



Addressing Yahuah's Feasts

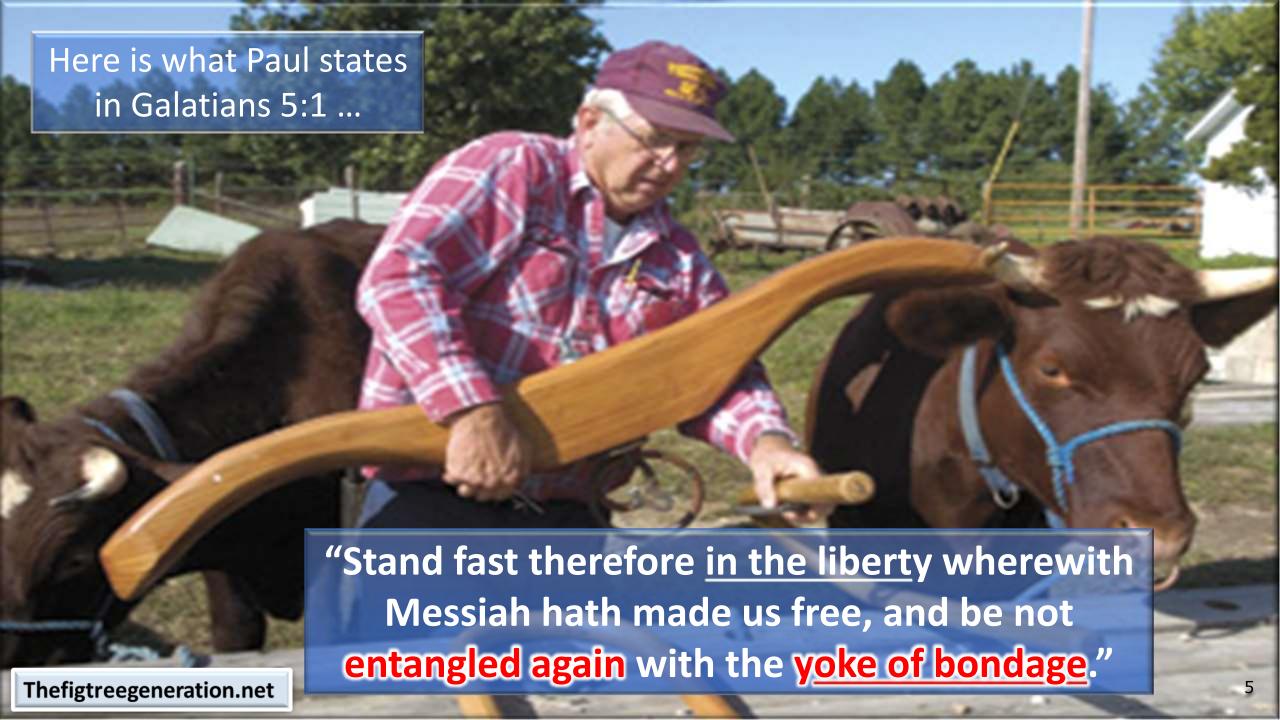
Just for clarification: In my presentations I am using YHVH (Yahuah) instead of LORD, which is a title and not a name. I also use Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration from a Greek mistransliteration and really has no meaning, neither in Hebrew nor in English! YHVH (Yahuah) and Yahusha are the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.



This passage in Galatians 4:8-11 is very controversial within the nominal Christian denominations of whether or not Torah's Feasts & Festivals are still valid today.

Let's see, if we can find out, what Galatians is really talking about!

First we must read everything in context and let Scripture interpret itself.





Insisting that Paul taught that the Old Testament Law was "done away," Christians conclude they no longer need to keep the Torah (or Law) of Yahuah, which according to their idea means that they are exempt from keeping the weekly 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath AND YHVH's yearly appointed festivals since the cross.

There was an old hymn, which sums up the popular but emotional belief of Christians and their attitude towards Yahuah's Law, especially the Torah, which said:

"Free From The Law, O Happy Condition!"





However, Yahusha, our Saviour gave a different message to David in Psalm 40:8!

"I delight to do thy will,
O my Elohim:
yea, thy Torah [is]
within my heart." KJV

### Let's turn to Galatians 4:8-11

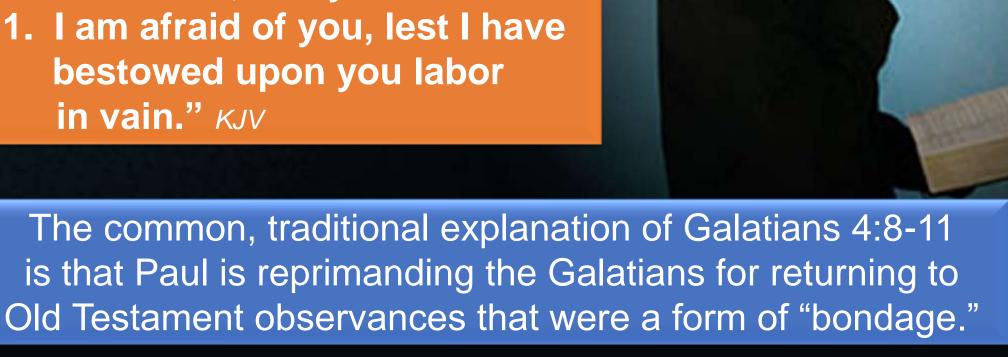
8. "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God (Elohim), ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

9. But now, after that ye have known God (Elohim), or rather are known of God (Elohim), how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage.?



