. We must come completely out of error as we cannot serve both Yahweh and the world.

Once Israel was on its way out of Egypt on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Egyptian army marshaled in hot pursuit to bring them back.

Leavening that is removed for a week from homes and diets represents error that leads to sin and must not be brought back in.

This is another metaphor of what the true believer usually faces when he or she makes the decision to leave popular falsities and come to Yahweh's covenant.

Family and friends typically oppose the move and want them to give up and go back, owing mostly to their lack of knowledge and understanding of truth.

Duality of the Harvest

Pentecost or Feast of Firstfruits seven weeks later points to the harvest of those called out of the world now to help Yahshua rule for a thousand years.

Also known as the Feast of Weeks, this appointed time commemorates the giving of the law at Sinai, which Israel ratified under the Old Covenant. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit was sent wholesale to help the truth seeker be obedient to the Father and His laws.

In Acts 2: 39 Peter confirms that the chosen are heirs to the Kingdom. The *ekklesia* (improperly rendered "church") is being called out of the world now to become a kingdom of priests under the coming rulership of the Messiah.

We are not yet in the Kingdom, but those in the *ekklesia* are joint heirs of the Kingdom and are training now to help rule in the righteous government of the heavens soon coming to earth. They are learning obedience and righteousness that will dominate in that future government.

Many prophets were given visions of the latter days and the future deliverance of Yahweh's people, just as 2-3 million Israelites were delivered from Egyptian bondage. Jeremiah says why:

"Wherefore has Yahweh pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our sin that we have committed against Yahweh our Elohim? Then shall you say

unto them because your fathers have forsaken me, says Yahweh, and have walked after other deities, and have served them, and have worshiped them, and have forsaken Me, and have not kept my law and have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, you walk everyone after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto Me," Jeremiah 16:10-12.

The 'Easy Way' Mindset

When many today read Jeremiah's prophecy, they think it refers in the modern context to someone else. Most self-professing Bible believers do not realize this prophecy is directed against perverting Scriptures today and forsaking Yahweh by walking a different path and serving mighty ones called G-d and L-rd (Baal, Jer. 23:27).

When clear and explicit verses are presented – such as Exodus 23:11-17 commanding Yahweh's people to keep the Sabbatical years; to keep the seventh-day Sabbath; not to utter names of pagan deities; to keep the annual holy days—almost to a person they will shrug it off and say that it does not matter today.

Seeking shortcuts is a common human trait and following the path of least resistance is typical. Preaching an easy road to salvation is a pastime of many ministries and the people eat it up.

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" Jeremiah 5:31.

When it comes to pure worship, Yahweh offers no shortcuts. His is a doctrine of self-discipline, of overcoming our sinful nature. The firstfruits individual views life from His perspective, no matter what the obstacles.

"Therefore thus says Yahweh. Elohim of hosts. O my people that dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite you with a rod. and shall lift up his staff against you, after the manner of Egypt," Isaiah 10:24.

Hebrews 12:22-24 clearly shows that the true people of Yahweh are referred to as those dwelling in Zion. These saints will undergo future persecution and tribulation but they will be delivered with

a mighty hand just as were the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

It is at this time that the saints will be living in tabernacles just before Yahweh intervenes.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that Yahweh shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth," Isaiah 11:11-12.

And now verse 16. "There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria: like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt," Isaiah 11:16.

Note that it will be but a vestige of His people that will be left as He sets His hand to recover them a second time. He will be known as the One who saved His people from the north country, not as the Elohim who saved His people from Egypt. This series of events will surpass anything that the world has ever seen before.

Disobedience Carries a Price

The world is not obediently keeping the feast days as Yahweh commands. One cause is ignorance about the great plan of salvation. The consequence is serious: judgment.

"Howl ye: for the day of Yahweh is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty ... Behold the day of Yahweh comes, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine," Isaiah 13:6,9-10.

Yahshua Himself spoke of this time



in the Olivet prophecy in Matthew 24:29. Notice that He begins in verse 21 stating, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Verse 24 shows that the elect, or chosen people, will still be on the earth, as he speaks of false messiahs, and false prophets who will show great signs and wonders that will be so astounding and real that if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived.

Our Savior goes on to say in Matthew 24:29, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven...”

This prophecy is also seen in Joel 2:31. It is a time of Yahweh’s wrath upon a lawless and defiant world that refuses His ways and teachings.

Many times Isaiah refers to the end of the age when Yahweh’s anger is poured out on a sick, sin-filled world. Isaiah 59:18 shows that Yahweh will repay the sins of His adversaries with fury.

“So shall they fear the name of Yahweh from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of Yahweh shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith Yahweh,” vv. 19-20. Yahweh promises deliverance to His people who overcome now and live for him.

Fall Festivals Unfulfilled

At His return, Yahshua will gather His people from around the world. He promises untold glory for those who remain steadfast. In Isaiah 61 we find the verse Yahshua quoted when He began His public ministry.

“The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach The Good News to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of Yahweh,” Luke 4:18-19.

Yahshua stopped in the middle of the second verse. But it is obvious that

He was speaking of the sabbatical year in this prophecy.

Yahweh always brings events about according to His timetable.

Passover has been fulfilled twice, as has Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks. But the Feasts of the seventh month have never been fulfilled. Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles are awaiting fulfillment and Yahweh undoubtedly will be right on schedule.

His feast days help us remember His plan of redemption, which we are reminded of at three harvest times during the year. The fall *moedim* begin a time of tribulation and foreshadow the deception

through this fallen world, revealed in the temporary dwellings, as we focus on a far greater world to come.

We have the greatest opportunity ever to worship Yahweh in spirit and in truth. There are more study resources to prove the truth of the Bible than in any generation before us. We are without excuse.

Knowing and loving Yahweh means doing what He asks, just as a child shows love and respect to his or her parents by obeying them – and they love them all the more in return.

By obeying Yahweh’s commands, which include the observance of the



of the false prophet and the iron grip of the man of sin.

These festivals go on to remind us of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh where His law and government will rule the world.

Looking Toward a Far Greater Future

Temporarily staying in *succoth* or shelters, as we are commanded by Yahweh at Tabernacles, reminds us that we are but sojourners and travelers in this world. Our real goal is to be in the future Kingdom wherein is righteousness and where the entire world will be keeping His Sabbaths and His laws, Isaiah 66:23.

