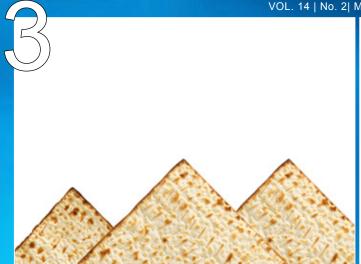


# RESTORATION

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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 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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The harvest festivals start with Yahweh's blessings in the field.

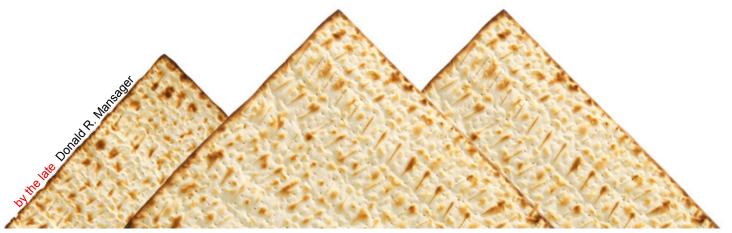
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hose living in the northern hemisphere look forward with great anticipation to spring's warming sun and the coming growing season. To sincere Bible students spring brings to mind much more, however. Spring means the month of Abib (a Hebrew word meaning "to be tender, green"), heralding the beginning of the new year, Exodus 12:2. Life starts anew with the warming sun and longer days.

Barley, which was planted in the fall, responds quickly. It will be one of the first cereal crops to be harvested. Wheat will follow some seven weeks later.

True Bible-believers see the correlation between the earth's coming to life after a dormant winter and the rejuvenation of our spiritual growth which we renew each spring at Passover.

### **Feasts for the Truly Obedient**

In Yahweh's wisdom He has given us seven annual holy times to remind us why we were born. He outlines His salvation plan in these annual Sabbaths, which also bring us into a closer spiritual relationship with Yahweh and the working out of His purpose here on earth.

A deeper and blessed spiritual experience is ours as we participate in the commanded Feast days given us in the pages of the Bible. These Feasts were in existence and given long before Moses.

Passover is fairly well known to Bible readers. It took place when the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians, and it was the final plague whereby Pharaoh let Israel go. Passover occurred in the midst of those Egyptians, which is a type of the world.

The lambs were killed; their blood was painted on the doorframes of their houses; and their flesh was eaten with unleavened bread, shared among the family of believers.

Passover is still observed by Jews around the world. However, they do not slay a lamb, as there is neither a temple nor an altar upon which that can be done.

The Passover was taught to the patriarchs long before the Messiah's day, and can be seen after Adam and his progeny were barred from Eden. Notice Genesis 4:3, "And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Yahweh." The Hebrew reads, "at

the end of days."

Cain and Abel were counting days and Cain then brought an offering of his crops, the fruit of the ground. Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock.

It has been conjectured that Cain brought a Tabernacles offering and his offering was rejected. Abel brought an offering of the flock (Passover lamb) and his was accepted. They both apparently brought their offering at the same time.

Abel's was the proper offering; he came through the blood of the lamb. Cain brought of the labors of his hands, the fruit of the land, which was the wrong offering at the wrong time.

The lesson is, we cannot approach Yahweh through our own works, our own ideas. We come through the atoning work of the Redeemer of Israel, the Lamb of Yahweh which takes away the sins of the world, John 1:29.

Abel brought a sacrifice of a lamb, and Hebrews 9:22 tells us, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission" of sins. Cain by his own reasoning brought the works of his hands, and it was rejected.

Jude 11 indicates that Cain's religion is man's religion, which Yahweh condemns, while Abel brought the

firstlings, and the fattest ones too (biblical margin note).

Passover is mentioned in Leviticus 23 along with seven annual festivals. It is to be kept annually, at the beginning of the year (Ex. 12:2), which is in the spring, usually March or April. Deuteronomy 16:1 commands us to keep the month of Abib with its green ears of grain at springtime.

The Messiah kept all of Yahweh's laws perfectly, which included the Passover and all other annual Sabbaths. We read in Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-18, and Luke 22:8-15 that Yahshua desired to keep "the Passover at your house with My disciples."

Matthew 26:26-29 shows that He did indeed keep the Passover with unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. He said He would drink of the fruit of the vine new with the disciples in the Father's Kingdom. He Himself was offered as the "Passover Lamb."

### **Beware of Imitations**

There is no biblical precedent for taking the fruit of the vine and the unleavened bread at any other time than the time of the Passover. Those who partake of the spin-off observances of "eucharist," "mass," or "L-rd's Supper" are not abiding within Scripture.

Some even take what they call "the L-rd's Supper" in the morning before or after breakfast. The only Passover memorial authorized in Scripture is to be taken after sunset as the 14th of Abib begins.

To take this "memorial supper" every three months, monthly, every Sunday, or daily is unbiblical and not sanctioned by Yahweh, thus doing violence to the Scriptures.

We are told in the Bible to partake of these emblems at the time of Passover, in the spring of the year, which is when our Savior gave us the example – "the same night in which He was betrayed."

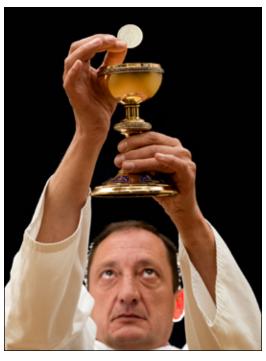
There is a passage that is supposed justification for partaking of the "cup and the bread" at one's inclination. A

portion reads as follows:

". . .this do as oft as you drink it in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Master's death until He comes," 1Corinthians 11:25-26.

