

The Burden of the Lord For the Month of Tishri *by Christine Meier*



The King is coming!!! Prepare the way of the Lord. The title of this month's article may be a little different, but it is what I sense from the Lord surrounding this time period that we will talk about this month. In 2000 I had a word from the Lord that I wrote and shared with some leaders that the times of our breakthroughs as the body of Christ would center around the feasts during Israel's calendar month. It would also center on some of the trouble that Israel would go through (and possibly America). In 2002 the Lord let me know that in 2003 during the month of Tishri that there would be a convergence or gathering of spiritual events

(as well as literal ones) that would set things in order to prepare the way of the Lord. Earlier this year I wrote this word out for a pastor and then in July the Lord released me to share it with some congregations overseas. Let me share with you what the month of Tishri involves from the Bible and then apply it to the sensing I get from the Lord for our time period in the body of Christ.

This year the month of Tishri starts on the 27th of September and continues for 30 days throughout October. On the first day of the month is the Feast (blowing) of Trumpets. The blowing of the trumpets was done each month to commemorate the beginning of that month. It was done symbolically to announce the month in order to summon the Lord's host of people to bring their tributes to their exalted King. In like manner it was a popular feast time when families might celebrate their own special annual feast; something like when we have family reunions (See 1 Samuel 20:6, 29). Even the King of Israel might also give a feast during that period of time for the people to receive a blessing from him (See 1 Samuel 20:5, 24). Besides announcing times of public rejoicing and new moons, the blowing of trumpets was also a call to action to announce war. During this month the trumpets were blown several times because of the nature of the special events that took place during this month. Whatever the reason for trumpets to be blown, it was always symbolic of a public announcement of Jehovah as King Eternal. (See related New Testament passages in which these

same type of events take place and a trumpet is sounded: Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 8:2; 10:7 and 11: 15)

The blowing of trumpets on the first day of Tishri also announced the beginning of the civil new year (as opposed to the sacred one beginning in Nisan; there are two others quoted in the Mishnah). Should the calendar fall on the seventh season of seven years, the day of Jubilee also occurred during this month. It was a time when what was lost was returned. It was also considered more sacred because of the nature of the feasts in this month. Because of the holy nature of the first day of Tishri as being the New Year's Day of the civil calendar and 9 days later, on the 10th of the month the Day of Atonement would take place, these 10 days were considered days of repentance. There was a teaching among the rabbis that the trumpet blowing would confound the enemy so that his accusations could not hold up coupled with a teaching that it was also an alarm or a wake up call to wake people up from spiritual slumber (See Ephesians 5:8 & 14).

The Day of Atonement was a full day for the High Priest. Because of the nature of the different sacrifices, he would change his garments many times during the day. As a result, he would wash his body 5 times during the day and his hands and feet 10 times. The sacrifices would also be washed in water before being offered by fire. I won't go into the specifics of the different sacrifices, (with the exception of the scape-goats) except to say this: thank God Jesus

offered once and for all eternity His own blood so we may have eternal days of atonement. The spotless Lamb of God took away our sin and fulfilled this day in its entirety as the great High Priest of the New Covenant between God and man. If you have not partaken of Christ's atonement for your sin and you do not have a communicating relationship with Jesus, you can have one today. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. (See the Who Is Jesus? link on this page)

On this particular day another sacrifice was offered. It is what we call the scape-goat sacrifice. It was a sin offering for the people. It was actually two goats. One would be sacrificed and the other was to be set free into the wilderness after the sin of the people was transferred upon it. The type is important. Jesus was sacrificed and sent into the wilderness of the lower parts of the earth; because of sin, separated from His heavenly Father so that sin would be removed from us. On this special day the sanctuary, the area where the congregation met, the altar, the priests and the people were all cleansed and sin atoned for (See Leviticus 16:33). I'm reminded that God calls us His temple (See 1 Corinthians 3:16). Because of Christ's atonement we as His people and priests and temple are cleansed.

The last feast was the Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Ingathering. It was a special time of music and festivity where the harvest was brought in. The sacrifices were also distinct and special during this time. It

was also called a Feast of Booths owing to the lean-to type of dwellings made from branches of certain trees. You could call them 'tents.' This lasted for seven days. The three themes of this feast were joy (worship in music), dwelling in booths (or out in the open nearer to God, thereby reminding the Israelites of their dwelling with God as they traveled from Egypt); and the last theme had to do with the sacrifices, which spoke of ingathering or harvest because they had a right relationship with Jehovah. The first day of the feast and the eighth day or what was called the Octave were holy days of rest in the Lord. No work of any kind was to be done. While the eighth day was not a part of the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, it was closely connected, but had an understanding of something new and different. Music was a very keen part of this feast as worship before the Lord. Another interesting sacrifice that took place, which was similar to the mingling of the blood of the bullock and the blood of the scape-goats on the Day of Atonement was this: On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the regular drink offering was taken from a golden vessel that had water drawn from the Pool of Siloam the day before. But on this day, not only that water, but fresh water from the Pool of Siloam was taken. The priest coming in with the fresh water was met with blasts of trumpets as the other water was brought in. These mingled and were poured out at the same time with wine into two separate vessels at the altar (one for the wine the other for the waters). That evening a celebration of lights by lit torches took place in the court of the women. It was