We are pilgrims merely passing

seventh-month festivals, we show that we desire His awesome blessings. We truly want the promises of rulership with Him in His Kingdom that come only by proving that we first will obey Him.

John wrote, “But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby we know that we are in Him,” 1John 2:5.

The Feasts teach the Kingdom coming to earth. You can have a foretaste of that joyous Kingdom today.

Decide right now to be closer to your Heavenly Father. Discover the deep-down happiness and fulfillment that comes in living for Yahweh by observing His special days. 

Fruit of the Spirit – Joy by Randy Folliard



In this segment we continue the theme of spiritual fruits and look at the next fruit, joy.

One of the most important passages in Scripture is Galatians 5:22-23, where Paul lists nine fruits or characteristics of the Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Throughout Yahshua’s ministry, He put a lot of emphasis on what He called the weightier matters, part of which are the qualities listed in the above passage.

From what Yahshua said in Matthew 5:20 we must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees if we’re going to be found worthy of Yahweh’s Kingdom.

So how do we do that? How do we exceed their righteousness? It’s impossible to out-Pharisee a Pharisee. When it came to the Law, the Pharisees crossed every t and dotted every i. Nobody can obey the Law more stringently than the Pharisees of old. So to exceed their righteousness we need to live by the weightier matters.

What Is Joy?

While joy may be easy to understand,

living and applying it is anything but simple. Most of us struggle with this—a very simple concept, but so hard for most to master.

Before delving into Scripture, let’s look at several definitions of “joy.” From the *Brown Driver and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* we learn that the Hebrew word is *simchah* and means “joy, mirth, gladness.” In Greek, according to *Strong’s*, this word derives from *chara*, meaning, “cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight.”

The website *patheos.com* gives us this explanation: “Joy isn’t like happiness which is based upon happenings or whether things are going well or not. No, joy remains even amid the suffering.

“Joy is not happiness. Joy is an emotion acquired by the anticipation, acquisition or even the expectation of something great or wonderful. It could be described as exhilaration, delight, sheer gladness, and can result from a great success or a very beautiful or wonderful experience like a wedding or graduation but the definition of joy that the world holds is not nearly as amazing

as biblical joy.”

Yet another online source, *preceptaustin.org*, interprets joy in this manner: “Joy is a feeling of inner gladness, delight or rejoicing. Joy in the NT is virtually always used to signify a feeling of ‘happiness’ that is based on spiritual realities (and independent of what ‘happens’). Joy is an inner gladness; a deep-seated pleasure. It is a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful heart. It is a cheerful heart that leads to cheerful behavior. Joy is not an experience that comes from favorable circumstances but is [Yahweh’s] gift to believers...Joy is the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and [Yahweh].”

Joy is a deep sense of happiness and contentment that we find through our relationship with Yahweh. It’s a feeling that is not conditional on how life is going.

Writing to the assembly in Rome, Paul provides insight and sheds some light regarding the source of joy. “Now the Elohim of hope fill you with all joy

and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit,” Romans 15:13.

Paul explains that Yahweh, through the power of His Holy Spirit, fills us with this hope, joy, and peace. Joy is a form of happiness or gladness not based on circumstance but on the hope and faith in Yahweh’s promises. In other words, joy should be something we feel no matter what we’re going through in life. No matter what trials we may be experiencing, we should have joy in the One we worship.

The best result of this is the promise of everlasting life in Yahweh’s Kingdom. Not only will we live forever, but it’s going to be a time of peace and happiness like nothing before. For this reason, to really experience joy we must also believe and have faith in His promises. It’s not possible to have this sense of gratification without a deep faith in and devotion to the One we worship.

Diminishing Our Joy

In fact, Paul, in Romans 12:10-12, connects rejoicing with hope. “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Master; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”

Before we look at what Paul says about rejoicing, let’s focus on some of the other aspects we find here. He begins the passage by speaking about brotherly love and how we should prefer one another.

The assembly is a family in Messiah. We should all be cognizant of what that means as it embodies concern, support, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, and respect to all those within the assembly. To go even further, it means that we should be willing to sacrifice even our own well-being.

Paul goes on to say that we should not be slothful in business, but fervent, serving the Master. The *New International Version* renders this, “... Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Master.”

Sometimes it’s easy to lose zeal and passion for our spiritual walk. Life can be very hard and challenging, and it seems this is especially true for those in the Faith. Because of this Paul says we should rejoice in hope, be patient, and continue in prayer.

Remember, joy is not determined by what is happening in our lives. Whether life is going well or badly, we should always have a sense of inner happiness based on the relationship we have with our Heavenly Father. But as we all know, life has a way of challenging and diminishing our joy in the One we worship. Therefore it’s important that we’re reminded of the need for joy, for the happiness that we find only through Yahweh’s Word.

In Psalm 97:11 we find a connection between joy and righteousness or uprightness in heart. “Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.” The word “upright” comes from the Hebrew *yashar* and refers to equity or being just. In other words, it means doing what is right according to Yahweh’s Word.

Joy is based on an upright heart. Since it comes from Yahweh through the Holy Spirit, we must live a life that is honoring and pleasing to Him.

Just as Scripture says we can quench the Holy Spirit, the same is also true for joy. If we’re not living a life of righteousness, then Yahweh is not going to bless us with this incredible sense of inward happiness. For us to achieve and maintain joy from Yahweh, we must live according to His ethics and values.

This same lesson is also seen in Proverbs 10:28. “The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.” The word “righteous” here comes from the Hebrew *tsaddik* and refers to a person who is just or lawful.

Again, we see a connection between living a life of righteousness and Yahweh’s joy or gladness. Now think back to a time when you did something wrong and you knew it, and how it affected your joy.

When we deviate from Yahweh’s Word, our happiness is negatively



Joy is a deep sense of happiness and contentment that we find through our relationship with Yahweh. It’s a feeling that is not conditional on how life is going.

affected. We feel guilty and ashamed of what we did, and we should. When we commit sin, that transgression not only impacts our relationship with Yahweh, but also the joy we have through Him. This is the reason there’s a connection between righteousness and joy.

Health Benefits of Joy

Proverbs 17:22 speaks of the benefits of having joy or a cheerful heart. “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” It’s a medical fact that our attitude affects our health. When we’re happier, we feel better, and we’re healthier.