**Continuing Galatians 4:8-11** 

- 10. Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.
- 11. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain." KJV





# Is that traditional explanation correct?

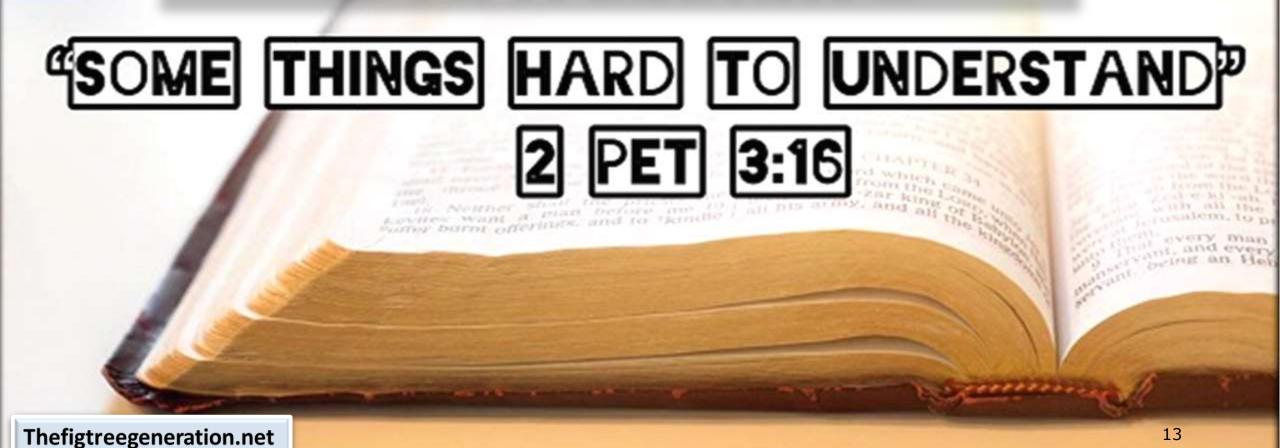
Does this popular tradition correspond to Torah truth?

Is that really what Paul was saying?

It is extremely important to pass on the warning Peter gave in reference to some of Paul's writings and not to take his advice lightly!

2 Peter 3:16 (KJV) states:

"As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood ...



In Galatians 4:10 Paul states:

"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years."

People claim that the "days" referred to here are YHVH's yearly "feast days." They further hold the idea that this Scripture gives permission to avoid observing these holy days as they are no longer valid for His followers today.

# At first glance does it literally say ...

- · Pentecost
- · Passover
- Days of Unleavened Bread
- · Day of Atonement or
- · Feast of Tabernacles?



## Of course NOT!

Is it really expected that one should believe that Yahuah's Holy Feast days have been abolished without any Biblical proof!

That would be a dangerous assumption!

That could put one in the category Peter spoke of - twisting Scripture unto our own destruction.

First ...

we need to ask some
questions and then search
for the answers.