called the "joy of the pouring out of the water." At this celebration men would dance wildly before the Lord with lit torches as the Temple shown brightly with the light of these torches. Music, trumpet blasts and hymns were sung. These ceremonies were supposed to bring into remembrance the fire by night that led the Israelites in the wilderness and the water was supposed to represent the cloud that led them by day [the Shechinah (or visible divine presence) was no longer present in Herod's temple].

While that may have been their understanding, let's look at Jesus' statements during this feast: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (See John 8:12) "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." Thereafter He places mud on the eyes of a man born blind. Many students of the Bible make much of the mud and the healing (this is one of the classic 'Messiah' miracles). But it is what Jesus said afterwards that should catch our attention, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam meaning, 'sent.' Jesus would be sacrificed so that the Holy Spirit could be poured out, giving us light and life and thereafter sending us out to a lost and dying world to bring them in, thereby ingathering them as nations like a harvest or guests invited to a feast (the marriage supper of the Lamb). By the way, this Feast of Tabernacles is the only feast that has yet to be fulfilled.

Let me share what I sense as this time period draws upon us (or as many of you read this, we are already in). **I want to be clear and say that I am not talking about the literal Second Coming of Jesus Christ. I am not talking about Jesus coming back on September 27th or at any time thereafter.** While I would not mind that, and I certainly wouldn't mind if God decided to override my statement and went ahead and came back during this time period, the sensing that I have is spiritual. I have a sense of a trumpet blast that can be heard spiritually as something that pushes against or confronts earthly darkness---a war cry, if you will. It will woo and draw people in outright sin to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. It will wake up the church to come out of complacency and sitting on the church pews. It will be a thunder blast of light to jolt them to do God's work while it is still day. It will prepare them to purify their garments to be the bride of Christ. It will be a time of restoration, a time of Jubilee and breakthrough where what has been stolen will be easier to get back. It will be a time of celebration as we bring in the harvest of souls to the Lord. As we are sent out with pure 'water' blinded eyes will be opened. Yet there is fire on all the sacrifices. If we have not prepared our own bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord, judgment can follow.

In 1998 I had a word from the Lord that there was a tremendous time of revival coming upon the face of the earth. Coupled with that word was an understanding that God would come to judge the American church. I sensed plainly that three and a half

years from the beginning of this time God would look upon us and see if we were wholly devoted to Him, doing all that we could to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling as He did a work in us (See Philippians 2:12, 13). What confirmed this to me much later has been an understanding of the first ten days of this month. They are days of repentance and grieving for sin. The Talmud conveys a very interesting belief by the rabbis. It is this: That on New Year's Day three books were opened in the heavenlies: The book of life for those whose works had been good; another of death for those who had been thoroughly evil and a third, sort of intermediate book for those whose case would be decided on the Day of Atonement. Let me say this about this story: whether you agree with the concept or not, is not the point. What I see here is judgment, which lines up with the word the Lord gave me concerning the three and a half years from this point to see if the American church had indeed made herself ready. God does not want to judge us. He wants us to come to a hatred of our sin and the reality of a Savior that frees us from that sin. God loves us. He would not have sent His own Son to die for our sin, if He really wanted us to fail. Whether you are a Spirit-filled believer or someone that does not believe in Jesus is also not the point. The point is that we all have sin. Even though we accept Jesus in our lives, we must still realize that it is possible to sin. Even if our sin is a bad attitude, it still needs to go to the cross of Christ. John the Baptizer came to prepare the way of the Lord before Jesus came the

first time. He spoke of sin to a nation of God's chosen people. If a preparer had to come when Jesus came the first time, why wouldn't we, as His people, need to prepare ourselves anew and afresh each day? In this way fresh water and new wine can be poured out before His altar each day in our lives. In this way the glory of God can shine forth from these temples, which are our bodies, here on earth. We can experience the joy of God as we dance before Him in our temples (bodies) spiritually lighted by the light of the Holy Spirit.

We must prepare. The price of not preparing is too great. No matter what hardships take place in the world your heart can stir with the expectancy of Immanuel, God with us and the reality of Him speaking with you and living with you. God desires to tabernacle or dwell with us. What takes place in the world is not the issue. The issue is our response to God. Will you agree to let Him dwell with you today? All you need to do is ask Him. If that is your prayer and you would like someone to pray with you, you can email us or call us. We hold all prayer requests in confidence. Log on next month for more. . . .

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