Studies from Harvard University show how joy or happiness positively impacts our health:

“Want to feel better and improve your health? Start by focusing on the things that bring you happiness. Scientific evidence suggests that positive emotions can help make life longer and healthier” (The happiness-health connection).

‘But negative emotions are only one-half of the equation,’ says Laura Kubzansky, Harvard School of Public Health associate professor of society, human development, and health.

‘It looks like there is a benefit of positive mental health that goes beyond the fact that you’re not depressed. What this is is still a mystery. But when we understand the set of processes involved, we will have much more insight into how health works.’ Kubzansky is at the forefront of such research.

In a 2007 study that followed more than 6,000 men and women ages 25 to 74 for 20 years, she found that emotional vitality—a sense of enthusiasm, of hopefulness, or engagement in life and the ability to face life’s stresses with emotional balance—appears to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

“The protective effect was distinct and measurable, even when taking into account such wholesome behaviors as not smoking and regular exercise” (*The biology of emotion—and what it may teach us about helping people to live longer*).

There’s a correlation between happiness and health. It never ceases to amaze me how the Bible and science often support one another. In this case they both agree that a positive attitude leads to better health. The only thing we might add is that the happiness or joy we find through the Holy Spirit is so much greater and more beneficial than the temporary happiness we may find in this world.

Now saying that, there’s nothing wrong with some worldly happiness, whether it’s doing something with your family or watching a game with your friends. So long as these things are done in moderation, they are healthy; but we should not lose sight of the far deeper joy that comes from Yahweh.

David’s Joy

Two instances in Scripture really stand out when it comes to joy. The first one concerns King David in 2Samuel 6:12-15.

“And it was told king David, saying, Yahweh hath blessed the house of Obedom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of Elohim. So David went and brought up the ark of Elohim from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness. And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of Yahweh had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. And David danced before Yahweh with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of Yahweh with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.”



This is the unspeakable joy that Peter is describing: the very moment that we’ll see Yahshua return to gather His people from around this earth. We need to package this moment...

Before we address David’s actions, some background on the Ark of the Covenant is key. Before David brought it to Jerusalem, the Ark was within the city of Kiriath Jearim for 20 years, in the home of a man named Abinadab. Prior mention of the Ark was during the reign of Saul, noted in 1Samuel 7:1.

The Ark was the most holy and revered object in Yahweh’s worship. By bringing it back to Jerusalem, David was restoring pure worship to the nation of Israel. He was also recognizing the importance of Israel’s new capital, also known as the City of David and Zion.

From a historical standpoint bringing the Ark to Jerusalem was a very momentous occasion.

Notice David’s reverence and joy in the passage. We read that when they had gone six paces, or about 15 feet, they sacrificed to Yahweh oxen and fatlings. There is debate as to whether this was done once with the first six spaces or throughout the entire journey. Either way, this was a show of worship and veneration to Almighty Yahweh.

We also see that David danced before Yahweh with shouting and the blowing of trumpets. Here is a man in love with Yahweh. All David had on was a linen ephod, for which his wife, Michal, later rebuked him. But for David, none of this mattered. He had such a love and joy of

seeing the Ark of the Covenant coming to Jerusalem that for him everything was secondary. Nothing else mattered at that moment except his joy and exuberance for Yahweh.

Out of all the instances in the Old Testament, there doesn’t seem to be anyone who had more joy and love for Yahweh than King David. He was sincerely in love and had an incredible sense of joy for Yahweh. We should all strive to have this same inner sense of joy as David had.

Paul and Silas Rejoice

The other occasion that stands out is the Apostle Paul. No matter what this man went through, he always had Yahweh’s joy. An instance of this can be seen in Acts 16:22-25.

“And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto Elohim: and the prisoners heard them.”

Paul’s imprisonment was the result of his actions on a young woman who practiced divination. She followed Paul, crying out, “These men are servants of the most high El, which show us unto the way of salvation.” (Acts 16:17)

After several days of this, Paul was grieved and he removed the evil spirit from her. However, those who benefited from this lady’s divination complained and got Paul and Silas thrown into prison.

This turn of events did not dampen Paul and Silas’ joy. Instead of being depressed or upset, we find that they prayed and sang praises to Yahweh. This shows the inner joy and peace that Paul and Silas had for their Heavenly Father. No matter what the persecution, nobody was going to remove the joy they had for Yahweh.

This is the difference between worldly happiness and cheerfulness through Yahweh. Worldly happiness is

temporary and is based on what will pass away, but the happiness through Yahweh is continuous and not dependent upon circumstance.

It's a deep sense of gladness and gratification through our relationship with Yahweh.

As believers, can we faithfully obey the commandments and NOT have a relationship with Yahweh? The answer is yes, and the scribes and Pharisees

Nothing should bring us more joy and hope than the thought of Yahshua's return. Peter describes it as "unspeakable joy." There are no words that can describe the exuberance we'll experience when we see the return of Yahshua the Messiah.

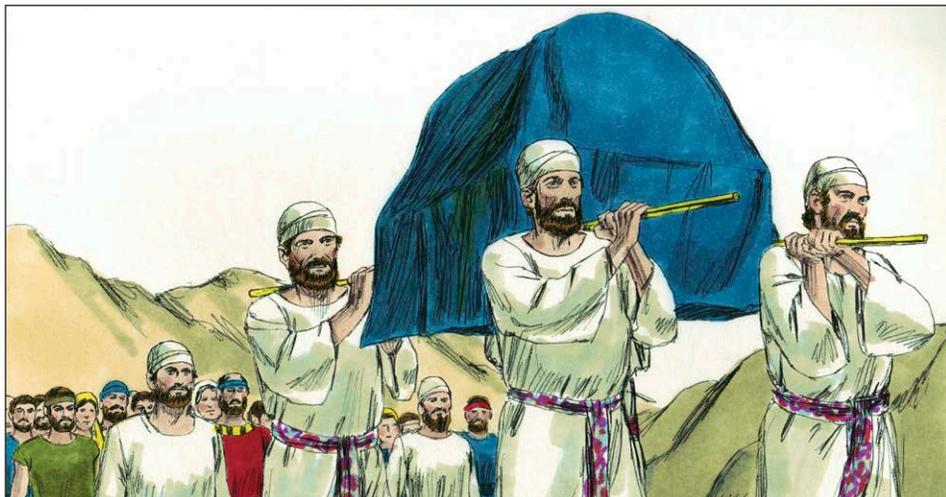
For a moment try to visualize this scene. War and chaos are all around. But in the midst of the chaos you look up into the sky to see the clouds part, followed

read, we'll know our redemption is near, a reference to Yahshua's return.

