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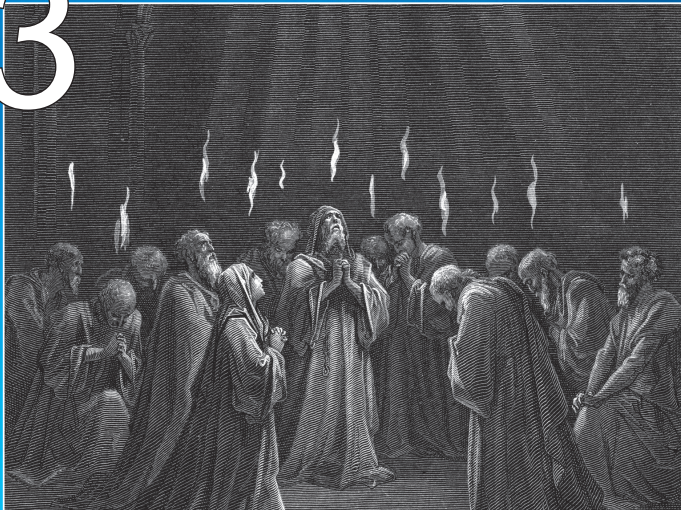
YAHWEH...

IT'S JUST
A NAME?

RESTORATION TIMES

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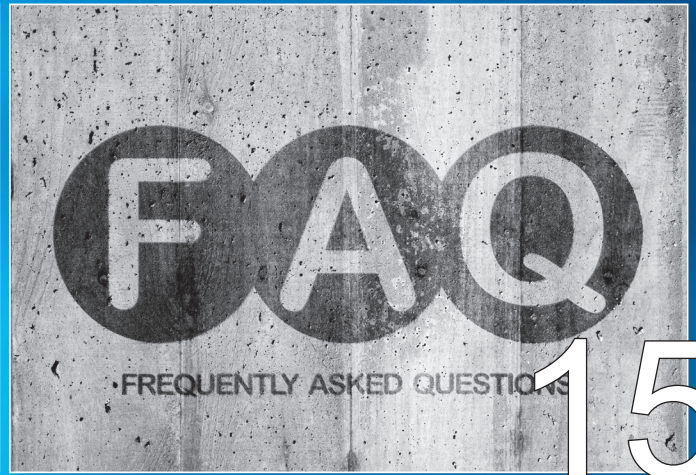
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of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

This publication is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.
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COVER:

Moabite Stone 840BCE pictured. One of the oldest inscriptions referencing the Kingdom of Israel and Yahweh (YHWH) in Phoenician (related to Paleo-Hebrew). See page 8

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The Spirit of Pentecost

by Randy Folliard

The day of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Weeks in the Old Testament and *Shavuoth* in Hebrew, is a day packed with biblical insight and importance.

It's significant in both the Old and New testaments and is a day that Israel, along with the apostles, observed. It represents two essential gifts from our Heavenly Father: the giving of the Torah and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Examining the Command

As with any truth of Yahweh's Word, understanding the foundation is important. Leviticus 23 is a key passage providing a summary of the seven annual Feasts, including the Feast of Weeks. It reads, "And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto Yahweh," vv. 15-16.

Normally Yahweh gives the day and month for His appointed times. For example, He commands that we observe

the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15th day of the first month. He follows this same pattern for all His Feasts except for this one. Instead of providing a specific month and day, He commands that we count seven complete Sabbaths or weeks from the time that the wave sheaf was offered.

The wave sheaf was presented to Yahweh by the priest on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath, being the Sunday that falls during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The grain harvest could not begin until this firstfruits sheaf was waved before Yahweh.

After we count seven complete weeks, Scripture commands that we add a 50th day. This 50th day marks the Feast of Weeks and is where we receive the name "Pentecost."

In verse 16 Yahweh says that on this day Israel was to offer a new grain offering. The type of grain is key. Understanding agriculture in the Old Testament is pivotal to His Feasts.

The first month, Abib, commemorates the barley harvest, Exodus 9:31. The next grain to be harvested is wheat. Therefore, the Feast of Weeks commemorates the

wheat harvest. The first two major Feasts in the Word were based on agricultural harvests.

In verse 17 Yahweh commanded Israel to make two loaves of bread on this day. It reads, "Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto Yahweh."

Notice that these two loaves both contained yeast or leavening. What might this leavening symbolize? It's possible that it represents the establishment and growth of Yahweh's assembly. We also find that leavening doesn't always symbolize sin or something negative. Here leavening represents something pure or holy.

Pentecost is also a time of worship and fellowship: "And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations," verse 21.

The phrase "holy convocation" comes from the Hebrew *qodesh miqra*, which means a holy or sacred meeting. Yahweh commands that we come

together to worship Him on this Feast. It's also a day of rest. It says here specifically do no "servile work." This phrase derives from the Hebrew *abodah*, meaning "work of any kind." This is a day not for ordinary work, but for the worship of our Elohim and fellowship with other like-minded believers.

Giving of the Law

Let's now consider the Old and New testament fulfillments of this Feast. Yahweh's Feasts reveal His plan of salvation for mankind. Our first clue is found in Exodus 19:1: "In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai."

The timing here is critical. This passage confirms that Israel was in the wilderness of Sinai in the third month. Based on the 50-day count from the wave sheaf, this is the month Pentecost is in. We also know chronologically that this passage was immediately before Moses went up to Mount Sinai to receive the Law.

While it doesn't say here that Moses received the law during this Feast, yet based on the evidence this is a high probability. In addition to Exodus 19 confirming they were at Sinai in the third month, the Jews maintain that the Law was given on this day. And it is consistent with the timing of their travels.

Another consideration is that nearly every major event in the Old and New testaments occurred on a Feast day. What event was more significant in the Old Testament than the giving of the Torah? Additionally, Scripture shows a relationship between the giving of the Law and its counterpart in the New Testament—the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost.

Outpouring of the Spirit

The second chapter of Acts provides a description of this event: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat

upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," verses 1-4. The people were gathered for Pentecost.

Contrary to popular church doctrine, New Testament believers continued observing the Feast days even after Yahshua's death and resurrection. Acts 20:16 shows Paul's desire to keep Pentecost in Jerusalem. Scripture also tells us that the Feasts will be observed in the millennial Kingdom, Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 45-46; and Zechariah 14:16-19.

Two important events occurred on this day in the New Testament: First, Yahweh poured out His Spirit on those gathered for Pentecost. And second, through Yahweh's Spirit the people were given the gift of tongues (languages).

This outpouring of the Spirit is the New Testament fulfillment for this Feast. While some believe that Pentecost foreshadows the resurrection of the saints as the firstfruits of mankind, Scripture shows that this occurs at Yahshua's coming, likely depicted in the Feast of Trumpets.

The Bible also confirms a relationship between the Torah (Old Testament) and Spirit (New Testament). Through the Law we receive the knowledge of Yahweh's Word and through the Spirit we receive the ability to rightly apply that knowledge. Therefore, the Law and Spirit are complementary. What

Yahweh began in the Old Testament He completed in the New Testament.

As noted, on that day those who received the Spirit were given the gift of tongues. Through the ages this gift has been misunderstood. In short, this gift is the ability to speak in another known language through divine inspiration.

The word "tongues" comes from the Greek *glossa* and means "a language (especially one naturally unacquired)," **Strong's**. Based on this definition, *glossa* is a known language that often was supernaturally given. Those gathered here acquired this gift through the Holy Spirit.

Peter's Pentecost Sermon

In addition to the giving of the Holy Spirit, on this day Peter also gave a dynamic message that rattled the very foundation of the New Testament assembly.

"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith Yahweh, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of Yahweh come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved," Acts 2:16-21.

Peter begins by quoting the prophet Joel who describes how Yahweh would pour out His Spirit upon both men and women and how they would prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams. He said that all these things would occur through Yahweh's Spirit and would come to pass in the last days.

The term "latter days" describes the time between between Acts, the beginning of the New Testament assembly, and the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. Remember that a thousand years is like a day to Yahweh. So like Peter, we too are living in the last days.

As we get closer to Yahshua's return,

THE TRUTH BE TOLD

The Bible's central teachings are embodied in its seven annual observances. From the salvation of the Passover to the call to obedience at Pentecost and the returning Savior and the Kingdom come to earth in the final four Feasts—it is all there. So why the widespread ignorance of these commanded days? When did the church drop the ball and why?