Other translations read differently, instead of "oft" and "often," the word "whenever" is used. In no way does it mean to partake of it whenever we please!

If we are told, "Be sure to serve turkey whenever you observe Thanksgiving," are we free to observe



the Thanksgiving holiday monthly, weekly, or daily? Passover is observed on a specific day of year, as stipulated in the law (Ex. 12, Lev. 23, Deut. 16).

In the New Covenant era we do not sacrifice a lamb when we partake of Passover. Paul shows in 1Corinthians 5:6-7 that the Messiah is considered the Passover Lamb for us.

In the original Passover observance the morsel of unleavened bread signifies Yahshua's body. The partaking of the cup signifies His blood.

Nowhere in the Bible is the cup said to contain wine. The Savior called it "the fruit of the vine," thus it could neither have been water. It was the *gennema* (*Strong's* No. 1081) meaning fruit, the product of the grape that could be drunk, the squeezed-out juice.

### **Paul Observed Passover**

The Passover from early Bible times foretold of the greater Passover Lamb, our Savior, who was to die for the sins of the world. We are to remember His death by observing the Passover. Then follow the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

Note that Paul kept the Passover. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee. He was the Apostle to the Gentiles, and he taught them to observe what are erroneously called the "Feasts of the Jews."

Corinth was a major metropolitan community, quite Hellenistic, and a crossroads of trade and commerce. If Passover and Unleavened Bread were done away, why did Paul write to the Corinthians, "Purge out therefore the old leaven that you may be a new lump as you are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast..." 1Corinthians 5:7-8.

Why would Paul write to the Corinthian brethren about Yahshua being the Passover Lamb if these days were done away at Yahshua's death and are not necessary for Gentiles? Why did he further say, "Let us keep the feast"?

Obviously Yahweh's Feast days were still obligatory some 25 years after the death and resurrection of the Savior. And the record is preserved in the Bible for you and me to follow in our day as well.

Our Savior told the disciples, "This do in remembrance of Me," Luke 22:19. He also promised He would partake of the Passover anew in the Father's Kingdom, Matthew 26:29. Leviticus 23:14 says this is a statute forever, throughout all generations.

We show our love for the Savior when we keep His commandments, John 14:21.



# In Search of a Scriptural Easter

# (DID THE APOSTIES EAT JELLY BEANS?)

by Alan Mansager

ith the world's Christmas extravaganza now a distant memory, churches are busily gearing up for their next big gala – Easter.

As with Christmas, Easter is another major celebration that features an odd blend of biblical, mythical, and irreligious themes: chalices, crosses, and colored eggs; bonnets, bunnies, and Bibles; hymns and hams; sun worship and Son worship.

The uninformed may think it peculiar that Yahweh would require His people today to eat unleavened bread for a week following the Passover. Yet they find nothing bizarre about observing the Savior's resurrection by searching church lawns and forests for colored eggs, supposedly laid by rabbits!

Given enough time and left to his own devices, man will conjure up observances that have little or nothing to do with the original purpose.

Mythology and tradition aside, let's do our own search to see whether

we can find any evidence of a scriptural Easter.

### **Only One Verse in One Version**

An astonishing fact jumps out immediately. In a careful examination of the Bible we discover the word Easter in only one verse and in just one version: Acts 12:4 in the *King James Version*. It reads, "...intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

Notice how other versions translate this same passage:

- "...intending to bring him before the people after Passover," *The New King James Bible*.
- "... intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people," *New American Standard*.
- "...Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover," *New International Version*.
- "...with the intention of producing him to the people after Passover," *James Moffat*.
- "...intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people," *Revised*

### StandardVersion.

- "...intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover," *New Revised Standard Version*.
- "...Herod's intention was to deliver Peter to the Jews for execution after the Passover," *Living Bible*.
- "...intending to bring him out to the people after Passover," *Modern Language Bible*.
- "...meaning to produce him in public after Passover," *New English Bible*.
- "... intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people," *The Webster Bible*.
- "...purposing after the Passover to bring him forth to the people," *The Amplified New Testament*.
- "...intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover," *The New Berkeley Version in Modern English*.
- "...intending, after the pasch, to bring him forth to the people," *Douay-Rheims* (Catholic). In this last translation, "pasch" is simply the near Greek word for Passover, *Pascha*.

"Passover" is found 28 times in the

*King James* New Testament; Easter exists just once in the entire Bible!

As the King James *Newberry Reference Bible* shows in a side column note on Acts 12:4, the word "Easter" in the *King James* should have been "Passover" (*Newberry* includes the Greek letters for "Pascha").

Amazing, isn't it? Easter is the

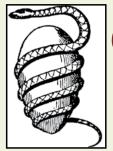
second biggest religious celebration of the Bible-professing world. Yet, its only scriptural evidence is one word erroneously translated one time in one version.

### **Apostles Not Dye Hards**

You don't have to hunt deeply to learn that no one in the Scriptures

ever observed Easter. Rather, even in the New Testament the Apostolic Assembly continued with the biblical Holy Days commanded in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. Our Savior died at Passover as the ultimate sacrifice, Paul tells us in 1Corinthians 5:7.

The Eleventh Edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* confirms,



# Mystery of the Mystic Egg

The egg is symbolic of serpent worship. It denotes self creation apart from Yahweh. It symbolizes darkness and deceit rather than light and truth.