The three-and-a-half years before Yahshua's coming is known as the Great Tribulation. Yahshua said this would be the worst time this world has ever and will ever see. It will be worse than the atrocities committed under the Nazi regime when 6 million Jews were exterminated. But when all is said and done, we find our great hope in our Savior's Second Coming, for when we see Him, we will know that our redemption is near.

The Greek word for "redemption" refers to our forgiveness and acceptance through Messiah. Imagine the profound joy that we'll feel when we see the return of Yahshua the Messiah and know that we've made it—that we've been found worthy of eternal life!

If only there were words to fully convey the joy, happiness, and elation we'll taste at this moment! The promise we find here should drive us and give us this inward sense of happiness and joy.



were living proof of this.

We should all strive for this inner joy promised by the Word. It's not enough to simply keep the Sabbath and the other commandments. As Yahshua said in Matthew 23, we must apply the weightier matters, which include the fruits or characteristics of the spirit.

If we fail to do this, we'll be no better than the Pharisees that Yahshua rebuked throughout His ministry.

A Bright Promise

Occasionally we speak about Yahweh's promises, and there's nothing greater than the promise of Yahshua's coming and the resurrection. We find a reference to this assurance in 1Peter 1:7-9: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Yahshua Messiah: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."

by Yahshua with thousands of angels by His side. After this you see the dead rising from their graves and changing into spirit beings. And then those yet alive change from flesh to spirit in a twinkling of an eye. After this the elect of Yahweh rise to meet Yahshua in the clouds as He descends to earth.

Can you picture the overwhelming exuberance of this moment? This is the unspeakable joy that Peter is describing: the very moment that we'll see Yahshua return to gather His people from around this earth. We need to package this moment and place it within our hearts and minds. It is this promise through the Holy Spirit that will provide unspeakable joy.

Yahshua offers a similar picture in Luke 21:28. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Luke 21 is part of the Olivet Prophecy, along with Matthew 24 and Mark 13. Within it, Yahshua provides many of the prophecies that will occur near and at His return. Looking up, we

Happiness Tips from the Bible

Here is an excerpt from *aleteia.org* entitled "Happiness Tips from the Bible," showing how to achieve and cultivate joy in our life.

1. Living a life of righteousness (Prov. 23:24)
2. Avoid pride (1Tim. 6:17)
3. Be patient (Rom. 12:2)
4. Be honest (Rom. 12:17)
5. Be compassionate (1Pet. 3:8)
6. Have integrity (Ps. 84:11)
7. Accept trials and persevere in temptations (James 1:12)
8. Have faith (1Pet. 1:8-9)
9. Have empathy (Rom. 12:15)
10. Accept suffering (Rom. 5:3-5)
11. Enjoy every moment of life (Ecc. 7:14)
12. Trust in Yahweh's providence (Ps. 37:4-5)
13. Promote peace (Prov. 12:20)
14. Seek Yahweh's comfort (Ps. 94:19)

May we all seek the inward sense of joy and happiness we find through our relationship with the most important Being in this universe, Yahweh, our Father in heaven.



FIRSTFRUITS AND THE DYNAMICS OF ABIB

by Alan Mansager

“Are you telling me that salvation is promised in the Old Testament?” the incredulous young man asked. Many are astonished to learn that the plan of salvation did not begin in the New Testament with the coming of Yahshua the Messiah.

A key that unlocks Yahweh’s design for the salvation of the faithful is in the annual, appointed observances first detailed in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

These Feasts, commanded for all ages, are chock-full of symbolic meaning. When we unlock their spiritual treasures, our understanding of His truth is greatly elevated. Physically observing the seven Feast days as commanded in Leviticus 23 sharpens our perception even more.

Notable Abib Beginnings

The first annual Feast, which follows the Passover memorial, is Unleavened Bread or Feast of Unleavened. It centers on His called-out people, revealing a variety of Truths about salvation and those called to be first among many to be rewarded life everlasting.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a time of beginnings. It falls, appropriately, in the first of the biblical months, which is Abib, the month of “green ears” of grain. Many important and prophetic events fell in this first month. Being the first month of the year, Abib is full of important “firsts.”

- Genesis 8:13 reveals a new beginning when on the first day of this first month Noah removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the earth was dry.
- It was in the month of Abib that Abraham was called from Ur of the Chaldees to a new home in the future land of Yahweh’s chosen, Israel. It was also the time his son Isaac was born, Genesis 17:21; 18:14.
- During the Feast in the month Abib Israel was delivered from Egypt to begin a walk in the covenant, Exodus 12:5.
- In Abib the Tabernacle was erected for the worship of Yahweh, Exodus 40:2.
- John the Baptist began his preaching in Abib, paving the way for Yahshua’s own ministry.
- Our Savior was put to death in Abib, when He also was resurrected as the first of the Firstfruits in the resurrection of

mankind to follow.

The future resurrection is depicted symbolically in the harvest cycle of grain, when the crop is planted in prepared soil. There it is watered, weeded, grown to maturity, and finally harvested. The same process in a spiritual way occurs with those called by Yahweh and who grow and mature with the Spirit.

In Leviticus 23:10 Yahweh commanded a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest to be waved by the priest on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath. That took place during the Days of Unleavened Bread in Abib.

Israel was to eat nothing of the bread, parched corn, or green ears until the grain offering was made of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil.

The Word is clear that the wave-sheaf be of green ears. Note Leviticus 2:14-15, “If you bring a grain offering of first fruits to Yahweh, offer crushed heads of new grain roasted in the fire. Put oil and incense on it; it is a grain offering,” NIV.

That grain offering was to be made the same day the wavesheaf was offered,

and only afterward could they eat of the new grain. By offering to Yahweh the first of the grain, His blessings would fall upon them as they continued to harvest the crops.

This firstfruit harvest phase of the barley grain is known as the “dough” stage before it turns fully ripe. That is what the Bible calls Abib. It is a month defined by a stage of grain development. The dough stage doesn’t last long. To wait until the next new moon a month later would produce fully ripe grain and would no longer be Abib. This would also violate Deuteronomy 16:1 about observing Passover in Abib.