Don't be left in the dark. Request the booklet, **The Amazing Biblical Feasts** (free of charge) or read it online at:

yrm.org/amazing-biblical-feasts

we will see greater manifestations through the power of Yahweh's Spirit. One of the most important lessons is in verse 21. Peter verifies that those who call on Yahweh's Name will be saved. Yahweh's personal Name is one of the pivotal truths in Scripture.

As the Sabbath serves as a sign of Yahweh's people, Yahweh's Name serves as a seal. If we desire a relationship with our Heavenly Father, we must begin by calling on and honoring His Name Yahweh!

Beginning in verse 36 we find the impact of Peter's high-powered message: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that Elohim hath made that same Yahshua, whom ye have impaled, both Master and Messiah. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and

be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as Yahweh our Elohim shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls," vv. 36-41.


After all the signs and wonders, and after Peter's message, Scripture records that those gathered were pricked in their hearts for being responsible for the death of Yahshua the Messiah. The people asked Peter, "... what shall we do?"

At this point, they were distraught, realizing for the first time the mistake they had made. They understood the magnitude of what had happened. They were guilty of

putting to death the Son of Yahweh. Peter told the crowd to repent and be baptized. As a result, about 3,000 people were immersed into Yahshua's Name.

Yahweh used this day as the fire that would ignite the growth of the early New Testament assembly. If it were not for the outpouring of the Spirit, the gift of tongues, and Peter's message, this likely would not have happened.

The Feast of Weeks provides many valuable lessons and great insight into Yahweh's Word. Not only was the law delivered on this day, but also the Holy Spirit. Through the Law Yahweh has given mankind His instructions for righteous living and through His Spirit the wisdom to rightly apply the Word and give acumen to our lives.

We encourage you to join us for this important time commanded by Yahweh. We will observe the Feast of Weeks on June 5, 2022, at our Holts Summit facility. 

Today's Churches Recognize Pentecost But Fail with the Six Other Observances

Many of churchianity's observances have their roots in ancient paganism, but were baptized into new understandings, thereby making them acceptable to both their heathen associations and to those claiming to follow the Savior.

- The Bible's Sabbath (Saturday) was transferred in later worship to Sunday.
- From the Passover came the "Mass," known as the celebration of the Eucharist. Instead of an annual celebration of His death as commanded in the Bible, the Mass is observed weekly and even daily today.
- Easter is a transmutation from the Savior's resurrection. We are told to remember His death; no injunction is given in the Word to observe His resurrection. The false notion that the Messiah rose on Sunday is also justification given for Sunday worship, which is nowhere supported in the Word.

The Bible refers to this day as the "Feast of Weeks" or "Firstfruits," and is known in the New Testament as Pentecost.

Churchianity celebrates Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Biblically, Pentecost is known for the giving of the Holy Spirit as promised by our Savior. Now the Holy Spirit has come to this earth to stay and indwell sincere, repentant believers.

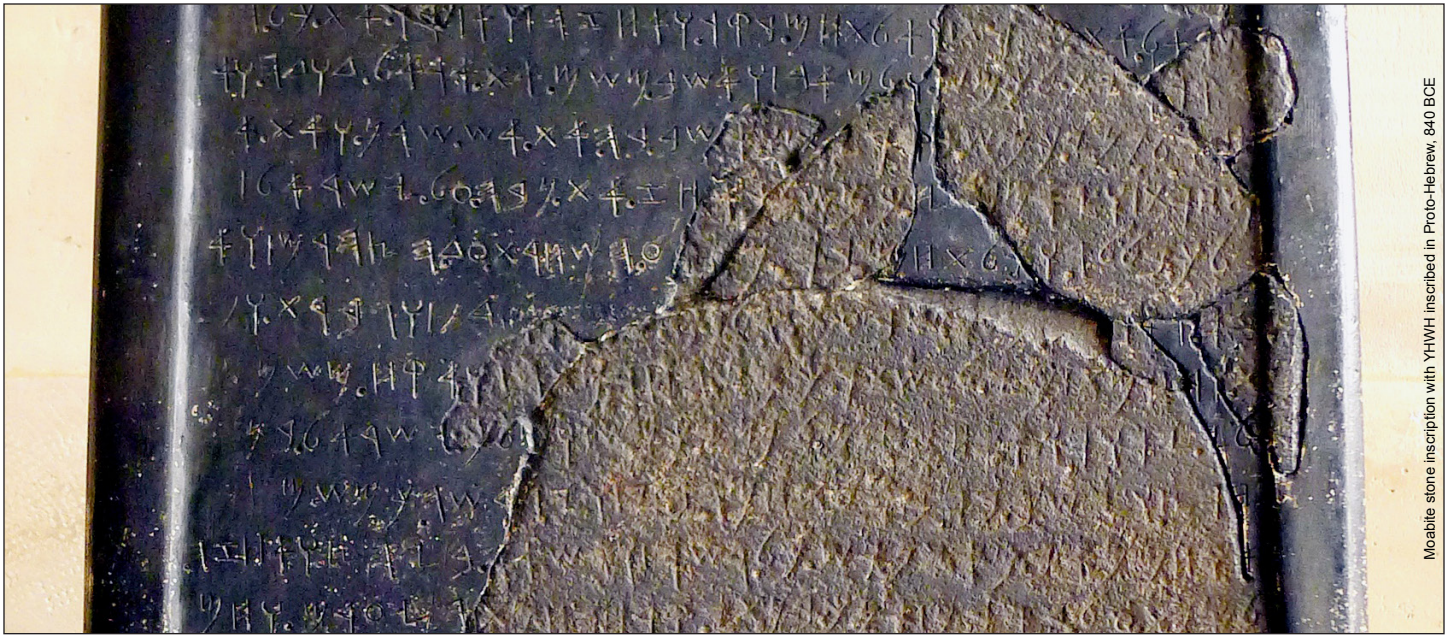
To the early church the day of Pentecost (by them called *Quinquagesima*) was a memorial to the exaltation of the Messiah at the right hand of the Father. A joyful time, it was in marked contrast to the pious observance of the days of Lent prior to the Passover season, which they changed to Easter.

Pentecost (known as Firstfruits or Feast of Weeks, and in Hebrew, *shavuoth*) has been fulfilled in both the Old as well as the New Testament. The early church was well aware of this as church father Jerome comments on the similarities found both in the Old Testament and New Testament occasions of Pentecost:

"Both revelations of the divine law," writes Jerome to Fabiola, "took place on the fiftieth day after the Passover; the one on Sinai, the other on Zion; there the mountain was shaken, here the temple; there, amid flames and lightnings, the tempest roared and the thunder rolled, here, also with mighty wind, appeared tongues of fire; there the sound of the trumpet pealed forth the words of the law, here the cornet of the [evangel] sounded through the mouth of the apostles."

Even after the death and resurrection of the Savior, His followers were keeping this Feast called Firstfruits.

The question is, why don't we see all seven Feasts being observed by the church today, and not just Pentecost?



Moabite stone inscription with YHWH inscribed in Proto-Hebrew, 840 BCE

‘It’s Just a Name...’ Oh *Really?*

by Alan Mansager

A common argument that any name is acceptable for calling on the Heavenly Father not only violates the sanctity of Yahweh’s revealed, personal Name, but is also an assault on His True Worship.

The ongoing push to unite all worship into a monolithic, worldwide religion accomplishes its goals by exploiting words that are key to true worship and redefining them for mass consumption and unholy ends.

They make grace the universal leveler that eliminates specific demands that set apart true worship. “We are all covered by grace regardless of beliefs,” they say. Yahweh answers, No, such thinking turns grace into lawlessness, Jude 1:4.

The old bromides like: “He has many names;” “What difference does His name make, He knows who I mean,” fit right into this universalist agenda. Generic attributes like lord and god create all-purpose mighty ones. The result is worship where one size fits all.

But this is not how our Heavenly Father Yahweh expects devotion. In the 44th chapter of Jeremiah we find Him completely disgusted with His people and ready to wash His hands of

them. We see an exceedingly patient Father who has finally had enough of His rebellious children who insist on worshipping their own way.

After all the many prophets He had sent to warn them, after all the trials they had to overcome and the plagues and hardships they endured for their disobedience, nothing ever really changed. Not for long.

Judah Barred from Using the Name

Now the people say in defiance to the prophet, “As for the word that you have spoken unto us in the name of Yahweh, we will not hearken unto you. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goes forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil” (Jer. 44:16-17).