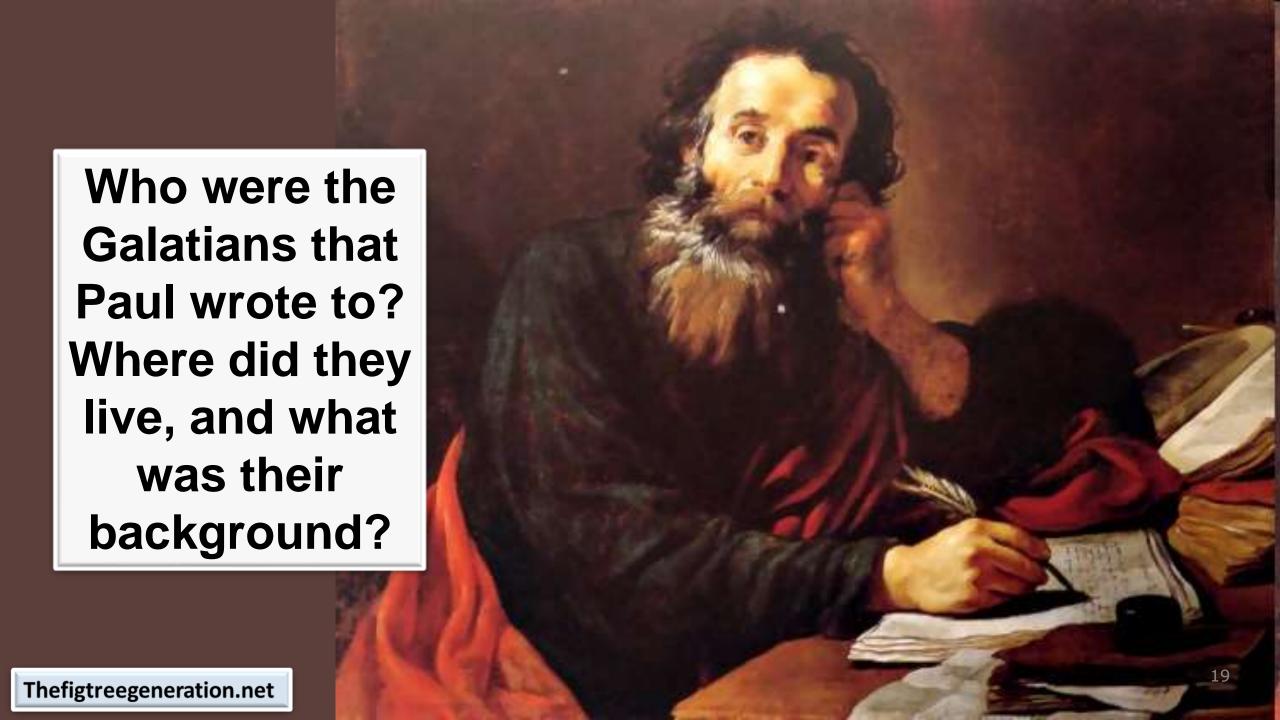


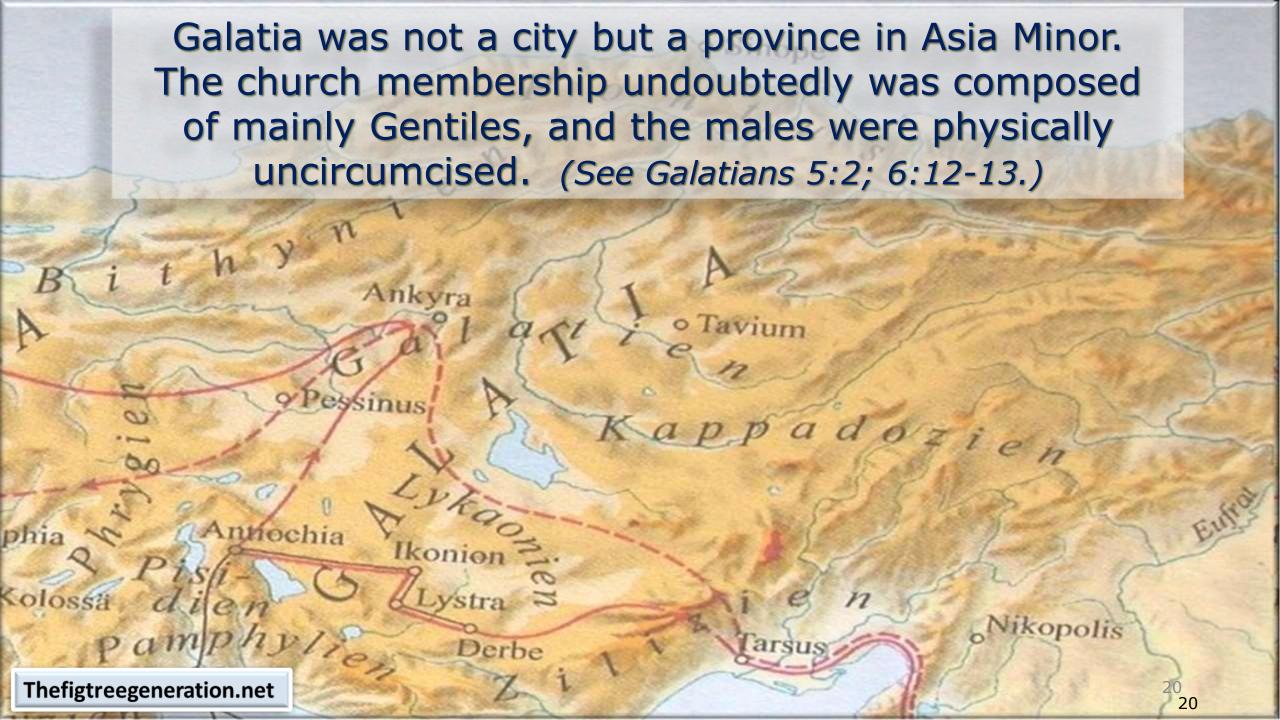


Is Paul referring to YHVH's yearly appointed festivals in Galatians 4:8-11?

What right does anyone have to make that kind of an assumption?

Should we ever read anything more into a Scripture verse then what it actually says?