Luke 6:1-5 gives the account of the Savior and disciples going through a grain field on the Sabbath in the Feast, plucking some grain and rubbing the kernels in their hands. Some expositors show this to be the weekly Sabbath, understood from the context.

The first Sabbath was a High Sabbath during Unleavened Bread, while this Sabbath was the weekly Sabbath.

The Pharisees accused them of “harvesting” on the Sabbath. But they were merely eating some of the grain not yet harvested, which could have been one to eight days after Passover.

The First of Harvests

The fact that the month is called “Abib,” meaning “green ears,” means that the barley is not fully ripe when Passover is to be observed. The new grain offering to Yahweh is to be of green ears (Lev. 2:14-15). These were to be poached or roasted in fire to dry the kernels.

The wavesheaf of this new grain was to be waved on the “morrow after the weekly Sabbath” during the days of Unleavened Bread. Yahshua is our wavesheaf, the first of the firstfruits being presented to Yahweh following Yahshua’s death at Passover.

Being a cold-weather crop, barley grows best in cool weather once planted in the fall. It grows until spring and harvesting in Judea usually begins around the middle or end of March.

The wavesheaf is the first to be harvested in the new year and must be of green ears so the grain can be parched or

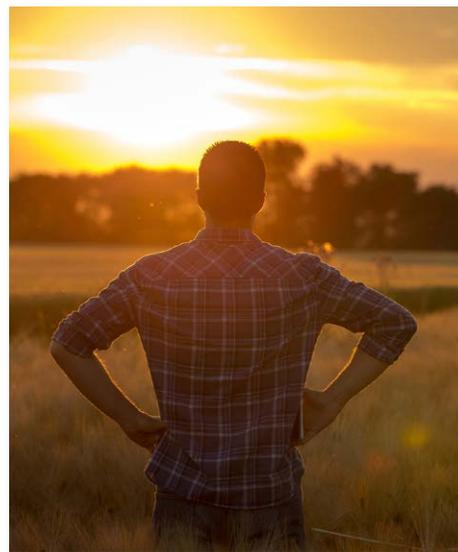
dried over a fire.

Then the new grain can be eaten as the people give thanks to Yahweh for the coming harvest.

An important reason for being aware of the green ears of barley is so that we keep the Feast days of Yahweh at the proper time in the year.

Yahweh said His sacred year begins in the month of green ears, determined by the harvest season. The month’s beginning is established by the new moon.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is commanded in Exodus 12:14-34, Leviticus 23:6-14, Numbers 28:17-25, and Deuteronomy 16:3-8. In the New Testament, Paul illuminates the spiritual gist of this Feast, “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even



Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” 1Corinthians 5:7-8.

Neither Paul nor any other apostle or disciple observed any holidays except those commanded in the Scriptures—like this Feast.

Exodus 5:1 says, “And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus said Yahweh Elohim of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.” That Feast was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which directly follows the

Passover on the 15th of the month of Abib, Leviticus 23:5-6.

Israel kept the Passover in Egypt as the death angel “passed over” them, and then they left on the Feast of Unleavened Bread to go into the wilderness and sacrifice three days later, Exodus 5:3.

In Luke 2:42 we read that when Yahshua was twelve He went to Jerusalem to keep the Feast with His parents. In Mark 14:12-18 we see Yahshua keeping the Passover with His disciples before He died. The Passover preceded the Feast and was kept with the entire, week-long observance. See Mark 14:1-2.

As we have seen, Paul in 1Corinthians 5:8 specifically tells us to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests were afraid to take Yahshua on the Feast day (first day of Unleavened Bread) lest the people might revolt for profaning a holy day. The Jewish masses were keeping this Feast and Yahshua was an observant Jew totally faithful to the law.

Leavening represents the following: false doctrine (Matt. 16:12); hypocrisy and formalism (Luke 12:1); malice and wickedness (1Cor. 5:8), and political religion and worldiness (Mark 8:15). Unleavening represents the opposite of each.

In the baking process, these substances cause the dough to leaven or puff up through chemical action. Like breads and rolls, wine and beer also have been leavened through the action of yeast and therefore are to be removed and avoided during the seven days of the Feast.

Feasts Yesterday, Today, Forever

Some think that as part of the “law of Moses,” the Feasts were abolished when the Law was done away. Aside from the simple fact that the Law was never abolished (Matt. 5:17; Rom. 7:1), we find evidence that the Feasts were observed before Sinai, even back to creation itself.

The 12th chapter of Exodus takes place before the law was given on Sinai. In verses 18-19 we find Yahweh reviewing this Feast for Moses. We learn that Cain displeased Yahweh because of his improper offering, which was of produce. Abel, on the other hand, brought the firstlings of his flock, Genesis 4:3-4. 🌿

EASTER

—The Great Counterfeit—

by Alan Mansager



While I was reading the Book of Acts recently, I was struck by the use of several words that were clearly out of place.

Linguists call these terms anachronisms, words that don't fit the era they are put into. I read "deputy" in 13:7, "sergents" in 16:35, "town clerk" in 19:35, "sheriffs" in Daniel 3:2, and "castle" nine times in nine verses.

I chuckled as I realized that some King James translator was simply employing terms common to his Renaissance English mind in translating words from a biblical era that were called something very different.

A similar phenomenon occurs in Bible art, where the 15th-century artist portrays ancient Israelites in garb of the Middle Ages. And then there's the ever-popular artist's portrayal of the Savior with long, blondish hair, light skin, and European profile that belie His Mediterranean Jewish pedigree.

Manipulating historical fact is common and transparent in literature and art. This practice is a major cause of error in church teachings.

Take the second biggest holiday in Christendom. If you could have asked any of the disciples in the year 40 C.E. where they were going to celebrate Easter that year you would have been met with incredulous stares. Peter would have probably asked, "Do you mean Ishtar, the pagan Babylonian celebration?"

When it comes to Scripture, "Easter" is an anachronism. The only place in the *King James Version* where this word appears is in Acts 12:4. There the word is the Greek *pascha*, which is derived from the Hebrew *pesach*, or Passover.