His people were as rebellious as bratty children who act up just as soon as the parent’s back is turned. These defiant ones are still wanting to worship the heathen gods. No matter what Yahweh

says or does, they lust to follow the apostasy of the majority religions around them.

Yahweh decides it’s time for drastic measures. “Therefore hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, says Yahweh, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, Yahweh Elohim lives” (Jer. 44:26).

Yahweh tells them, okay, go ahead, follow your lust to worship in error like the heathens around you. But know this, you may no longer use my Name if you do.

This was punishment for their refusal to worship Him in truth. He does not want His Name tied to their sin of rebellion. So much for the argument, “It makes no difference what I call Him.” For Judah to return to True Worship would mean that Judah would have to return to using His Name.

Name Identifies True Worship

The Name does more than identify. It also creates True Worship. You take on His Name you take on His worship; you take on His identity. When you take on

His identity and don't live up to His standard, you smear Him.

The lesson for us comes down to this: You cannot worship the Mighty One of the universe properly without using His revealed, personal Name. His Name defines Him as well as the only worship that is uniquely His. His name is not just an identifier, it is His very identity and all that He is and does for His people. The only True Worship in the Bible is carried out through His personal Name.

What does this mean for those who mix His Name with the heathen titles in their congregations and from the pulpit? The same goes for their literature, prayers, and songs? How can you mingle true worship with false and think He'll find that acceptable. G-d and L-rd are generic titles that apply anywhere to any worship traditions. They fit anywhere.

We learn in Revelation 7:3, 14:1, and 22:1-4 that the 144,000 faithful who are sealed in the end days are sealed with His Name in their foreheads. There is solid proof that His Name separates True Worshipers from false and will give them literal protection from tribulation in the latter days.

Notice what James told the people gathered at Jerusalem: "Simon Peter has declared how Elohim at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name" (Acts 15:14).

The heathens had to come out of their false worship and observe the true Name. True Worship and His Name go together like hand in glove and cannot be separated. It's a match, not a mix.

Those who know the true Name but insist on using replacement titles are still in spiritual Egypt, in essence still sacrificing to the Queen of Heaven because they have not come to know the true Father, which comes from loving and using His personal Name.

If there is one truth that is clearly shown throughout Scripture it is this: His Name and True Worship go hand in hand, they cannot be separated. He prohibits man from substituting His Name just as He will not allow any worship other than what He prescribes.

By showing us in Jeremiah 44 that

apostate worship is not allowed to call on His Name, He is also showing us that only in His Name can one worship in truth.

The true Name is not just a matter of His "knowing who we mean" when we worship or call on Him. It is more than simple identity. His Name is the difference between being in the truth and being outside the truth. It's the difference between worship that pleases Him and worship that provokes Him once we know better.

This truth is as difficult for some to accept as it is for them to accept the Sabbath over Sunday. It is nothing more than 2,000 years of boiler-plated tradition speaking. All they need to do is allow Yahweh to work with their hearts — show them the truth — and they will



If there is one truth that is clearly shown throughout Scripture it is this: His Name and True Worship go hand in hand, they cannot be separated.

see the difference.

The prophet wrote: "O Yahweh, hear; O Yahweh, forgive; O Yahweh, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my Elohim: for your city and your people are called by your Name" (Dan. 9:19).

Names in our culture are mostly labels. Not so with Yahweh. His Name signifies the one and only true Heavenly Father as opposed to the false deities of apostate worship. His Name is a true

means of identification, a link to the only true Creator.

The simple lesson for Israel and for us is this: Reject True Worship and you reject His Name. The reverse is also true: Reject His Name for a substitute, and you no longer have the authentic, True Worship of the Scriptures. The two are inseparable.

Danger in Name Apathy

Names and words are powerful in ways you may not have considered. Is there any danger to the notion that any name is acceptable in worship of our Heavenly Father?

Aside from keeping us from the truth, the typical nonchalance regarding the Heavenly Father's Name and His uncommon worship is part of the general indifference that will open the door to the universal, false religion soon to take control. At the heart of this system will be a demon-backed religious leader who will demand worship on a worldwide scale, unlike anything in history.

A book called *New Age Bible Versions* details how the way is being paved for the great deception. It reveals that the newer translations of Scripture are taking important words and terms associated with pure worship and generalizing them to appeal to a broad spectrum of worshiper. The goal is to soften the edge and ultimately devalue obedience to Yahweh's will.

Highly publicized was the taking of male references to Yahweh in Bibles and religious song books and replacing them with such pronouns as "She" for "He" (reflective of the worship of the ancient, feminine goddess Sophia).

Ultimately, attempts will be made to include everyone of every faith under a single, global religion. To accomplish that, the wording in new Bibles will help to ease many into that false worship. As will pulpit messages that incessantly attack the law and obedience.

The move is insidious for now. Once churchianity is rendered even more pliable, however, the complete yielding to the demands of a one-world religion will come openly.

Paving the way for this universal

religion is a reorienting of beliefs through the manipulation of words. Unaware of what is happening, the masses accept new terminology that moves them further and further from what truth they had. Altering wording changes conceptions.

Power in Names

Stop for a moment and consider names and their power, especially when revealed in the Scriptures.

Who was the first to call something or someone by name? Yahweh. Names were used not for the simple sake of identification, but for creation. Just as Yahweh can travel by thought, when it says that Elohim created, He didn't work or fashion through physical labor and burning calories. He spoke it (actually, Yahshua as the *Dabar* or the Word spoke it). The term used for the object brought it into existence.

Things are what they are because of what they are named.

Names don't just differentiate objects from one another, they create the object. Names are the parents of everything in the universe.

"Let there be light" (the Hebrew *ore*) and light came into being.

The Hebrew word for "name" is *shem*. The two letters *shin* and *mem* are at the core of *neshamah*, which is the Hebrew word for soul. The soul or essence of the human being is contained in his or her name.

In 1 Samuel 25:25 we read, "As his name is, so is he."

Titles That Thrill the Adversary

Turn to Luke 4:8. This is Yahshua's response to Satan's invitation to fall down and worship the Evil One:

"And Yahshua answered and said unto him, Get behind me, Satan: for it is written. You shall worship Yahweh your Elohim, and him only shall you serve" (Luke 4:8).

The KJV says "L-rd thy G-d." The Aramaic or Hebrew, which Yahshua spoke, reads, "Yahweh your Elohim." But even in the Greek, Yahweh's Name would have remained unchanged.

If Yahshua had said "Lord thy



The Mesha Stele, also known as the Moabite Stone, 840 BCE. It is the oldest known inscription with the four letters YHWH (*matres lectionis*) making up Yahweh's name. It was discovered in Dhiban, Jordan. Written in a variant of the Phoenician alphabet, which is almost identical to Paleo Hebrew. The stele was erected by King Mesha (2 Kings 3:4) and mentions how Moab was oppressed by Omri the King of Israel. Omri is mentioned in 1 Kings 16:16; Micah 6:16. It also mentions the House of David in referencing Judah. It bears one of the earliest extra biblical reference to Yahweh. "...and I took from it the vessels of Yahweh, and offered them before Chemosh." Just recently, Archaeologist Scott Stripling may have found a much earlier reference to Yahweh dating from 1400 BCE on a lead curse tablet found near Joshua's altar at Mount Ebal, just as Moses instructs the Israelites to do in Deuteronomy 11:26. We earnestly await more study of Scott's artifact.

God," Satan would have been delighted. Why? Because this general term could refer to Satan himself. The Apostle Paul calls Satan the "god of this world" in 2 Corinthians 4:4. In Matthew 12:24 Satan is called Beelzebub, which is another name for Lord of the fly or the manure god.

In effect our English translation says: it is written, you shall worship the lord god – which could just as well be Satan – and him only shall you serve.

We can see how the Adversary delights when people are led to worship in these common titles today. Doing so removes them from the true Father and a false one is put in His place through a generic and incorrect identification.

Any time we are not worshipping Yahweh in His true Name, we are in danger of invoking false mighty ones manufactured by the Father of Lies himself— even if done in ignorance.

You change the name of the one you worship and you change WHO you worship and the WAY he is worshiped. By using generic terms you remove yourself from the True Yahweh. It is not simply a matter of semantics; it is not simply a choice between two equivalent alternatives. It is a matter of true versus false identification – and proper worship versus erroneous worship!