They were Gentile converts that had come from a background of pagan practices. As mentioned, Galatia was a region in Asia Minor where the churches of Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, Derby and others were located. Acts 14:8-18 talks about their background.

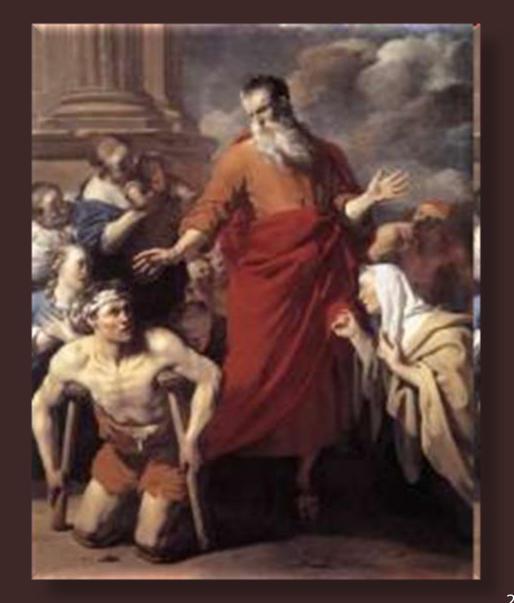


These people had a history of worshipping pagan deities. The Galatians were Gentiles. They used to serve idols instead of the true Elohim as Galatians 4, verse 8 says: "When ye knew not YHVH (God), ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods." In other words: they served the "no gods" - many of them!

Acts 14:8-10 shows us plainly that the Galatians believed and worshipped idols.

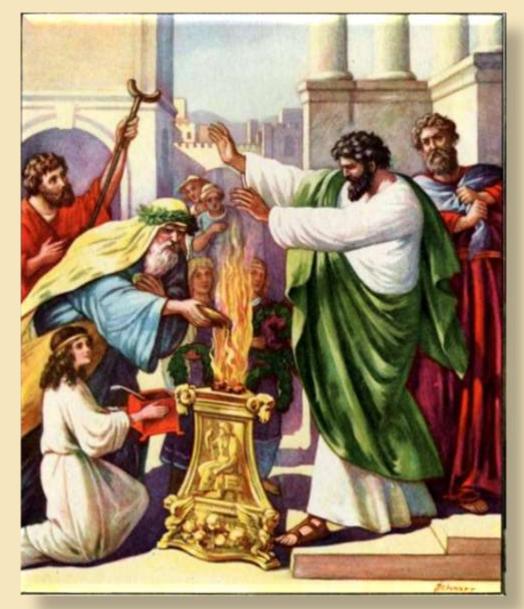
Here's an example:

Paul was used by Yahusha to heal a man born in a crippled condition.



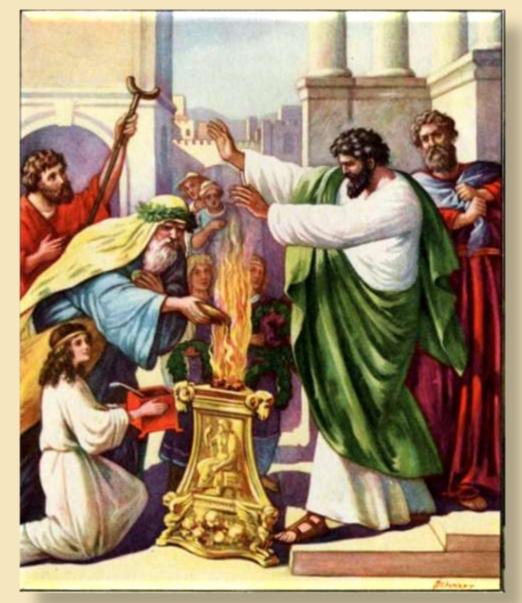
# What were the results?

The pagan Gentiles wanted to worship **Paul and Barnabas** thinking the apostles were their gods, **Jupiter and Mercury!** They even wanted to offer sacrifices **to them.** (vs. 11-13)



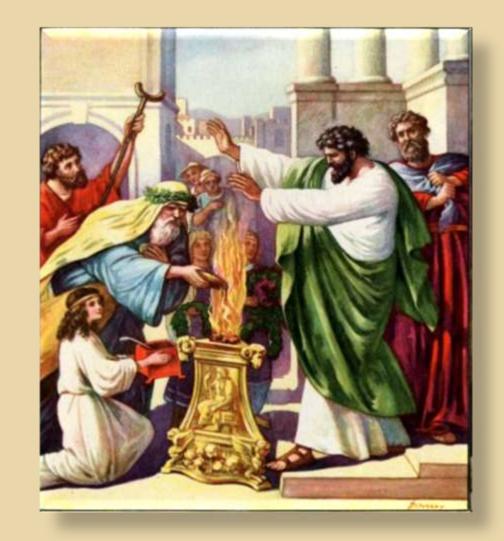
### They wanted to do what?