The Easter egg hunt is a firmly embedded tradition in our culture. It is even a tradition at the White House each year. The egg-laying rabbit has been Easter's mascot for millennia.

The rabbit or hare was only one of the animals identified with the pagan goddess Ishtar (Easter) in her capacity as Aphrodite, deity of productivity and fertility. Sometimes she was portrayed riding on a goat, symbolic of wantonness (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 14th Ed., vol. 2, p. 99). The mystical egg was also included in her worship.

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

### **Unscrambling Worship of the Pagan Egg**

Writer Albert Pike in his book, *Morals and Dogma*, connects the egg to other deities as well:

"The relations of the human soul with the rest of nature were a chief object of the science of the mysteries. The man was there brought face to face with entire nature. The world, and the spherical envelope that surrounds it, were represented by a mystic egg, by the side of the sun-god whose mysteries were celebrated."

Pike says that the egg symbol "was borrowed from the Egyptians, who also consecrated the egg to Osiris, germ of light, himself born, says Diodorus, from that famous egg. In Thebes, in upper Egypt, he was represented as emitting it from his mouth, and causing to issue from it the first principle of heat and light, or the fire-god, Vulcan, or Phtha. We find this egg even in Japan, between the horns of the famous Mithraic bull, whose attributes Osiris, Apis, and Bacchus all borrowed.

"Orpheus, author of the Grecian mysteries, which he carried from Egypt to Greece, consecrated this symbol: and taught that matter, uncreated and informous, existed from all eternity, unorganized, as chaos; containing in itself the principles of all existences confused and intermingled, light with darkness, the dry with the humid, heat with cold; from which, it after long ages taking the shape of an immense egg, issued the purest matter, or first substance, and the residue was divided into the four elements, from which proceeded heaven and earth and all things else.

"This grand cosmogonic idea he taught in the mysteries; and thus the hierophant explained the meaning of the mystic egg, seen by the initiates in the sanctuary" (p. 400). Pike goes on to say that this mystic Orphic egg was deified in all of the paganistic religions of the world, including: Greece, Egypt, Persia, Phoenicia, India, Babylon, Japan, and others.

### Life-giving Egg Supplants a Creator

In the mystery of the egg, as we have seen from Pike, is that creation has inherent life within itself and developed without and apart from an everliving Creator. This concept is precisely the evolutionary process taught in our schools and colleges as fact today, rather than the lying, abominable, fictional theory that it really is. It turns darkness into light in a perverted twist.

Is it any wonder that the egg is associated with a pagan goddess of light, which is worshiped through spring sunrise services?

Pike also has this to say about the egg: "The serpent entwined round an egg was a symbol common to the Indians, the Egyptians, and the Druids. It referred to the creation of the universe. A serpent with an egg in his mouth was a symbol of the universe containing within itself the germ of all things that the sun develops. The property possessed by the serpent, of casting its skin, and apparently renewing its youth, made it an emblem of eternity and immortality," p. 496.

"There is no indication of the observances of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers...The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed" ("Easter," vol. 8. p. 828).

Yahweh's Feast days were the only annual observances that the early New Testament Assembly kept.

Writing in *Bible Review*, Delbert L. Achuff, Jr., a retired Episcopal minister, noted what would happen if Yahshua were to return to earth to worship today. "He would probably be amazed at what the worshipers accredited to Him. The accretions from having passed through several cultures would puzzle this peasant Jew who said He came 'to fulfil the Law, not to destroy it' (Matt. 5:17).

"St. Paul too is understood in a whole new light when seen as a Jew who is a member of the new sect, defending his new understandings of Torah and relationship with [Yahweh]. Later he calls it the New Covenant, but the word (*b'rith* in the Hebrew) is meaningless if one does not know the Old Covenant."

Theologians cite Acts 2 as the start of the New Testament Assembly. But they neglect the reason that the Apostles and disciples were gathered that day. It was in observance of the command in Leviticus 23 to keep the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)—one of the seven annual holy days!

Nowhere can we find a biblical injunction to observe the Savior's resurrection as a special holiday. The command was and always will be to keep the memorial of His death at Passover.

This being the case, where did "Easter" originate?

### No Thanks to the Babylonians

Yahshua told His disciples that the poor we would always have with us. The same thing can be said of heathen worship, at least until Yahweh's

righteous Kingdom is established on earth

The link between Easter and paganism is so obvious it could hardly be missed. For starters, take the name. "Easter" even sounds like its namesake –Eastre, the Saxon deity of dawn, spring, and fertility.



There is no indication of the observances of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers.

Another authority notes, "Easter is a word of Saxon origin and imparts a goddess of the Saxons, or rather, of the East, Estera, in honor of whom sacrifices being annually offered about the Passover time of the year (spring), the name became attached by association of ideas to the Christian festival of the resurrection, which happened at the time of the Passover," *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature,* "Easter," p. 12.

In his *Dictionary of Word Origins, Joseph Shipley* writes, "Easter. This is from Anglo Saxon Eostre, a pagan goddess whose festival came at the spring equinox. The festival was called Eastron (plural of Eastre). The Christian festival of the resurrection of [Messiah] has in most European languages is the name of the Jewish Passover (Fr. *Paques*, It. *Pasqua*, from Latin *pascha*...); but in English the pagan word has remained for the Christian festival," p. 131.

Before she was Eastre, the idol was called Ishtar (pronounced by the Assyrians and Babylonians as we do Easter).