That is why Yahweh characteristically introduces Himself by Name first, then specifies precisely what worship He expects:

"I am Yahweh: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isa. 42:8). In Exodus 3, Yahweh tells Moses that His Name is Yahweh, then proceeds to explain how He will bring Israel out of the sin of Egypt. They would come to know True Worship, including the Holy Days, after they first learned His personal Name.

Power Through Words

We establish our beliefs through language. Language can inspire, convict, and challenge, as in the way Yahshua used it; or it can be used to manipulate and subjugate, as despots have done over the centuries through propaganda. Words can sway emotion and opinion, as in a good movie or a good book.

Even husbands, wives, and children know what the wrong word or the right word can mean in their relationships.

The use of general titles like god and lord promote universalism, which is exactly the opposite of the True faith. True Worship is narrow, specific, well defined, and includes the faithful identifying the True Father by name (Matt. 7:14).

The way of error leading to destruc-

tion is broad and many will be in it, Yahshua said (v. 13). One way this is accomplished is by the argument that it doesn't matter what we call Him. Any name or title is acceptable.

As explained, titles like god and lord are general and apply to many different mighty ones, even to Satan himself. Pagan idols as well are called by the same titles commonly used as names for the Heavenly Father.

Titles do not fix an identity. They are like the generic "human being." To call on "G-d" is like calling your neighbor, "Hey you, human being..."

Today's New Babel

Even the sacred Name of the Creator Himself can lose its significance when we allow others to manipulate with words and substitute names.

The human-centered, humanistic movement that began in the Renaissance is finally succeeding in eliminating the very language of sin, which derives from a higher power. We hardly ever hear in general society terms like "immorality," "living in sin," "fornication," "virtuous," and the like.

Today man has decided to set his own standards of what is right and wrong. Sin and any reference to it is out, because sin recognizes a Father above, and that runs head-long into the notion that man himself is all-knowing.

Our culture is building new Towers of Babel, where everyone speaks the same language of moral relativism. This movement is out to change the way people think by changing their language and how right and wrong are perceived.

Forces working behind the scenes have seized on the power of language to promote their own agendas.

Its all part of a revamping of Bible-based beliefs – to replace traditional and biblical morality with humanistic beliefs. This in turn will prepare the way for the universal Man of Sin.

Instead of biblical standards, we have today "political correctness." As one author wrote, "Political correctness is an attempt to eliminate freedom of speech for those who hold traditional values and religious beliefs. It is overt

social censorship designed to stifle the truth."

But even greater implications are those that tamper with the very nature of Almighty Yahweh and His Word. Satan is out to obliterate Yahweh and the truth of Him in a final push to prepare for His own Antimessiah.

Not just everyday words but even the Word of Yahweh is being molested and modified for an unrighteous end. A recent report notes that a prominent publisher is packaging its Bibles for worldwide distribution with the insignia, "Good News for a New Age."

Even more disturbing is how new versions are fiddling with the text itself.

Satan as G-d

Those who misunderstand the significance of words and names tell us that it doesn't matter what you call the Heavenly Father. They say, "He knows who you mean" regardless. Oddly, however, those who tell us this exclusively employ the same "L-rd" and "G-d" titles, which by their universal use amount to false replacement names.

Having been removed from the Name Yahweh, which identifies the True Mighty One of this universe and the specific worship He demands, modern worshipers have unwittingly accepted a generic title that takes them away from the only True Worship connected with His Name as well.

Not surprisingly. Satan has usurped this title. New Age and satanic writings describe Satan in terms that sound biblical, calling Him the Divine God, saying Lucifer is God, the bringer of Light, the savior of the world.

This fact will help to fulfill the prophecy of Revelation 13:4:

"And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

But how could it happen? Quite easily. The masses are already calling on their mighty one with the same terms and titles honored in both Christianity and Satanism.

Yahweh's Unheeded Warning


A little more deception and they simply transfer the titles from one being to another! By definition, titles can apply to any number of persons or beings.

Thus is the final fulfillment of Deuteronomy 32:17: "They sacrificed unto devils, not to Elohim; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not."

There are many new "gods" coming up in this age of the New Age. Our society is becoming increasingly taken over by pagan worship and its many false deities.

But the biggest is yet to show. The very worship of the Antimessiah all starts with violating the warning in Exodus 23:13, which is just as applicable for us today as for Israel 3,000 years ago:

"And in all [things] that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth." (Ex. 23:13)

Yahweh knew clearly what He was doing by giving us this warning. He is Yahweh Almighty, the only True Father above. His Name identifies Him and defines Him, just as it does those He calls His People, by His Name. 

Feast of Tabernacles 2022

Time to Step Out in Faith

You have heard about the Feasts and you realize that they are commanded by Almighty Yahweh for today. But when the time comes to answer His call, something always gets in the way, whether it's an issue with family, job, health, or finances. The last thing the Adversary wants is for you to obey your Heavenly Father. Isn't it time to step out in faith and receive the blessings of obedience, besides claim the promises that Yahweh has in store for those who obey His call?

The Feast of Tabernacles will be observed Oct. 11-18 this year at Holts Summit. Make this the year of your obedience as you come to learn, fellowship, and enjoy this exciting time in Yahweh!



The Mysterious and Intriguing Sabbaticals and Jubilees

Land Rest and Personal Freedom

Part 1

Part 1

by the late Donald R. Mansager

One teaching of the Scriptures has been ignored and neglected today more than any other. Can you guess what it is? You're probably thinking: It's Yahweh's Feast days. It's the seventh-day Sabbath. It's got to be the sacred Name.

Believe it or not, there is still a biblical truth that is more overlooked than those. The biblical teaching that has been more abandoned by churchianity than all of these is the sabbaticals. The Sabbatical and Jubilee years are the most disregarded of all Yahweh's special, appointed times even by Sabbath keepers.

And yet, both biblical history and prophecy hang profoundly on these principal times that Yahweh gave us.

The law of the Sabbatical and Jubilee

years is one of the more mysterious and intriguing in Scripture. It is like discovering a key that opens up a door to an exciting treasure room.

Most who observe the Bible's weekly Sabbath are aware that Yahweh gave His Sabbath observances as a special sign to His people. Annual Sabbaths and extra-annual Sabbaths are very important to our Heavenly Father. Key events occurred at those times as well, likely even the coming return of Yahshua.

The Hebrew root for Sabbath (*shabath*)—***Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*** No. 7673—means "cessation" or rest. Yahweh's Sabbaths are a periodic rest, which allow us to draw closer to Him, 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."

Sabbaths Are the Sign

Observing His Sabbaths is the obligation of the True Worshiper, a commitment shared with other observers who are sealed in His sacred Name Yahweh by the Holy Spirit. Each weekly Sabbath reminds us that Yahweh set aside the seventh day that we might recall His great creative power as well as the redemption we have through His Son Yahshua.

Fifty-two times a year we take a day away from our weekly activities to join the Body of Messiah to revive and strengthen our faith. It is also when we grow the most spiritually as we

commune with Yahweh.

Not only is the seventh day of the week holy and special to our Heavenly Father, but He also gave special Sabbaths every seven years, Leviticus 23. Important events of history and prophecy are tied up in these specially sanctioned years. Yet, the Israelites abandoned the keeping of the sabbatical years and in the process missed out on critical aspects of Yahweh's prophetic plan.

Deuteronomy 5:15 is the restating of the Fourth Commandment and it gives us additional insights into the broader concept of "Sabbath." "And you shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your Elohim brought you out thence by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm: therefore Yahweh your Elohim commanded you to keep the sabbath day."

Why does He bring in the issue of slavery in conjunction with the Sabbath? Because there is a connection to another Sabbath, the 50th year Jubilee, a year of release of slavery and servitude.

Captivity for Disobedience

After wandering in the wilderness 40 years, Israel finally crossed over the Jordan and somewhat conquered the land Yahweh had promised. They had not been thorough in driving out the enemy, however, leaving pockets of heathen culture that proved to be Israel's downfall when Yahweh allowed them to be conquered by foreign powers, Deuteronomy 7.

The northern ten tribes, often referred to as Ephraim because they were the dominant tribe, were taken captive to the area of present-day northern Iraq by the Assyrians and subsequently moved north and west over the Caucasus Mountains (hence the name "Caucasian"). This occurred in the seventh century BCE.

The southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin were allowed to remain in the land and had the advantage of seeing from a distance the wrath of Yahweh on their 10-tribed Ephraim brethren who were taken captive. Judah was also

guilty of ignoring Yahweh's laws despite the warnings of Elohim's messengers:

"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: But they mocked the messengers of Elohim, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh arose against his people, till there was no remedy" (2Chron. 36:15-16).