These pagans wanted to offer sacrifices to them because they believed Paul and **Barnabas were Jupiter** and Mercury that came down from Heaven. They fully intended to worship them!



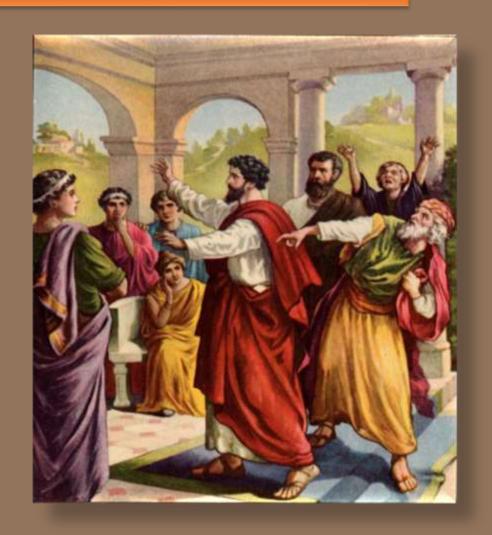
Paul and Barnabas pleaded with them to not do such a thing and were scarcely able to restrain them (vs. 14-18).

People were so convinced Paul and Barnabas were gods that it was very difficult to restrain them!



#### So what is the major theme of the epistle of Galatians?

Paul's major theme in the epistle of Galatians is to put the Galatians "back on track" because someone had been teaching "a different gospel," a perversion of the gospel of Messiah, according to Galatians 1:6-7.



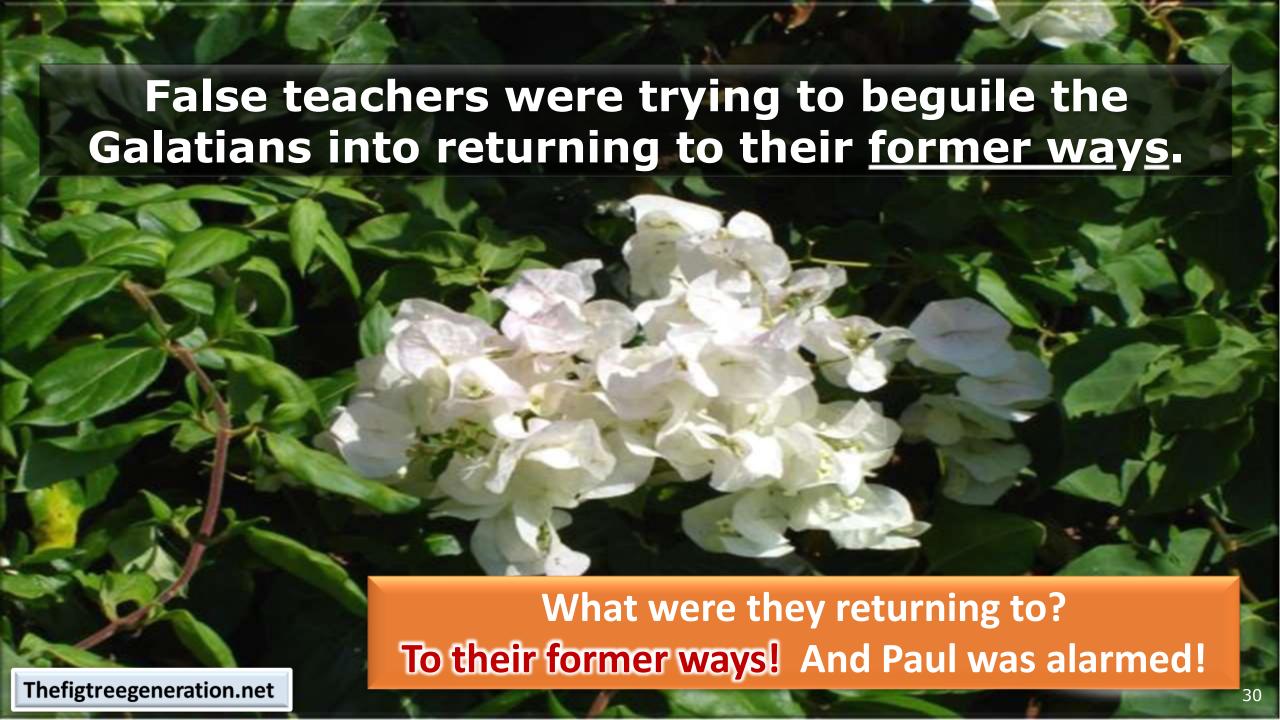
# They definitely got off track!

Actually that can happen to anyone, if they don't know why they believe what they believe.

We need to build on a firm foundation otherwise we will be "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" as stated in Ephesians 4:14.



Paul wasted no time in expressing his disappointment with the Galatians, and how "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Messiah and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all" (1:6-7). This is a rebuke where Paul is quite disturbed about the Galatians being led off course. He expresses being upset at how "some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Messiah" (1:8), actually telling the Galatians that even if an angel would come with a different message than the one that he had preached to them — "let him be eternally condemned!" (1:8b) - something he makes a point of repeating (1:9).