Revelation tells us that Babylon is the mother of all false worship, and Revelation 14:8 says that Babylon caused all nations to partake in her spiritual unfaithfulness. Our society didn't escape Babylon's influence regarding the Easter observance, either. Ishtar (alias Semiramis) was the wife of Nimrod, the priest-king and founder of Babylon. She was the first "deified woman" (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 304). The Greeks worshiped her as Aphrodite and the Romans as Venus – goddess of love.

### **Queen of Heaven**

Jeremiah condemns worship of this heathen queen mother in a rite that includes a practice remarkably similar to Easter:

"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead [their] dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other mighty ones, that they may provoke me to anger" (Jer. 7:18).

"Cakes" is the Hebrew *kawan*, meaning a sacrificial cake, which was "used in worship of Ishtar," The *New Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, p. 467.

These "cakes" survive as today's hot-cross buns — an Easter tradition where buns are marked with crosses, the symbol for woman. In hieroglyphics the cross is a symbol for life. This ancient queen of heaven was the mother of life, the heathen believed.

Also prominent in the Easter celebration is the egg. The 1994 winter Olympics opened with a ceremony featuring a huge egg, ancient pagan symbol of life. Mithras, the sun god, supposedly hatched from a cosmic egg. Pagan mythology says a mystic egg of the Babylonians fell from heaven into the River Euphrates. Once fish had pushed it ashore it hatched and out came Astarte, Easter (Venus). Hence, the egg became a symbol of Astarte or Easter (*The Two Babylons*, p. 109).

As with many heathen appendages,

the egg soon entered mainstream Christian practice. According to Hislop, "A form of prayer was even appointed to be used in connection with it, Pope Paul V teaching his superstitious votaries thus to pray at Easter – 'Bless, O L-rd, we beseech thee, this thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance into thy servants, eating it in remembrance of our L-rd J-sus Chr-st," p. 110.

### **Peter Cotton-tale**

Imagine honoring President's Day with Bingo parties. Or celebrating the first moon walk with a fishing derby. That makes as little sense as observing the resurrection of the Savior with chocolate rabbits that lay colored eggs.

Why rabbits? They have nothing to do with the Savior's death or resurrection. That is precisely the point. We are dealing with two entirely different observances that are intermixed to produce the strangest of crossbreeds – not unlike remembering the Savior's birth with Santa Claus, reindeer, and evergreen trees.

To understand why rabbits, we need to go back to a more ancient festival that in the apostate church merged with Passover to become the Easter hybrid.

"Although Easter is a Christian festival, it embodies traditions of an ancient time antedating the rise of Christianity," says *Funk and Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia*. This source describes Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated "Eastre monath," corresponding to April.

"Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox, and traditions associated with the festival survive in the familiar Easter bunny, symbol of the fertile rabbit, and in the equally familiar colored Easter eggs originally painted with gay hues to represent the sunlight of spring" ("Easter," ibid, p. 2940).

In its effort to join the heathen with the Bible believer, the early church accommodated many pagan observances, finding common dates on which to merge. Easter with Passover is one example.

Try as they might, however, they could not detach the pagan dates from the pagan rites and rituals.

The Easter sunrise service is common today. But how many who participate realize the ancient tradition of sun-god adoration they are really keeping alive?

### **Scriptural Caution**

Ezekiel gives this sobering account of what Yahweh thinks of this custom employed in worship of Him:

"Then said he unto me, Have you seen this, O son of man? turn you yet again, and you shall see greater abominations than these. 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, Have you 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" (Ezek. 8:15-18).

Yahweh will one day teach all mankind that He is the only true Mighty One. They will learn – through plague, if necessary – that pagan abominations will not be tolerated.

And man will one day discover

what True Worship is all about and what blessings can be his if he will only be obedient not to the world but to the Word.



# **The Great Breakaway**

Who changed Passover into Easter? Why the breakaway from thousands of years of right biblical practice to embrace a heathen rite with its devotion to the sun-god and worship of the gueen of

heaven? How can Easter be an alleged Bible-sanctioned observance by being entirely missing from Scripture? Learn more.



Request the booklet, Passover vs Easter – Which Observance Is for Us Today?

Contact information is on the back cover of this issue.



any study the seven annual Feasts of the Scriptures to satisfy curiosities about a people and days gone by. For most the intent is not to look into keeping the Feasts themselves, as Yahweh commands. Rather, it's more about what quaint tidbits they can pick up about "Jewish" worship.

Almost universally ignored is that the Feasts were strictly observed in BOTH testaments. The Feasts were kept by our Savior throughout His lifetime, followed by faithful observances from all His apostles after His death, including Paul.

These days will also be enforced on the pain of plague in the coming Kingdom. The facts alone should convince even the staunchest skeptic that there is great importance and urgency in these days.

Most think today's believer is in a kind of donut hole where there is nothing to do or follow, just believe. This is exactly what the Adversary wants.

If you really want to be blessed by your Creator Yahweh, just do what His Son did. Do everything He lived and taught. After all, He is our coming Judge for salvation. Pleasing and loving Him is a top priority for now and eternity.

### **Amazing Feast Milestones**

Most all the major events in the life and ministry of Yahshua revolved around Yahweh's annual observances. That is one of the most profound and wellconcealed revelations of the ages.

In fact, Yahshua was very likely born on one of them (Tabernacles), died on another (Passover, which is one of Yahweh's annual observances), and was resurrected three days later during yet another commanded Feast (Unleavened Bread). The Holy Spirit was also sent on another Feast (Pentecost) and Yahshua may return at the Feast called Trumpets.