Shrugging off the plight of the northern ten tribes, Judah and Benjamin behaved even worse, according to Jeremiah 3:8. About a hundred years later the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, along with many of the priests, were taken captive to Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. Only a few farmers and poor folk were left in the land of Israel. This was all because of their refusal to obey Yahweh by rejecting His laws, particularly the land Sabbaths.

"And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of 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" (2Chron. 36:20-21).

'Holy Land' Takes a Rest

So long as Israel was captive in Babylon, the Promised Land lay idle and desolate to fulfill the neglected 70 Sabbatical cycles, accumulating 490 years. Yahweh's laws demanded that the land lie idle for a year every seven years. "For thus says Yahweh, that after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place" (Jer. 29:10).

In addition, every seventh Sabbatical year was followed by the Jubilee year. The word "Jubilee" is derived in the Bible from the Hebrew *yob-ale*, which means "ram, ram's horn; jubilee year."

The ram's horn announced the beginning of the Jubilee year. Whenever a trumpet was used to signal an event,

in this case the shofar trumpet, it announced something very significant was about to happen.

Yahshua said He will return with the great sound of a trumpet, Matthew 24:31. Is the trumpet sound announcing the Sabbatical-Jubilee and the return of Yahshua just coincidence?

Notice Leviticus 25:9, "Then shall you cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall you make the trumpet sound throughout all your land."

Keeping the Sabbatical years of land rest bestowed the designation "Holy Land" to Judea. Israel learned that the Sabbatical-Jubilee was holy both to the land and to Yahweh.

The question for us is, does Yahweh still expect His laws, statutes, and judgments to be observed in our day and age? Does He change His expectations according to the culture or the age, or does the Bible say that He is Yahweh who changes not? Malachi 3:6 confirms that we worship a changeless Mighty One. Obedience has not been reduced, let alone abandoned.

Sabbaticals Are Part of the Covenant

The earliest Bible reference concerning the Sabbatical-Jubilee cycle is found in Exodus 21:2-6, dealing with the release of the slave. Exodus 23:10-12 relates to the land's rest. Thus, the Sabbatical-Jubilee was part of the Covenant established with Moses in Exodus 24:1-8.

Following the seventh Sabbatical year (or every 49 years) the sounding of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement of the fiftieth year heralded the beginning of the Jubilee.

Atonement itself falls on the tenth day of the month and is a very solemn time, the holiest day of the year. The harvest is in, and early rains soften the earth to allow plowing and seeding for the next crop. But in the Sabbatical year the land is at rest. Both the 49th and 50th years were times of rest for the land.

Most every Israelite would observe at least one Jubilee year in a normal lifespan of 70 years. If a person observed

his first Jubilee in his teen years, then he might enjoy another before his normal lifespan ended. It was a special occasion anticipated by the entire, rejoicing nation.

As we will see, the Jubilee has prophetic implications in Yahweh's dealings with mankind. We are given insight into the grand finale of Yahweh's redemption of the earth as He establishes the Kingdom under the Messiah.

The Link to Yahshua's Return

The Sabbatical cycle in certain instances influenced Israel's daily living. The right of an heiress to marry was restricted so that the law of the Jubilee could be preserved, Numbers 36:4-7. Naboth refused to sell his vineyard so that it would remain an inheritance for his family, 1 Kings 21:14.

The Jubilee will be kept in the Millennium as shown by Ezekiel 46:17, where the king is reminded that any property given to a servant reverts to the original owner (the king) at the time of the Jubilee.

Yahshua as our King will take control once again of this earth as its original owner. Yahshua's return on a Jubilee would be consistent with the purposes of the Jubilee and Millennium. Other references to the Jubilee are found in Nehemiah 5:1-19; Isaiah 5:7-10; 37:30, and 61:1-2.

The Sabbatical year, we learn from Leviticus 25:4, occurs every seventh year—a Sabbath of rest both of the land and to Yahweh. The fields are not to be sown nor the vines pruned. No crops are to be planted; the vineyards must not be harvested. The produce of the land and vineyard could be eaten, but not stored or preserved. All debts among Israelites were canceled.

After seven of these Sabbatical years (or 49 years), the next year, the fiftieth, is the Jubilee. The following points differentiate the Sabbath year from the Jubilee, which occur back-to-back every 49 and 50 years. The Jubilee year is an intensification of the Sabbatical year.

Sabbatical

- Land and vineyards rest, no planting or harvesting

- All voluntary foods can be eaten, but not stored
- Servants receive freedom and debts are canceled

Jubilee

- Land and vineyards rest
- Land reverts to the original owner (as in Yahshua's return to reclaim earth)
- All Israelite slaves freed. Debts forgiven

The fiftieth year is eagerly anticipated as a time of joy and merriment. Landowners had to give up the lands they had once cultivated, which reverted to the original owner(s). This kept the lands under original ownership.

Idyllic simplicity returned to soften the distinction of rank.

Debts were forgiven, and those having lost their property through accident or poor management were rejuvenated as opportunities brought by the restoration awaited them.

Slaves were redeemed and freed. The Sabbatical-Jubilee years might be called the great "leveler" of Israelite society. Through them everyone was equal before Yahweh as neither the rich nor the poor cultivated his field.

But What About Today?

Living under industrialization and a far more complicated financial system, the laws of Yahweh became lightly esteemed by modern society. Today's fiscal demands of industry, manufacturing, commerce, and banking are not appeased by fallowed farmland.

Canceling of a borrower's debts is unheard of. How can the entrepreneur grow and expand if he is required to return legally purchased property every fiftieth year?

These are but a few questions asked today. The farmer has more freedom to apply Yahweh's laws to his life than most who work for a regular wage. However, the increasingly heavy burdens laid upon him by lenders, plus the pressures inherent in today's economies, challenge the farmer's very survival and are detrimental to his obedience to the laws of Yahweh.

The Jubilee is known as the year

of liberty. Leviticus 25:12 explains that it is a holy year to Israel. It was because of the Jubilees that the Promised Land came to be known as the Holy Land. However, there is some question whether Israel faithfully kept both the Sabbatical and Jubilee years.

Atonement and the Sabbatical

On the tenth day of the seventh month Israel celebrated the Day of Atonement. The Jubilee was a year-long sabbatical that came after 49 years. The Jubilee began on the Day of Atonement, Leviticus 25:9-10. The count toward the next sabbatical also begins on the Jubilee. Just as the weekly seventh day ends at sunset and the first day begins immediately that same sunset, the first Sabbatical ends when the Jubilee's fiftieth year starts on Atonement, in the seventh month, Deuteronomy 31:10.

The very land was holy to Yahweh and was referred to as the **Holy Land**. During that year the Book of Deuteronomy was read to the people. The Sabbatical year marked the canceling of all indebtedness. This emphasized the righteousness that was required by Yahweh. On this day the sins of the nation were confessed, which is the first requisite to establish righteousness.

Confession is an opening of the heart, which leads to forgiveness and restoration to Yahweh. Through fasting and keeping the Day of Atonement, Yahweh's people are reminded of His righteousness and His forgiveness as they accept His grand plan for the forgiveness of sin.

Israel's sins were brought before them every time they gave a sin offering. But the Day of Atonement was a special day that impressed upon the mind and heart of every Israelite that this day was devoted to a deep introspection of his life.

The Day of Atonement was the only day of the year when the High Priest was permitted to enter the Tabernacle's Holy of Holies, which was the nearest approach to Yahweh possible through the blood offering. The Day of Atonement pictured the forgiveness of Israel's

sins and the nation's getting right with Yahweh. Known as Yom Kippur, it was the "day of covering" of their sins, pointing to the true Lamb of Yahweh's coming to take away the sins of the world, and not just cover them.

Slaves and Land Released

Following the seventh Sabbatical year came the year of the Jubilee, which occurred every fiftieth year (or after the succession of seven Sabbatical years). It has been called the outer circle of the great Sabbatical system, which comprises the Sabbatical year, the Sabbatical month and the Sabbath day.

Just as in the Sabbatical year, the



If the Sabbatical-Jubilee cycle was important to Israel, then it is all the more important to us looking for the return of the Messiah.

Jubilee also was a time of keeping the land uncultivated. The distinctive mark of the Jubilee year was the liberation of all slaves of Hebrew blood. The blowing of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement also released every bondman.