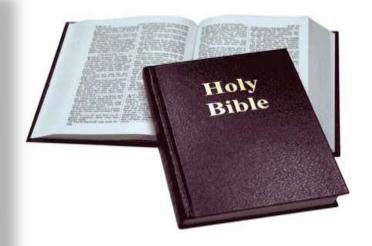
 Paul's concern for the Galatians is that they were being led astray and led right back into the life they should have left behind.



Many Bible interpreters conclude that Paul was now associating Judaism with paganism, which does not make sense at all. Paul observes how "when you did not know Elohim, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know YHVH — or rather are known by YHVH how is it that you are **returning back** to those weak and miserable principles."

"Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?" (Galatians 4:8-9)

In Galatians 4:1-7 Paul compares the state of a non-Believer to <u>being a</u> <u>child</u>, (4:1), someone who is silly and foolish, who lives under bondage to sin, under the elements of the world - until the time is set by his father to formally acknowledge his son as Heir.

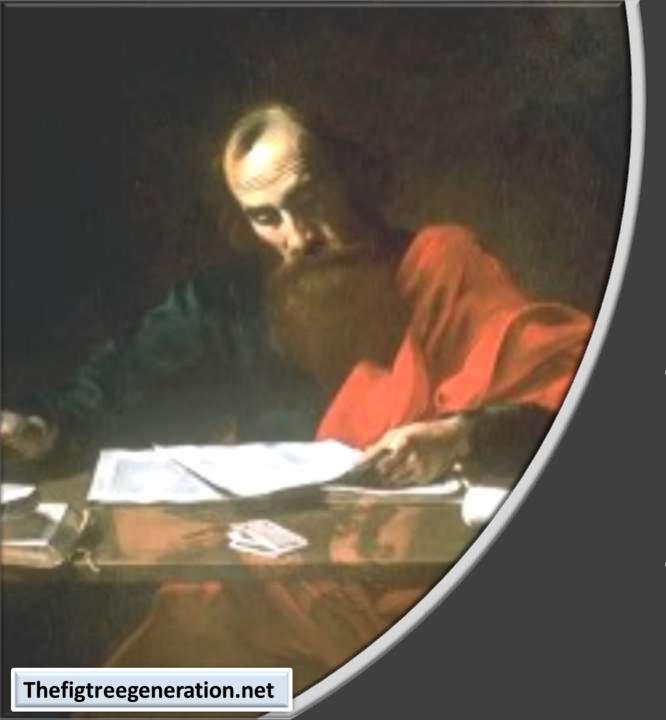


Paul tells the Galatians, "also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world" (4:3).

But it is quite problematic to associate "the elemental things of the world," (as many interpreters do), in comparison to Yahuah's commandments actually being of the same substance as paganism.

According to Galatians 4:6 the Messiah came in order to free them from the elements of the world, "when the time had fully come, YHVH sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights as sons."

Yahusha's sacrificial work has freed Believers from the Torah's curse and penalties laid down upon them for the sins they had committed (*Galatians 3:13-14*).



• We read in Galatians 4:8: "Howbeit then, when you knew not Elohim, you did service unto them which by nature are no gods." KJV



 In this verse Paul brings up the subject of the idolatry and paganism that the Galatians had participated in before their conversion.



Paul is making it very clear that YHVH
had called them out of
that former way of life.

Don't go back to that way of life again!
I am very concerned about you!

Let's go to Galatians 4:9 "But now, after that you have known Elohim, or rather are known of Elohim, how turn you again (back) to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage?"



## Let's take time to ask an important question.

Which of Yahuah's laws in Torah would/could be classed as "weak and beggarly elements"?

Does Yahuah do anything that is "weak & beggarly"?



So verse 9 reveals that after their conversion to Yahusha, the Galatians did "turn again" (or backslide) to the "weak and beggarly elements." These "beggarly elements" Paul says, is what got them into "bondage" again! Since the Galatians were Gentiles, it makes no sense to say that they were returning to the "law of Moses,"

which they knew nothing about nor had ever kept before their conversion, in the first place!

So these "weak and beggarly elements" had nothing to do with the commandments of Elohim or the "Law of Moses" as given by YHVH.

Before their conversion, on certain days, times, months and years they served the pagan gods. Paul found them doing exactly the same thing again they had turned back to their old ways!

### It is very difficult to break old habits and customs!



Can you identify with that?
Have you tried before to break old habits?
Was it easy?

Plus you have all the peer pressure from your old friends and family!

#### Isn't that the same today?

It is very difficult for many to break the custom of celebrating Easter, Christmas, Halloween, Mother's Day, Valentines, birthdays, etc., even though they originated in paganism and have absolutely nothing to do with our Messiah Yahusha.