These profound truths should shake every Bible believer to the core of his beliefs. With so much significance in the New Testament, how can anyone ignore the Feasts of Leviticus 23?

These are the only yearly holy days decreed in Scripture. No other annual observances are commanded in your Bible. In fact, Yahweh directs us not to observe other days. "Hear ye the word which Yahweh speaketh unto you. O

house of Israel: Thus saith Yahweh. Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good," Jeremiah 10:1-5.

According to the "they're only for Israel" group, nothing in the Old Testament is for us today, including the Ten Commandments. Therefore we must be consistent.

### **Inconsistencies Abound Today**

If the biblical Feast days are only for the ancient house of Israel, then this command in Jeremiah would only apply to them as well. We today should then be conscience-free to learn and practice all the hollow ways of the heathen.

We can worship Dagon and Moloch and Vishnu and Buddha. Now we are free to bring evergreen trees into the

(please turn to p. 13)

# Ts the Basis for Ebedience

by Randy Folliard

ahweh's truth is more than a set of rules and regulations. Yahweh's truth is a state of mind, an attitude. For us to truly follow Yahweh's law in Yahshua's footsteps we must always remember that the greatest commandments are based on love.

The Savior showed us this in Matthew 22:37-40. "Yahshua said unto him, Thou shalt love Yahweh thy Elohim with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Without love in our lives Yahweh's Word would never have an opportunity to truly perfect us. We can see time after time in the Scriptures where Yahweh tells us to love one another and admonish one another in love.

Love is such a small word, yet the meaning is great. Love means not thinking of yourself. Love is having a deep concern for our spiritual family members and showing respect for those around us. Love is putting ourselves to the side and helping others first. Love is never selfish, but always giving. Yahweh told us that it is better to give than to receive.

Love is the firstfruit of the spirit.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22). Love is what the entire Law hangs on.

### **Love Over All**

In the passage commonly known as the love chapter, the Apostle Paul emphasizes how necessary love is for the True Worshiper:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly. seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (1Cor. 13: 1-13).

This chapter starts out by listing many gifts we can receive through the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us in each case, however, that if we have not loved, that gift has gained us nothing.

Love is patient. We must always have patience with our brethren in the faith and the world around us.

The second quality Paul lists is kindness. That perfection that Yahshua spoke about in Matthew 5:48 is the goal of the True Worshiper. We must always show kindness toward others, just as Yahweh has shown kindness to

Let us remember that we have all fallen short of the glory of Yahweh. Paul tells us we are not to envy one another. Through envy comes jealousy. James reminds us that through jealousy comes only confusion and every vile deed.

"But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, or of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice" (James 3:14-16, *NIV*).

Paul goes on to tell us that love is not being rude to the people around us. The world needs an example that comes from Yahweh's Spirit. Love is never self-seeking.

We must always think of others before self. Further in the chapter the Apostle says that love is not easily angered, because we are light to this present-day world. We are the salt of the earth that cannot lose its flavor.

Love keeps no score of wrong, Paul writes. We cannot go through life keeping a tally on everybody who has ever wronged us in some way. If we forgive then our Heavenly Father will be faithful to forgive us. Paul explains that we must always rejoice with the truth and allow Yahweh's glory to shine in the world around us.

Paul lists four more qualities that are essential to our salvation. He tells us we must always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere. The chapter ends with many examples of prophecies, tongues, and knowledge – saying that all shall pass away and

only three qualities will remain. Those qualities are found in the 13th verse: "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

### Love Not the World

John tells us that we are not to love this present day world. Those who love the world do not have the love of the father in them. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any



We cannot go through life keeping a tally on everybody who has ever wronged us in some way. If we forgive then our Heavenly Father will be faithful to forgive us.

man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the

lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of Elohim abideth for ever." (1John 2:15-17).

Do these verses give us the right to go around hating the world with an unhappy attitude? John tells us that the world is full of man's sin. Yet, he by no means promotes a bad attitude concerning the world.

One of the fruits of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22 is joy. John shows that we are not to have joy in the sin of this world but through Yahweh's righteousness.

Yahshua the Messiah tells us to lay up our treasure in heaven where it will not pass away. He explains that where our treasure is there will our heart be also. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

Let our hearts always be focused upon Yahweh's righteousness and Kingdom. Paul tells Timothy to be satisfied to have our needs met. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can neither carry anything out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content" (ITim. 6:7-8).

Paul reminds Timothy that we cannot allow ourselves to be caught up in the riches of this world, rather, to be



content with what we have. Our hearts and treasure must always be focused upon Yahweh, while being a bright and shining light to this world.

### **Love Your Enemies**

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 the faults of others, including those of our enemies. 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 toward our enemies.

Yahweh tells us that if we keep His commandments we love Him, and those that 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," John 2:4-5. Likewise Yahshua said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John

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

When we want to show love and respect to our earthly parents, we obey them. We show similar respect and love by keeping our Heavenly Father's commandments

### **Love Your Neighbor**

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).

Yahshua shows 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 that mean? It means

to treat the people we come into contact with as we 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).

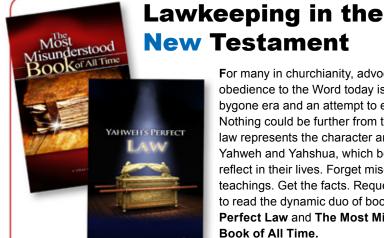
The follower of Yahweh will love and respect those around him, including his enemies. "For if you love them that love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans so? And if you salute your brethren only, what do you more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be therefore perfect, even as 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). By loving your neighbor you will do nothing unlawful against him.