The error is corrected in modern translations to read "Passover" (see the *New International Version*, *The Jerusalem Bible*, *New American Standard Bible*, *The New King James Bible*, *Revised Standard Version*, *The New English Bible*).

Peter Cotton Tale

If the original observance was none other than Passover, and today's Easter observance was unknown in Scripture, then from where does Easter derive? And how do colored eggs and a chocolate Peter Cottontail sitting in a basket of green plastic grass fit into the resurrection of the Savior?

The answer is simple. Easter is a hybrid from ancient mystery worship. It retrofits pagan beliefs into a biblical narrative.

The following excerpts are from *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, "Easter," pp. 43-44: "That the Jewish Christians continued to keep the Jewish festivals is altogether probable, if not certain, from Paul's habit..."

"So far then it would appear that the pascha observance was a time of grief and it is left uncertain whether

the resurrection was observed annually by a special day, or, if observed at all, whether it was observed separately from the festival of the death of [Messiah].

"Eusebius further says that the churches in Asia Minor derived their custom of observing the pascha from the Apostle John and Philip. Without doubt Christian elements were [later] incorporated into the celebration.

"Certainly in the fourth century the term *pascha* stood for both the resurrection and the death of [Messiah]. It was then called 'the holy feast, the pascha of our salvation by the Council of Antioch 341.

"Finally, in the fourth century *pascha* came to be used in a limited sense for Easter Sunday alone..."

One reason for the switch to Easter was anti-Semitic bias. Passover was wrongly considered only a "Jewish" observance even though it's called "Yahweh's Passover" in Exodus 12:11 and Leviticus 23:5.

Easter is a man-made observance with no biblical precedent, command, or basis. An eye-opening statement from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* reads:

"Unlike the cycle of feasts and fasts of the Jewish Law, the Christian year has never been based upon a divine revelation. It is rather a tradition that is always subject to change by ecclesiastical law" (Macropedia, vol. 4, p. 601).

This fact begs the question: if

the only justification for celebrating the popular church holidays is mere tradition of men and not the Bible, isn't it unlawful to use them to supplant feasts that ARE specifically commanded by Almighty Yahweh Himself? Sure.

Scripture clearly shows that the proper celebration of the resurrection is in the solemn act of baptism. See Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12, and 1Peter 3:21. No yearly celebration of the resurrection exists in Yahweh's Word.

Symbols of Fertility

One problem with popular religious observances based on human tradition is that much of that tradition is grossly irreverent in origin. It's no different with Easter: "As at Christmas, so also at Easter, popular customs reflect many ancient pagan survivals — in this instance, connected with spring fertility rites, such as the symbols of the Easter egg and the Easter hare or rabbit," *Britannica*, p. 60.

The English name Easter has no connection to the meaning of "resurrection." It is an Anglo-Saxon word from the name of an old Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility worship. In Chaldea, this heathen deity was Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven. In Babylon, she was Ishtar (pronounced "Aestar").

The celebration anciently honored this queen of heaven and the fertility worship and procreation she represented, for which springtime, rabbits, and eggs were all symbols.

Sunrise Worship of the Sun

One rite is central in the Easter celebration—the Easter Sunrise worship service, which is supposedly based on Yahshua's resurrection Sunday morning. He, however, was already risen by sunset Saturday night, according to Matthew 12:40 and when He was entombed.

The origin of the sunrise service traces to idolatry. It was even practiced by some who professed Yahweh, whose behavior He strongly condemned. In Ezekiel 8:16 the prophet is shown this abomination taking place right on the steps of the Temple.

"And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them."

This heathen practice is still done in the name of Easter sunrise services today. It is nothing more than perpetuating ancient sun worship. "Learn not the way of the heathen," Yahweh thunders in Jeremiah 10. Who is listening?

Once You Know, You Go

How can someone be a True Worshiper and indulge in practices firmly grounded in ancient heathen rites? Yahweh calls these things abominations.

Once you understand the truth, you are obligated to follow it. "If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries," Hebrews 10:26-27.

Giving up the lures and sins of the world may not be easy but it is the only way that leads to everlasting life! Hebrews 5:8-9 says of Yahshua, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

The walk of the believer is not down Easy Street. At times we also must learn obedience by the trials we must overcome. When we discover truths, we must follow them, and that includes forsaking the ways of the world in favor

of His ways. It may include overcoming resistance from family and friends, it may involve sacrificing of job and comfort, and most of all—learning to overcome our own pulls and nature.

The believer who strives to be of the firstfruits in the resurrection must say no to worship that does not conform to the Word. Easter is a complete, man-made observance with no place in the Scriptures or in the life of a man or woman of Yahweh.

Lent – on Loan from Babylon

The observance of Lent directly traces to the worship of the Babylonian goddess Semiramis (a.k.a. Ishtar). This pagan rite was a "preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz," her son and sun-god, *The Two Babylons*, p. 105.

Weeping over the death of Tammuz marked this celebration, from which sprang the practice of fasting or giving up something in anticipation of the hoped-for resurrection.

Lent was adopted and adapted by the Western church as a time of self-denial in preparation for Easter. The rites marked by fasting were shifted to reflect Yahshua's fast of 40 days in the wilderness, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending before Easter.

Neither Yahshua nor His disciples observed Lent, and they said nothing about it in the Bible. On Ash Wednesday a smudge of ash in the form of a cross is painted on foreheads by a priest, publically marking one's participation in the ritual.

Yahshua warned against making a show of fasting and humility: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:16-18).

We must never allow spiritual discipline to lead to pride. 

We answer your questions about hygiene, proper worship, the necessity of the Feasts, the Holy Spirit, the “night to be much observed” — and more.

Q I know that the scriptures have specific laws against eating scripturally unclean meats like pork and shellfish. Does the Bible say anything about the flu, colds, and hygiene? – MA

A Yahweh had the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention beat by 4,000 years! In Leviticus 15:1-13, He tells us what to do when a person has a discharge, like mucus from a viral sickness:

“And Yahweh spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When any man hath a running issue out of his flesh, because of his issue he is unclean. And this shall be his uncleanness in his issue: whether his flesh run with his issue, or his flesh be stopped from his issue, it is his uncleanness. Every bed, whereon he lieth that hath the issue, is unclean: and every thing, whereon he sitteth, shall be unclean. And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And he that sitteth on any thing whereon he sat that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And if he that hath the issue spit upon him that is clean; then he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. ... and he that beareth any of those things shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And whomsoever he toucheth that hath the issue, and hath not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And the vessel of earth, that he toucheth which hath the issue, shall be broken: and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water. And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean.”