Because we are used to these holidays, we've learned to like and love them.

There is such a good time being together with old friends and family!

It takes conviction to break such customs and risk the loss of friends at the same time.



Paul calls these traditions

"weak and beggarly elements."

It is just as true today as it was then!

It was pagan then and it is pagan now!

The "weak and beggarly elements" were demon-inspired, idolatrous practices.

Not something YHVH Elohim had commanded.



They are called 
"the elements of the world." 

It does not say 
"the elements of YHVH."

We are not dealing with something from Yahuah, but with elements and foundations coming from Satan.



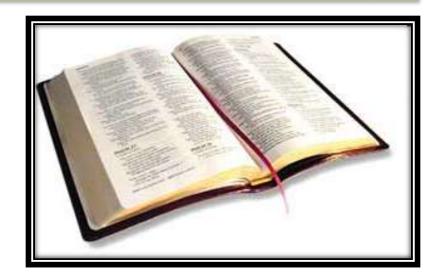


Paul is warning the Galatians
to NOT go back to the
"rudiments of the world" –
the man-made practices which
Paul regarded as a "yoke of bondage."

Yahusha Himself spoke strongly against such man-made commandments, because they negate the very Commandments of Yahuah.

The Bible states in Mark 7:7-9 ... "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8. For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9. And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition."





Paul's warning to the Galatians is definitely for mankind today.
So many are largely steeped in human traditions that are mostly borrowed from paganism which, needless to say, are contrary or antagonistic to Yahuah's commandments.

Since they are contrary to His way, these human traditions, far from being harmless, actually bring curses as Paul warns.

## Another important fact: verse 3 mentions being "in bondage."

Bondage is something difficult; to be born of oppression, of captivity, of withholding liberty. Bondage is grievous; but the keeping of Yahuah's Law is not, as it is called the law of liberty (James 2:12).



Keeping Yahuah's Torah Laws is freeing and liberating. They were never meant to be a burden.



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Love is never a burden but always supports, frees and liberates.

It should be very clear that the "elements of the world" and the "bondage" of Galatians 4:4 cannot refer to the Law of YHVH, nor does verse 10.

Let's review a concept we've already mentioned.



Remember & consider this point: that it would be about as close to blasphemy as one could get if a person, in this case the apostle Paul, Were to call something that Yahuah Elohim gave and intended to be good and liberating, as "weak and beggarly" and tending to "bondage"!



# What does pagan worship look like?

## Saturnalia – (The Carnival Celebration that became Christmas & New Year's Eve)

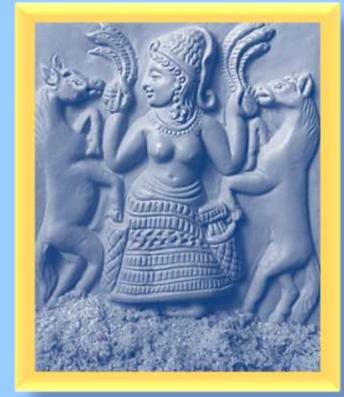
In pagan Rome, the celebration of the Winter Solstice began on December 17 with the feast of Saturn – also called the Saturnalia. Through December 23<sup>rd</sup> the Roman world engaged in merrymaking and the exchanging of gifts in honor of father sun and mother.

http://www.carnaval.com/saturnalia/



The Feast of Astarte with special cakes made to this 'queen of heaven' - today it is **Easter** and hot cross buns.

Astarte, or Ishtar, was the main female deity, and is known in the Scripture as the 'Queen of Heaven.' In Jer. 7:16-18, Yahuah told His prophet ...



'Pray no more for these people... My anger is great! Watch the children gather wood and the fathers build fires, and the women knead dough and make cakes to offer to the "Queen of Heaven" and to their other gods.'

#### All Saints Day or Halloween!

Halloween actually began with the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in the British Isles (609-610 AD).

November 1 was a day of honoring the dead and celebrating the New



Year. Christians combined the ancient practices and came up with All Saints Day, a Sacred Christian holiday meant to honor the Saints of the church who died, especially those who have been martyred for their faith. Halloween is a blend of pagan

and Christian rituals ... eave it alone.

## Women weeping for Tammuz – is called <u>Lent</u> today.

Lent was unknown to the disciples and it did not find its way into the Christian Church until several centuries after the time of Christ.

The celebration of Lent has no basis in Scripture, but rather it developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis mourning for forty days over the death of Tammuz.



## WHAT ARE TIMES?

Turn to Lev. 19:26 and Deut. 18:10, 14 to read with your own eyes that YHVH orders His people **NOT to observe "times"!** 

#### SORCERY WITHIN

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE DAY

To observe "times" was a heathen practice of divination often attached to heavenly bodies. In Greece it developed into regular seasons.



The following is a quote from Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church, pp 1123 and 1124.

"Many were superstitiously addicted to divination...in the celebration of these 'times' (they) set up lamps in the market place, and crowned their doors with garlands" - as is done at Christmas time today!