The Jubilee year was different from the Sabbatical in that the land was restored to the original owners. All land that had been assigned to a family was again returned to that family. This required that the tribal and family registers be carefully kept so that the rights of the people should be protected. It is partly from such records that we know that Yahshua descended from the tribe of Judah.

Jewish writers contend that the Jubilee was observed up to the time of the fall of Judah in the year 586 BCE. References are found in Isaiah 5:7-10; 61:1-2; Ezekiel 7:12-13 and 46:16-18.

Yahshua and Year of Our Release

A number of Bible scholars point out that Israel was delivered from both the Babylonian and Egyptian captivity at the time of the Jubilee. The pattern for us as believers in the Messiah is that He is the one who sets us free.

The bondage of Israel was cruel, enforced servitude. Yahshua frees us from the bondage and shackles of sin. "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, you shall be free indeed," John 8:36. This key purpose of the Sabbaticals and Jubilees dovetails with Yahshua's purpose of coming to earth, even up to the timing of His return.

How ancient Israel must have thrilled to the sound of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement announcing their actual release from slavery. Of how much greater joy will it be when the trumpet announces Yahshua's return to this earth. All tears will be dried, and the brokenhearted comforted. The meek and the poor in spirit will be exalted and the thirsty and hungry filled.

The first trumpet is blown on the first day of the seventh month, which is the new moon day. Then follows the blowing of the second trumpet on the Day of Atonement, heralding Yahweh's release, redemption, and deliverance.

Hebrews 4:1-11 summarizes the Sabbaths Yahweh has given us to remember His great plan of redemption of mankind. We are told that there remains a Sabbath of rest for the people of Yahweh (Heb. 4:9 — "rest" is the Greek *sabbatismos*, meaning a Sabbath keeping).

There is the weekly Sabbath which is set aside for the people of Yahweh. Also there is the Sabbatical rest for the land around Jerusalem. Finally, the rest and redemption for the elect people of Yahweh who will reign with Yahshua when He returns to set up the Messianic Kingdom:

"Blessed and holy is he that has

part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6).

But not all will attain that rest because of unfaithfulness. The faithful will have rest from their enemies, no drought, sickness, sin or hindrances to happiness.

Counting the Jubilee

A long-standing debate is how to compute the Jubilee year — in segments of 49 or 50 years. The Jubilee year is the year following the seventh Sabbatical year. It is the 50th year, but not the year coming after 50 years. It is the year following 49 years.

From the beginning of one Jubilee year to the beginning of the next Jubilee is 49 years. The 7 times 7 years of Sabbatical cycles may not be broken any more than can the 7 times 7 weeks in computing Pentecost. Furthermore, the 50th year is also year one in the count toward the next Sabbatical year 7 years later.

To prove that the Jubilee immediately follows the Sabbatical year, note the prophecy of Isaiah:

"And this shall be a sign unto you, you shall eat this year such as grows of itself: and the second year that which springs of the same; and in the third year sow, reap, and plant vineyards and eat the fruit thereof" (Isa. 37:30).

"This year" refers to the Sabbatical year. The "second year" refers to the Jubilee year, and the "third year" one can sow grain and reap and plant vineyards. The day after Atonement, which ends the Sabbatical-Jubilee year, farmers can again plow the ground for planting wheat and barley that fall.

Our Savior's Return

If the Sabbatical-Jubilee cycle was important to Israel, then it is all the more important to us looking for the return of the Messiah. A central key is in Yahshua's quoting of Isaiah 61:1-2: "The Spirit of Yahweh Elohim is upon me; because Yahweh has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the

meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of Yahweh” (Luke 4:18).

Yahshua stopped in the middle of verse 2, where Bible scholars contend He was now calling people out of the world to become His followers. The “acceptable year” is understood to refer to the beginning of the Sabbatical year. He came to preach the Good News to the meek and humble, those whose hearts were open and teachable.

With those of kindred mind He would build His Assembly. He would now choose those who would become the nucleus of His body of believers, the “ekklesia,” the assembly. He told Peter this group of “called-out ones,” would never die out, but would always exist on this earth, Matthew 16:18.

Just as the Savior was cut off in the middle of the week and died on a Wednesday, so He left unsaid the rest of Isaiah 61:2 which tells of the vengeance yet to come. Note the latter part of this verse: “And the day of vengeance of our Elohim; to comfort all that mourn.”

He comes with anger and vengeance for the wicked, but comfort and help to those who revere Yahweh’s Name and are submissive to Him. This ties in with Revelation’s prophecy:

“And the nations were angry, and your wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should give reward unto your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear your Name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth” (Rev. 11:18). See also Luke 20:16; 2Thes. 1:8; 2:8; Heb. 10:27.

The Sabbatical-Jubilee cycle pictures the grand finale of the believer’s earthly sojourn. It represents the fulfillment of the promise made to the redeemed which will be done when He returns in the day of vengeance.

Although we are not sure exactly when His return will be, it will likely be on a Feast day within a Sabbatical or Jubilee year. That is the most appropriate time, the appointed time. Daniel 11 says the end shall be at the appointed time,



A study of this neglected cycle will bring many obscure Bible truths to our attention and make the Bible become clearer as we draw nearer to our Heavenly Father and His beloved Son who make it all possible.

that is, a *moed* or Feast. None of the Feasts of the seventh scriptural month have been fulfilled as far as we know.

Can We Pinpoint the Jubilees?

Studies to determine the secular dates of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years rest heavily on the Savior’s beginning ministry, which appears to be 27-28 CE.

The Jews were so determined to keep all of Yahweh’s law after their return from the Babylonian captivity that allegedly they believed that there was no reason to keep the Jubilee years, as they would not have reason to sell themselves into slavery or be redeemed. Therefore, records of these years are sparse.

An interesting discovery is that the

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Gregorian calendar years on which the Sabbatical cycle falls are evenly divisible by 7. The year 2023 is evenly divisible by seven, meaning that this fall begins the Sabbatical which runs through 2023 of next year.

What About This Year?

No planting or harvesting of crops is to be done after Atonement, 2022, until the fall Atonement of 2023.

Certainly a study of this neglected cycle will bring many obscure Bible truths to our attention and make the Bible become clearer as we draw nearer to our Heavenly Father and His beloved Son who make it all possible.

Key to Puzzling Passages

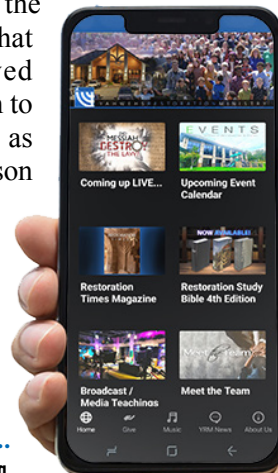
The Sabbatical years solve a puzzling statement Yahshua made in John 4. While traveling with His disciples to Galilee, He struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman. He said in v. 35: “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest. Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

Clearly this was a Sabbatical year when Yahshua began His ministry, 28 CE. It was also in May-June when grain harvests occur. But the Sabbatical didn’t end for four more months when harvesting could begin again.

This explains the four additional months of waiting for the harvest that Yahshua talked about.

Proof of Sabbaticals

Ben Zion Wacholder of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, a scholar on the Sabbaticals, wrote several books on the subject of the Sabbaticals and Jubilees: *The Calendar of Sabbatical Cycles During the Second Temple and the Early Rabbinic Period* (1973), *The Timing of Messianic Movements and the Calendar of*



Sabbatical Cycles (1975), and *The Calendar of Sabbath Years during the Second Temple Era: A Response* (1983).

Wacholder's proposed set of Sabbatical years are offset by one year later than Benedict Zuckerman's set of years, which is the other popular timing. Wacholder had access to legal documents from the time of the Bar Kokhba revolt that were not available to Zuckermann.

Only within the last 50 years has it become possible through archaeological discoveries, etc., to determine with an almost certainty what the exact Sabbatical years' sequence was and is.

Two brilliant historical studies by Prof. Wacholder have solved the riddle of when the Sabbatical years occurred in ancient times, and when they are observed today.