Research has shown that 50 percent of viral transmissions can be stopped by simple handwashing. Consulting the One who designed us would save countless illnesses and deaths.

Q There is no YRM Assembly in my area, and so I attend at a non-Name group that at least keeps the Sabbath. Am I wrong to do this? – email

A Fellowship for fellowship’s sake should not be the primary reason for Sabbath worship. Although this well-established group you attend keeps the Sabbath, it does not honor the true Name of Father and Son, nor does it observe the Feasts or follow the biblical calendar. Other of its doctrines are also in error.

So does Yahweh accept such worship? The Assembly at Thyatira in Revelation 2 can be our guide here. We read in 2:19: “I know your works, and charity, and service, and faith, and your patience, and your works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will

cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the assemblies shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.”

The Assembly at Thyatira had some good going for it, as do most groups. But to put it lightly, Yahweh was hot about the error that was being taught, promoted by an influential, evil woman. Those who acquiesce in her error are condemned with her. Do you want to take the chance and receive judgment by indulging in the error of others?

Yahshua said in Matthew 15:9, “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” In lieu of visiting, we offer live Sabbath services online at yrm.org. We also have numerous studies and videos at our website that you can utilize on the Sabbath.

Q I am struggling with whether it is commanded to celebrate the feasts. My church says no because the ceremonial and sacrificial laws were done away with and that because the feasts have sacrificing in them we are denying Yahshua’s ultimate sacrifice. They also say that when the Bible says we are to do these for generations to come that that does not mean today. I feel we are to do the feasts but because I am not a Jew, many say I am wrong to be following many of the Jewish customs. Please give scripture. – RK



A If “generations to come” does not refer to today, to when does it refer? Yahweh’s Word is filled with commands and examples about keeping His Feasts. (Ex. 12; Lev. 23; Num. 29; Isa. 66:23; 1Cor. 5:8). There are even warnings about not keeping them (Zech. 14:17). You should ask your church where are the biblical commands to keep Christmas, Easter, and most everything else that it probably celebrates. The simple fact is, no such commands exist. But there are numerous commands, directions, and examples for observing the annual Feasts.

As for the teaching that a sacrificial change abolishes the Feasts, let’s say I am convicted of a crime of vandalism and am ordered to perform community service as punishment. In time the judge decides that rather than go out and clean parks and streets I need only to call in daily to my parole officer. Does that mean that vandalism is no longer a crime? No, it only means that how I pay for my crime has changed.

A change in sacrifices has no bearing on whether a Feast should continue to be observed. Notice that it is a “change” in sacrifices and not an abolishment of sacrifices. The sacrificial principle remains alive even as the sacrifice of Yahshua’s blood now pays for us.

That the Feasts belong only to Jews is a common error. The Scriptures repeatedly call them “Yahweh’s Feasts,” Leviticus 23:2. If today’s popular worship has all of its teachings correct, then why does Acts 3:21 tell us that before Yahshua returns there must be a restitution of all things? This means a restoring of what has been neglected. What is it that was once taught and practiced that needs to be restored? It’s the Feasts, for one thing, which have been neglected for 2,000 years, along with the weekly Sabbath and His Name.

Q I am confused about the night to be much observed. A group I once attended says it is sunset of the first high day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. What is your teaching? – FM

A Our studies conclude that the night to be much observed is the night of Passover, not the first high day of Unleavened Bread.

In Exodus 12:42 we read, “It is a night to be much observed unto Yahweh for bringing them out from the land of Egypt.” It was on Passover night that Pharaoh finally released Israel after the death of his firstborn son, Exodus 12:31. “Much observed” is the Hebrew *shimmurim* and means “watchings.”

Passover night was also the time the death angel passed over Egypt and Israelites were in their homes in Goshen watching in fear as the angel passed at midnight. They were to roast the lamb and eat it that night, and if any was left over by the morning they were to burn it in fire, Exodus 12:8-10. All of this shows that this was a busy, eventful night, one spent anxiously watching, eating, and anticipating.

In obedience to this command, the Jews typically try to stay awake as long as possible the night of the Passover, and when one of them falls asleep they declare the night

over and all retire.

This idea of watching (“much observed”) on Passover night is found in the New Testament, too. In Matthew 26:38 Yahshua expected the disciples to watch with Him on Passover night.

Notice in Matthew 26:40 on that Passover night Yahshua and the disciples were in the garden and Yahshua was praying. He came back to find the disciples asleep.

“And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?” Yahshua’s own statement tells us again that Passover night is the time for watching, as it was in ancient Israel.

Q You say that the word Easter in Acts 12:4 should be translated Passover in the King James Bible. Easter seems a far more appropriate holiday for a pagan like Herod. – BD

A The Herods were Idumaeans or nominal Jews. Herod Agrippa I in Acts 12 was a vassal ruler by Rome who played both sides with the Romans and the Jews. Caligula put Herod in as a go-between ruler to act as a buffer between the Romans and Jews who despised Rome.

In Acts 12 Herod pleased the Jews when he killed James and, being on a roll, then took Peter also. If he were trying to placate the pagans, he would have infuriated the Jews, which was the last thing he or Rome wanted. The Jews didn’t celebrate Easter in Judea in Acts. Every other modern translation of the Bible renders it “Passover.”

A footnote on Acts 12:4 in the *Restoration Study Bible* says, “The KJV reads ‘Easter’ in place of ‘Passover.’ This was derived from a false rendering of the Greek word *pascha*, which is of Aramaic origin, referring to the OT Passover (see Ex. 12). According to the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, ‘The English word Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Eastre* or *Ester*, a Teutonic goddess to whom sacrifice was offered in April.’ *Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible* continues: ‘Easter, Christmas, Lady Day, Lent, and other Babylonian festivals were all borrowed from this religion and were all observed centuries before (Messiah). None of them have any relationship to (Messiah) or Christianity.’”

The time and context of Acts 12 is the days of Unleavened Bread. Passover is consistent with this.

Q Why do you keep the Sabbaths and Feasts? Don’t we live by the Spirit now? – JD

A Yes, and that is why we keep them. In Acts 5:32, He gives His spirit to those who obey Him. Yahweh adds in Ezekiel 36:27, “I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them.” See Romans 8:4 also.