Yahshua also tells us that there is no greater love than to give the ultimate sacrifice. John wrote. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lav down his life for his friends," John 15:13. Yahshua demonstrated this by giving His own life so that we would 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).

"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 as we adhere to the spirit of the law. May we keep the faith of our only Savior and appear before His throne unblemished. May Yahweh lead us toward His Kingdom as we live for Him.



For many in churchianity, advocating obedience to the Word today is bondage to a bygone era and an attempt to earn salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth. The law represents the character and values of Yahweh and Yahshua, which believers are to reflect in their lives. Forget misguided church teachings. Get the facts. Request or go online to read the dynamic duo of booklets, Yahweh's Perfect Law and The Most Misunderstood Book of All Time.

## **Hallowed Days**

(continued from p. 9)

house on December 25, adorn and adore them and place gift offerings (presents) beneath them. If the Old Testament is only for Israel, then this warning and all other warnings against false worship also apply only to Israel.

Why did Yahshua spend for our example so much time teaching and observing the Feast days in the New Testament? Why didn't He just list them and say, "These were given for the Jews but are not for you"?

Another modern inconsistency: the communion service with the cup and the wafer originated with the Passover memorial. Why is this Passover proxy called communion observed today if the Passover were just for Jews?

Pentecost is the third of the biblical moedim. Why is it still acknowledged in churches as Pentecost Sunday? Why do churches still employ it in their name (Pentecostal) if it was for just Jews?

### The Bible - Always Consistent

Scripture teaches the same salvation message anciently as it does today. Incidentally, the term holiday is from the Old English *haligdig* meaning "holy day/Sabbath." Originally, holiday meant a holy Sabbath.

Why don't today's mainstream "holidays" live up to the original meaning by being observed as holy, Sabbath days? Maybe they should be called "pointless practices" or "superficial superstitions." Either would fit the bill perfectly.

Is it any wonder that man's "hollow-days" typically end in a big letdown? Even though the world has concocted its own annual observances, only the yearly Feast days of Scripture are holy, and only the commanded celebrations encompass Sabbaths and impart deep, spiritual blessings on the faithful who observe them.

When you follow the ways of Scripture there are always benefits from obedience. Yahweh guarantees it.

If that weren't enough, just a brief analysis of these special celebrations will deliver up a bounty of insights on a number of key, biblical teachings.

### **Feasts Full of Fundamentals**

Yahweh's holidays reveal the important work of the priesthood, while pointing to the ongoing work of the Messiah Yahshua, today's High Priest.

Second, they show us proper worship through the scores of lessons they teach.



It is no secret that the Father in heaven demands obedience, while punishing disobedience. This is a hardcore fact in both testaments.

As a way of physical life for the people in the Old Testament, today the *moedim* show the way to everlasting life through their New Covenant lessons and applications. The Feast days encapsulate no less than the whole plan of salvation.

It is no secret that the Father in heaven demands obedience, while punishing disobedience. This is a hardcore fact in both testaments. He says in Malachi 3:6, I change not. What He demanded of Israel He demands of the True worshiper now.

The statutes of old remain active statutes today. Yahshua clearly said in Matthew 5:17 that He did not come to destroy the law. Rather, He said He came to establish it. He came to reveal the law's greater, not lesser, importance.

He came to reveal its spiritual side as well.

Understanding the significance of the Feast days in the whole plan of Scripture is nothing short of amazing. Ironically, the Bible's only yearly holidays have been glossed over for centuries, or simply brushed off as "just for Jews."

But if they were just Jewish holidays, why was Israel commanded to keep them? The fact is the Jews were only one of the 12 tribes of Israel (Judah). A common mistake is to interchange the terms "Jews" and "Israel" as if they were the same thing. All Jews were Israelites, but not all Israelites were Jews. In fact, only a fraction of Israelites were Jews.

The Jews were just a part of the greater family of patriarch Jacob, whose name became Israel when he wrestled with the angel. That is why his name means, "Contender with Elohim." The angel finally decided that the man wasn't going to give up so he blessed him.

Almighty Yahweh says about His Feast days in Leviticus 23:1-2: "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, 'Concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are MY feasts."

Why didn't He call them, "feasts of the Jews"? Because they belong to Him and were not "owned" by the Jews nor were they exclusive with them. They are sanctified gatherings. Neither Yahweh nor Yahshua ever unsanctified them.

Being that they are His should be reason enough for those who desire a close relationship with the Father in heaven to include these days as a central part of their worship.

Anyone serious about their eternal future should look into the clear necessity to keep the Bible's seven annual observances called "Yahweh's Feasts." We cannot blaze our own trail to the Kingdom. Yahweh Himself set down the only path to salvation and we need to be faithful in following it. Man likes to widen the narrow way and add alternative routes as he sees fit.

The word feast is related to festival. The root of festival means to celebrate a religious holy day.

These seven annual observances of the Bible are packed with significance and are crucial for today's worship in a number of ways. Each of the Feasts marks a milestone in biblical teaching. Beyond that, they are historical and prophetic markers, as key events occurred on them and more, such will happen again as we near the close of the age. your interest and desire for His Feasts, Yahweh Himself comes right out and commands the truth seeker to observe them

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. These are the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons," Leviticus 23:2, 4.