The following historical events reveal the Sabbatical year sequence, with the year 2022-2023 being one of them:

- The recital of Deuteronomy 7:15 by Agrippa I in a post-Sabbatical year, making the Sabbatical year 41/42.
- A note of indebtedness from Wadi Murabba'at in 2nd year of Nero, 55/56 CE, indicating 55/56 as a Sabbatical year.
- Rental contracts of Simon bar Kosiba indicating 132/133 as a Sabbatical year.
- Three fourth- and fifth-century tombstones near Sodom indicating 433/434 and 440/441 CE were Sabbatical years. (When farmers are keeping Sabbaticals by letting their fields rest, they are free to do building projects. And so...)
- CE 41–CE 42: King Agrippa I started building the expansive third wall around the northern parts of Jerusalem.
- CE 62–CE 63: Agrippa II started to rebuild Caesarea Philippi.

And then there are key historical events that hinge on Sabbath years:

- CE 69–CE 70: Destruction of Jerusalem in the latter part (*motsae*, "going-out") of the Sabbatical year 69/70.
- CE 132–CE 133: Bar Kokhba revolt of the Jews against the Romans.

In part 2 we will further show the proper timing of the Sabbaticals both anciently and today.

Q My question is about when to keep the sabbath – if we calculate the feast days by spotting the new moon, shouldn't we also calculate the sabbath that way? Why is the sabbath celebrated on Saturday and not by the new moons? I have been praying on this for a long time and I appreciate your help with this matter. – MS

A We offer an entire booklet on this lunar Sabbath doctrine, a belief that fails to conform with Scripture in numerous ways. You can read it at: <https://yrm.org/lunar-sabbath-illusion/>

Q Why do the Jews start the year in the fall with Rosh Hashana, which means head of the year, when the Word tells us that Abib is the beginning of months in the spring season?

A A clue to why they consider September-October as the start of the year, or the "civil new year" is in *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* under "Calendar," which reads, "The Mishnah (R.H. 1.1) speaks of four new years: Nisan I [March-April] for kings and the festivals; Elul I [Aug.-Sept.] for the tithing of animals; Tishri I [Sept.-Oct.] for the calendar, the Sabbatical year and the Jubilee; and Shebat I or 15 for trees. In course of time Tishri I was universally observed as the beginning of the year, although Nisan was still called the first month."

Note that this resource lists the months of Nisan (Abib) and also Tishri for new years, with both having an ecclesiastical connection. Abib is established as the scriptural first month in Deuteronomy 16:1, while the Jubilee and the Sabbatical years start on the tenth day of the seventh month (Tishri), Lev. 25:9. Even though it is not the start of the calendar year, Tishri does start the year of land rest.

"At least up to the 2nd century CE, the traditional practice of determining the month was as follows: On the thirtieth day of the month a council would meet to receive the testimony of witnesses that they had seen the new moon. If two trustworthy witnesses had made deposition to that effect on that day, the council proclaimed a new month to begin on that day." (Universal Jewish Encyclopedia)

Q I was "baptized" as a Catholic. Years later, I was "baptized" as a Jehovah's Witness and once more I was "baptized" as a member of a Protestant church. Are any of these valid? I say no and my wife says yes. Can you shed any light on this issue for us?

A Paul writes in Ephesians 4:5 that there is "one Master, one faith, one baptism." Only one baptism is valid. Let's see what the proper baptism consists of: first, every baptism performed in the New

Testament was into the singular Name of Yahshua. Not in a Trinity, or in "Father and Son." Peter told the crowd in Acts 2 that repentance must precede baptism. Then immersion fully under water is the only proper procedure, as is clear from the word baptism, an untranslated word that means to overwhelm in water. Baptism represents a water "burial." After baptism comes the laying on of hands by the presbytery to receive the Holy Spirit, just as Yahshua received the Spirit following His immersion. Proper baptism is necessary for salvation, John 3:5.

Q Why do you use the name Yahweh? Don't you know that this name was invented by a Catholic monk in 1725 AD? Plus, there are 20 different ways our Heavenly Father's name can be pronounced.



A The belief that the Name “Yahweh” originated with a Catholic monk could not be further from the truth. This statement can be proven false with a simple Google search. The official website of the Catholic Church states: “About the 13th century the term ‘Jehovah’ appeared when Christian scholars took the consonants of ‘Yahweh’ and pronounced it with the vowels of ‘Adonai.’ This resulted in the sound ‘Yahowah,’ which has a Latinized spelling of ‘Jehovah.’ The first recorded use of this spelling was made by a Spanish Dominican monk, Raymundus Martini, in 1270” (www.catholic.com/qa/is-gods-name-yahweh-or-jehovah).

From this citation, it was not “Yahweh” that originated with a Catholic monk, but the hybrid “Jehovah,” arising from Yehowah or Yehovah. Additionally, scholarship overwhelmingly confirms “Yahweh” as the pronunciation. Evidence for this is found in ancient inscriptions dating back to the second century of the Common Era, including early church fathers and gnostic sources. Following are other sources attesting to the correctness of “Yahweh.”

“The true pronunciation of the name YHWH was never lost. Several early Greek writers of the Christian Church testify that the name was pronounced ‘Yahweh’” (*Encyclopaedia Judaica*, Vol. 7, p. 680).

“Early Christian writers, such as Clement of Alexandria in the 2nd century, had used the form Yahweh, thus this pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton was never really lost. Greek transcriptions also indicated that YHWH should be pronounced Yahweh” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th ed., Vol. X, p. 786).

“The pronunciation Yahweh is indicated by transliteration of the name into Greek in early Christian literature, in the form iaoue (Clement of Alexandria) or iabe (Theodoret; by this time Gk. ‘b’ had the pronunciation of ‘v’)...Strictly speaking, Yahweh is the only ‘name’ of God. In Genesis wherever the word sem (‘name’) is associated with the divine being that name is Yahweh” (*Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*, 1979 p. 478).

“Such a conclusion, giving ‘Yahweh’ as the pronunciation of the name, is confirmed by the testimony of the Fathers and gentile writers, where the forms IAO, Yaho, Yaou, Yahouai, and Yahoue appear. Especially important is the statement of Theodoret in relation to Ex. 56, when he says: ‘the Samaritans call it [the tetragrammaton] ‘Yabe,’ the Jews call it ‘Aia’...’” (*The*

New Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia, “Yahweh,” p. 471).

In addition to early Christian sources, evidence for Yahweh is also found in the Nag Hammadi codices, dating from the 2nd to 4th century CE. This library of Gnostic writings was discovered in Upper Egypt, near Nag Hammadi, in 1945. In all, there are over 50 texts in this library. Since they are in Greek, as with the church fathers, they preserve the pronunciation.

One such book is *The Secret Book of John*. This codex mentions the name Yahweh and notes, “Eloim and Yawe, two names of God in the Hebrew scriptures.... Yahweh is the name of God (based on the Tetragrammaton, the ineffable four-letter name)” (Dr. Marvin Meyer, *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures*, p. 127).

The Secret Book of John, as it was known to the church father Irenaeus, dates to the second century. This was the same time-frame as Clement of Alexandria, who also confirmed the name.

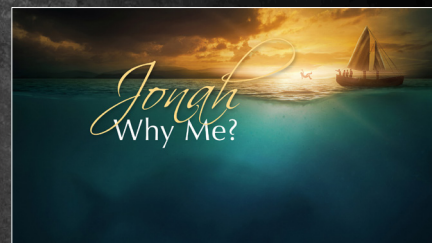
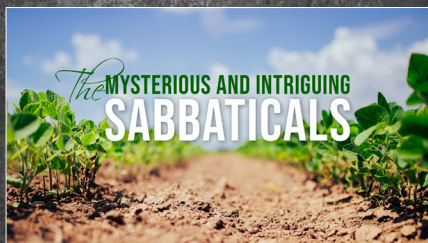
Even though gnosticism was rightly deemed heretical by the early church, it is just another witness to the pronunciation of Yahweh. The fact that these groups were at odds, but agreed on “Yahweh,” is significant and adds credence to this pronunciation. It verifies that “Yahweh” was widely recognized as early as the second century, nearly 700 years before any Hebrew manuscripts containing “Yehovah.”

Based on these ancient inscriptions, modern scholarship also favors Yahweh as the proper and correct pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton:

Insight on the Scriptures is a Jehovah’s Witness publication. Even though this organization continues to use the hybrid “Jehovah,” they have no choice but to acknowledge that “Yahweh” is favored by Hebrew scholars. “Jehovah in that form was unknown to the ancient Israelites. In fact, Hebrew scholars say that Jehovah would have been impossible according to the strict principles of Hebrew vocalization. The God of Israel was known by a name approximately rendered into English as Yahweh” (*A Book About the Bible*, George Stimpson, p. 247).