THE TWO GREATEST LAWS

by Randy Folliard

When Yahshua was asked by a scribe what commandment was foremost, He replied, “The first of all the commandments is, hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim is one master: And you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).

Yahweh tells us that if we keep His commandments we love Him. As for those who do not keep his commandments the love of the father is not in them. “But whoso keeps his word, in him is the love of Yahweh perfected: hereby know we that we are in him,”

1John 2:5. “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

The same message is found in John 14:21-24, John 15:9-10, 1John 3:24, and 1John 5:3. Many other verses show that through obedience to Yahweh’s Word, we are showing Yahweh that we love Him.

Yahshua said that the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. We can see that same commandment given by Moses in Leviticus 19:18, “But you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am Yahweh.”

What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? It means to love and treat the people we come into contact with as we would want to be treated ourselves.

“If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, you shall love your

neighbor as yourself, you do well” (James 2:8).

The follower of Yahweh will love and respect those around him, including his enemies. “For if you love them that love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans so? And if you salute your brethren only, what do you more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5: 46-48).

By loving your neighbor you are fulfilling the law (Rom. 13:8-10). Yahshua also tells us that there is no greater love than to give the ultimate sacrifice: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,” John 15:13.

Yahshua demonstrated this by giving his own life so that we would

LIVESTREAM

YAHWEH'S RESTORATION MINISTRY



SATURDAY, 1:20 PM CENTRAL



We thank our crucial members who have been at YRM every Sabbath during the quarantine. It's challenging to run all the equipment with half the staff, not to mention social distancing while running complex video and audio machinery. Some are handling three or four tasks.

Hundreds of brethren depend on these live Sabbath services for worship, and now more than ever as we are seeing an uptick in viewership every week. A big “thank you” to those behind and in front of the camera! See you next Shabbat.

(Photo of the team by Jason Sanchez)

have an atonement for our sins and could appear before him without blemish: “As the Father knows me, even so know I the father: and lay down my life for the sheep” (John 10:15).

The Messiah told us to love our enemies and pray for them. “You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy: but I say to you. love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you” (Matt. 5:43-44).

We as Yahweh’s True Believers should always keep our faith in Yahshua the Messiah, and look past one another’s faults, including those of our adversaries. We should strive for the perfection that Yahweh wants.

Keep in mind that when we were caught up in the sins of this world, we were Yahweh’s enemies. Through the love Yahweh showed us by giving us His only son, and allowing us an atonement for our sins, we try to show the same love to our enemies.

Paul reminds Timothy that we cannot allow ourselves to be caught up in this world. Our hearts and treasure must always be focused upon Yahweh, while being a bright and shining light to this world.

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise Elohim our savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever” (Jude 24-25).

Let us love one another from the heart, and allow Yahweh’s spirit to grow within each one of us. May we remember that with the right heart we are already keeping Yahweh’s commandments. May we keep the faith of our only Savior and appear before His throne unblemished in preparing for the Kingdom. 

בִּיבְלִיָּא HEBREW WORD לֶשׁוֹן

אֶרֶץ

Erets eh'-rets

Composition: Aleph, Seghol,
Resh, Seghol, Final Tzadi.

The Hebrew word **Erets** means
earth or land.

“In the beginning Elohim created
the heavens and the **earth** (erets).”

Genesis 1:1

Outreach Program’s Current Partners

We recognize our outreach partners for their outstanding dedication to the Truth in their effort to fulfill the Great Commission. If you are interested in becoming an outreach partner to help us spread the Truth, visit: <http://www.yrm.org/outreach> or call us at (573) 896-1000 during normal office hours (M-F, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm.) We will explain how you can join this group committed to spreading the Good News!

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“Love this ministry! Always wanted to come visit the assembly and didn’t realize that I lived right down the road from it for 2 years several years back.”

– Anon.

“Suggestion. Hope you start making those 30 minute teaching videos again. They helped me so much and not overwhelming and lengthy. Easy to follow and just long enough to keep your full attention.” – CL

“You made a reference to the errors in the King James Version. My church says that the King James is inspired and without error.” – Anon.

The King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611, and subsequent editions corrected a number of translation errors, showing that the translation is not inspired. These were done in 1612, 1613, 1616, 1617, 1629, 1630, 1634, 1638, 1660, 1683, 1727, 1762, 1769, and 18. Each one of these revisions differed in certain passages from the previous edition. For example, in Matthew 26:36 the 1611 KJV had, “Then cometh Judas.” Today’s Version reads, “Then cometh Jesus.” The 1613 printing omitted the word “not” from

the seventh commandment, effectively commanding adultery. This King James edition became known as the “Wicked Bible.” Another printing became known as the “Unrighteous Bible” because it stated in 1Corinthians 6:9 that the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of heaven. A few printing errors continue to occur in the King James Version and other versions today. Only the original

autographs are inspired and error-free, but they no longer exist. – ED

“Thank you for opening my eyes. Sadly almost no Christian wants to even hear that they all have being lied to by traditions of men and refuse to hear us. Keep up the good work. I’m in Bible College and soon I will join this teaching to the world.” – AA

“I Didn’t Know That”

– Easily Provable Biblical Facts Churches Avoid –

- Every time you say “halleluYah” you are praising the Father’s Name (hallel means “praise” plus the suffix Yah)
- The Savior came in His Father’s Name, Yah-shua. They share the same surname “Yah”
- The Savior and His apostles taught completely from the Old Testament, the only Bible in existence at that time
- Christmas, Easter, and Halloween do not exist in the Bible
- The Gospel was preached to Abraham
- Grace and love are Old Testament teachings
- Faith is found throughout the Old Testament
- The Holy Spirit is seen working throughout the Old Testament
- Yahweh wanted obedience over Old Testament sacrifices
- Resurrection from the dead is an Old Testament teaching
- Salvation is also an Old Testament teaching
- The Sabbath is found in 60 New Testament passages
- The seventh-day Sabbath was observed by the Savior and His disciples, never Sunday worship
- Every one of the Feast days is observed in the New Testament
- The entire planet will be forced to keep Yahweh’s Feast Days in the coming Kingdom

(For more eye-opening facts see p. 1408 in the 3rd edition Restoration Study Bible)

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