If you want blessings, keep the days Yahweh demands. Nothing on earth is more important than to receive the rewards that come with obedience to your Father in heaven, the Creator of the universe.

have no trouble finding the time and means every year to keep superficial worldly holidays that completely lack any blessings.

### **Agriculture Themes Are Key**

To lay some groundwork in the basic understanding of these days, we must start with fundamentals.

Our word month and the word moon derive from the same source word. That's why "month" sounds like "moon." At one time the moon was used to establish the start of every month. Now it floats all over our modern wall calendars. But Yahweh's biblical calendar still begins the months with the moon. Namely, the visible new



If you know the meaning of each Feast and the significance of its teachings, then you have the true key to the timetable of the Savior's return and the close of this age.

Yahweh's Feasts reveal a special blue-print for His people. Can you name any other observances that give us so many Truths as Yahweh's annual *moedim*?

Yahshua the Messiah is clearly seen in every one of the annual holy days. If all of this is not enough to fire

## **Tired Arguments Against Feasts**

Some may still claim that these observances are for ancient Israel and not for them. If so, then the entire Bible is meant for someone else, seeing these Feasts are in both testaments – for Israel and Gentile alike. They were observed by the apostles long after Yahshua died. He never abolished them or His Father's laws.

Others may say they just don't have the time or means to keep them, yet they

moon crescent, which marks the first day of each biblical month.

In addition to the moon, the Bible's calendar is also agriculturally based. The creation of man was in the garden called Eden. The word Eden, pronounced "Aden" in Hebrew, means, "delight, luxury, pleasure." It was literally a paradise until sin entered the picture. Prophecy in Micah 4:3-4 indicates that those in the millennial Kingdom will return to an agricultural lifestyle as the intended environment for man.

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Yahweh of hosts hath spoken it."

The agriculture theme is prominent and central in the Bible. Firstfruits of the harvest translates to firstfruits of the spiritual harvest of souls. This speaks to the first resurrection, where those relatively few who are faithful and obedient now will rise to meet the returning Savior.

The Bible's sacred calendar is based on the growing patterns and harvest cycles with the maturing of the barley crop to establish the first month called Abib.

The feast days continue with this motif with the harvesting of souls. With all of the clear parallels it is mindboggling that these scripturally mandated, yearly holidays have been totally ignored by New Testament believers for millennia, and replaced by man-made observances that are mostly secular and have no scriptural basis. Which will you choose: secular or religious? Blessings or no blessings: obedience to the Father in heaven or disobedience?

### **Trivial Pursuits**

For most this world is little more than striving after wind and fruitless pursuits of that which will tarnish and perish. If there is one word that best summarizes our physical existence, it's "temporary." You can be consumed all your life in a quest for wealth, status, and advancement, but at retirement you realize that it is all just momentary. You may enjoy it for a brief few years, and then comes the Alzheimers or the stroke or the heart attack. And you give it all up for a life of convalescent living

and concerns over what comes next.

When my time comes I'd much rather have Yahweh rewarding me for a life well-lived in obedience than for a future of eternal death from a life of sin and self-indulgence without Him.

Whatever we do in life will be our record forever. What we do in obedience now is solidifying our life history for eternity. It will be our record for the coming kingdom.



Yahshua the
Messiah is clearly
seen in every one
of the annual holy
days. Yahweh Himself
comes right out and
commands the truth
seeker to observe
them.

### **But What About My Family?**

We once received a letter that reasoned an excuse to avoid Feast keeping. The argument was all too common with those who can't set themselves free of entrapment from the unenlightened.

The letter read, "It would be lovely for me to be able to keep the proper biblical Feasts, however I live with a family who always celebrate the "church" events such as Easter, Christmas, etc., and it would be very hurtful to them if I suddenly dropped out of family celebrations.

"So I try to commemorate the biblical feasts, while at the same time joining in with the other stuff. It isn't easy, but it would be very hurtful to not celebrate with my lovely family."

The pressures that a believer's relatives can exert are among the most powerful and seductive deterrents to living the Truth that most Truth seekers will ever face.

We see it all the time. It's the husband who at times defers to the wishes of an unbelieving wife rather than follow His Savior when it comes to Sabbath and Feast keeping.

This is just what Yahshua meant when He said He didn't come to make everything peaceful. To defer to a spouse or relatives when it comes to obedience to the Word is to turn one's back on Yahshua.

In the end it isn't the family that will reward salvation, but Yahshua who is our Judge. He anticipated pushback from family when He said in Matthew 10:35-37, "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Who are you willing to offend? Family or Yahshua? Is your eternal salvation worth deferring to the desires of relatives? Once you understand the truth you are accountable to walk in it. The unenlightened are not at the same level of understanding where Yahweh demands that we make hard choices. At the same time you teach by your actions.

The broad superhighway that leads to destruction is the way of the Adversary. This is his world.

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# We Need More Space! Can You Help?

Currently, our meeting hall is no longer adequate. We are forced to split our congregation between the meeting hall and fellowship hall for services (during the Feasts). Those in the fellowship hall must resort to watching a video feed. Our stage is far too small for our music ministry as well as our audio control booth. We outgrew both some time ago. We also do not have the room for children's classes or dining during the Feasts. Storage is also a big problem. We have a solution that has been planned for our current footprint. We are planning to expand our meeting hall (removing the back wall) and use our current sanctuary for expanded dining. Our current meeting hall will be an intermediate zone between fellowship and the new meeting area, allowing for use of each. With this expansion, we will also have a basement, which will allow our children's class to meet downstairs with more than enough space. We have several members who are skilled in construction and contracting. Some of the construction will be subbed out as well.