“Yahweh was doubtless the approximate pronunciation of the tetragrammaton, the four-letter word YHWH, since transliterations into Gr. in early Christian literature have been found in the form of iaoue (Clement of Alexander) and iahe (Theodoret) pronounced

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'Iave.' The name is a variant connected with the verb haya, 'to be,' from an earlier form, hawa" ("God, Names and Titles of," **Wycliff Bible Dictionary**, Charles Pfeiffer, Ed., p. 694).

"The Bible often refers to God by his proper name, which was probably pronounced Yahweh ...In the Hebrew Bible, the consonants hwhy [yhw] are usually to be read as Adonai... 'my Lord,' for the sake of reverence, and English versions represent the word by 'Lord' or (less often) 'God' in capital letters" ("Names of God in the Hebrew Bible," **Oxford Companion to the Bible**, Bruce Metzger, Ed., p. 548).

"The scribes reasoned that if they did not point the name Yahweh then it could never be treated lightly since his name would not really be known. Initially the real pointing was probably passed along by tradition, but in time it was lost.

"Proof for the fabricated nature of words like Yahowah are the two vowels that appear on the waw, an impossibility in Hebrew grammar. However, until the revival of the Hebrew language in western Europe scholars read the consonants YHWH (Germans would read them as JHVH) with the vowels of 'adonay, thereby originating the incorrect form Jehovah. This word was then introduced into English by William Tyndale and was continued by the King James Version" (**The Journey from Texts to Translations**, Paul D. Wegner, pp, 172-173).

There are many other scholarly sources supporting that the Name of our Heavenly Father is Yahweh. A belief that "Yahweh" was the invention of a Catholic monk is completely counter to ancient and modern scholarship and history and should be dismissed by the student of the Bible.

Are there 20 different ways to pronounce Yahweh's Name? Let's let Yahweh answer that, in His own words:

- **Isaiah 42:8**: "I am Yahweh: that is my Name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."
- **Exodus 23:13**: "And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other mighty ones, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth."
- **Psalms 83:18**: "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is YAHWEH, art the most high over all the earth."
- **Acts 4:12**: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- **Malachi 2:2**: "If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith Yahweh of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."

Maor
maw-ore'

Composition: mem, qamets, aleph, holem, waw, resh

The Hebrew word **Maor** (H3974) is a masculine noun and means a luminary, light, or shining. An example would be the moon (lesser light) or the sun.

"Let there be **lights** in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times (*moed*-festivals), and days and years."

Genesis 1:14

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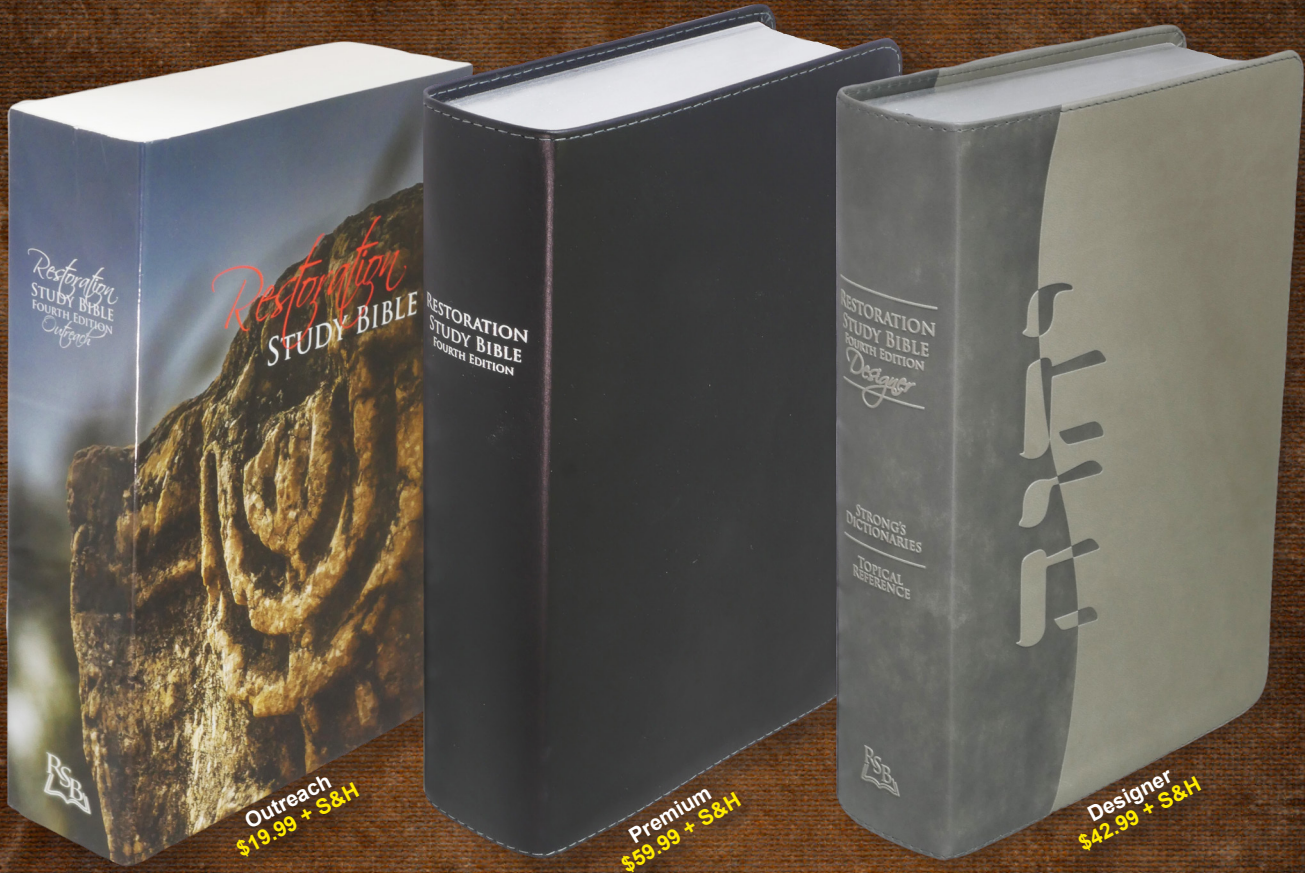
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– JV

"Thankful I found YRM to learn of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua, their sacred names." – RW, "former Baptist Christian"

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"After looking at leavening agents and listening to the message, I have a question on chametz. Since pasta has flour and water (and we have no way of knowing whether the mixture was exposed to naturally occurring leavening in the air), should we eliminate all pasta as chametz during Unleavened Bread?" – LB

We can only do what is under our control. Because yeast spores are always in

the air naturally, we look for the grains that clearly have been leavened with a known leavening agent. – ED

"Please see the quote from your site: 'A principal truth of Yahweh's Word is the simple fact that Yahweh will bar those from His Kingdom who are still in their natural, sinful condition. We must first be changed in heart to take on the mind of Yahshua. He told a parable of the man who was ejected from the wedding of Yahshua and His chosen bride because he lacked a wedding garment. The spiritual message is that we cannot approach Him unprepared and unchanged in heart (Matt. 22:12-14).'

"The parable was about a king marrying off his son. How did you arrive at the opinion that this involved Yahshua (J-sus) and His bride (church?). No Bible in my house says it was about J-sus getting married. Just a king. Can you explain the reasoning behind your statement "wedding of Yahshua and His chosen bride"? – DB

Parables have double meanings in Scripture, pointing to a deeper lesson. Yahshua typically made a spiritual point with a parable. Verse 1 says that the Kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. Many passages talk of the bride, the chosen ones, marrying Yahshua the Messiah, Rev. 19:9, 21:2, 9; 22:17. What's the purpose of this parable if it is not about Yahshua and His future bride? Yahweh calls many to the wedding supper but only a few are chosen. – ED

"We have never had a laying on of hands placed upon us. Does that mean we do not have the Holy Spirit in us? We are very far from your Assembly; in Rhode Island is where we live. If we need to be baptized again and have a laying on of hands how do we accomplish that living so far from your place of worship?"

Yahweh commands His people to observe all seven Feasts. We encourage all to attend the commanded Feasts at YRM, Holts Summit. If you seek baptism, we baptize at the Feasts. Get started on the right foot. The biblical procedure is the laying on hands of the elders for the Spirit, Acts 6:6; 8:17; 19:6; 1Timothy 4:14; 2Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 6:2. – ED

"Great revelation on the first and second temple and the coming third temple!" – DC

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