We will work in phases. We have already funded phase one, involving rerouting the outside electric lines, which we have completed. Phase two will be the foundation and building shell with an estimated cost of 180k. Phase three will be the final completion. We humbly ask you to consider this project. This building will be used to preach the Word for years to come. Every penny of your donation will go to the project. We will work until we run out of funds. Your donation will keep construction going. Building supply costs have decreased, so now is a good time to buy them before they go back up in spring. **To donate** 

online and to see Lucas and Ryan's video regarding the project see: www.yrm.org/buildingfund

Please find an enclosed envelope to donate. All donations are tax deductible.

With your help, our worship will be forever changed!





On 1Samuel 20:5 David said that the next day would be the new moon. How did he know that? Maybe he observed the waning days of the conjunction.

A The new moon is not the conjunction. The new moon must be seen to be confirmed. Deuteronomy 16:1 says observe the month or Abib, or in Hebrew "watch for (shamar) the new moon of young ears of grain." This is how it was done historically in Israel. You can't see what is invisible, like a conjunction. As David was new moon observant, he would know as time drew closer to the crescent, to project when it could be seen next. We do the same today. The problem with the conjunction is that there are at times three days of darkness surrounding the conjunction. So which day is it? There is also the variable of 29 or 30 days in the months. If you are observing a conjunction for the new moon, then it would fall on either day 29 or day 30. But you wouldn't be able to confirm it if you couldn't see it.

The Jews stopped using the new moon in 801 CE. Priest Hillel II sanctioned a calculated calendar in 360 CE, which the Jews go by today. The Jews had a Seder on the correct time of the Passover, the 14th of Abib. That is when Yahshua kept it. But their Passover comes a day later, and that is why Yahshua and His disciples had already had the Passover service while the Jews were a day late.

Ocan a person who accepts the mark of the beast be forgiven?

A Not according to Revelation 14:9–11. Once one submits to the abominable worship of the Beast (or Satan), the fate of such a one is sealed. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of Elohim..."



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## Eldertorial

# Real-Time Testing Is Coming

Today most live in a blinding mist of obliviousness. They are consumed with the usual plans for the weekend or in getting a job promotion or buying a car or home. All the while prophetic events are slipping unnoticed under the creaky scaffolding of their lives, ready to collapse into the cold reality of an evil world controlled by an Adversary who wants nothing more than for the masses to march in lockstep to his will.

The way is being prepared for a Beast system and a Man of Sin to rule the entire world just before Yahshua returns to bring this earth back under His control. But not before His people undergo trials and persecutions that will test their spiritual strength.

Ours is like Noah's day when the world had no idea what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. Ignored are the realities of an Adversary who is marshaling all his powers for a great, end-time takeover.

Millions will one day realize just how little their trivial pursuits mean in light of an everlasting life about to be forever out of their reach.

Are you doing all you can now to be obedient? Are you keeping the Sabbath as Yahweh commands? Are you worshiping with other believers whenever possible? Are you eagerly obeying Him by keeping His Feast days, and giving up man-made holidays?

If not, resolve today to make changes. Commit to observing all the annual feasts in 2024. Take time to study His Word and then LIVE it. Say no to temptations the Evil One constantly throws at you. Teach your children Yahweh's ways as well.

Yahshua said this is not His world. Put your life in order while you still can. The rich man in Yahshua's Lazarus parable surely wished he had done that before his door to salvation slammed shut. In short, are you serious about following Yahweh and keeping His Word? We have only one opportunity in this life to live for the Messiah, our future judge, Acts 17:31, Romans 2:16. When prophecy is transformed from pages in Scripture to actual events happening right on our doorsteps, we will be tested as at no other time.

Will you have the spiritual strength, built from many years of overcoming and faithful obedience, to stand firm against the severest tests anyone could ever face? Even if it means you must stand alone as a voice in the wilderness, with no one but Yahshua standing unseen by your side?

If you are not following the Scriptures in your life, start now. Time is of the essence.

"My neighbor considers herself to be an extremely devoted Christian, and very knowledgeable about the Scriptures. I discussed with her the Old and the New Testaments and how the law was still in effect. She strongly disagreed and told me that she hopes that I will come to know the truth of freedom in J-sus. I asked her if she thought the 10 Commandments were still in effect. She agreed that they were. I asked her about the Fourth Commandment, and why no one is keeping it. She did not know what the Fourth Commandment was, so I told her it was the 7th-day Sabbath. She said 'Oh, the Sabbath day is Sunday now.' She said that if I want to keep it on Saturday that's fine, but I shouldn't tell other people to keep it on the seventh day because of freedom in Chr-st. Amazingly, she told me that G-d is not a legalist, so He is okay with the Sabbath day being changed from Saturday to Sunday. She said, 'Do you really think it matters to G-d which day you keep the Sabbath?' I responded yes. it matters to Him very much, otherwise He would not have specified the seventh day so many times in the Scripture, and also set it apart and sanctified it as far back as Genesis. That statement seemed to have no effect on her opinion.

"It's difficult to see a well-meaning Christian rejecting and arguing against the very foundational truths of her own faith.

"Thank you again for your ministry and for all of your resources." - **GG** 

We have freedom to accept or reject His laws, but not freedom to change His laws. The Sabbath law is one of the unchangeable Ten Commandments. The Sabbath is the perpetual sign of Yahweh's people, Exodus 31:13. Therefore, forsaking the Sabbath means not to be seen as one of His. - ED

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