How much more proof does a person need?

<u>The days Paul was forbidding were pagan</u>

<u>days and NOT given by Yahuah</u>?

The Law of Moses absolutely forbids the observance of [pagan] 'times.'
These superstitious 'times' which Paul forbids, were pagan customs.
These same pagan customs were practiced by so called 'Christians' in the days of the Catholic Bishop Chrysostom, who lived in the fourth century.

#### DAYS CELEBRATED

Besides 'times,' special days in honor of the dead were observed by the Greeks.

"The rites took place on the ... unlucky days accompanied by complete idleness and cessation of business." (*From Rest Days*, p. 79.)



Several churches today celebrate pagan days in honor of the dead, such as All Soul's Day and All Saint's Day (called Halloween by the world). Paul forbids Believers to observe these heathen days!

The days the Gentile Galatians were returning to, are today the same old pagan days even now masquerading under Christian sounding names!

"Many of the holy days in the religious calendar of Christendom were borrowed, as is well known, from the festivals of ancient paganism." (*Rest Days*, p. 306.)



And the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Israel THUNDERS at our people saying: "LEARN NOT the way of the heathen!"

Jeremiah 10:1-4

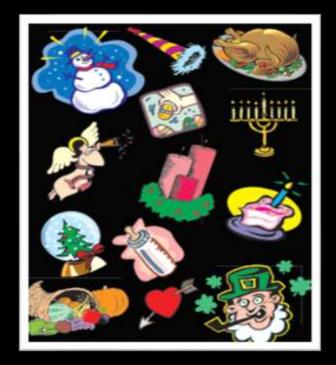


## There were numerous days observed as idolatrous festivals through old heathen idolatry.

These days, consecrated to deities of the State religious cults, were 'unlucky' because of the influence of the gods.

These civil and religious days were "regarded as unsuitable for many purposes, both public and private: for battles, levies, sacred rites, journeys and marriages. We are told they owed their unlucky quality to the pronouncement of the Senate and pontiffs."

(From Rest Days by Webster, p. 171.)



## UNLUCKY FRIDAY THE 13TH?

How many people today, even so-called Believers, continue similar beliefs? Have you never heard of unlucky Friday the thirteenth?



Paul tried to educate these Galatians to forego this foolish and superstitious regard for heathen days.

The same should be done today.

Let us educate Believers to let go of these pagan festivals.

## In Gal. 4:10 Paul also mentions "months and years" - another heathen custom!

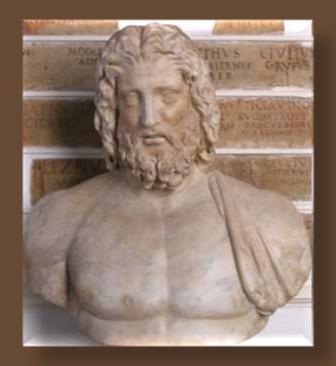
Heathen festivals were held, during the months of the year in honor of the Greek gods!

The months of April and October were dedicated to the Greek god of Apollo, the god of prophecy, music, intellectual pursuits, healing, plagues, and sometimes, the sun.



#### Zeus, was their highest god!

The month of February and June
were dedicated to Zeus.
He was considered to be the
god of the sky and weather.
His image appeared on most Greek coins.
For the Greeks, he was the King of the
gods, who oversaw the universe.



#### The Roman god Bacchus

The month of January was dedicated to Bacchus.

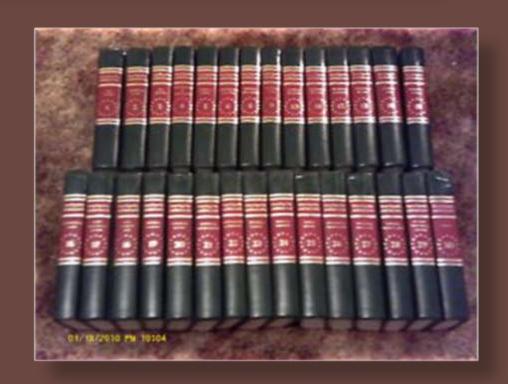
Bacchus was the Roman name for the Greek god Dionysus, the god of wine.



Dionysus, as the god of wine, inspired madness and was a major figure of Greek mythology. He represents not only the intoxicating power of wine, but also its social and beneficial influences. He was also known as Bacchus and the frenzy he induces, bakcheia.

## Never did Yahuah our Creator command His people to observe months.

Check these things out for yourself in the Encyclopedia Americana, under the article "Festival."



## Certain years were also set aside every two or four years.

National idolatrous feasts took place during those years, like the Olympics, the Ishmiam Games, the Nemean and the Pythian Games.

Each one of these games was connected with idolatrous worship and ceremony.











**The Galatians** had been converted from heathen customs to **KNOW** the true Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They kept His commandments, including HIS feast days.



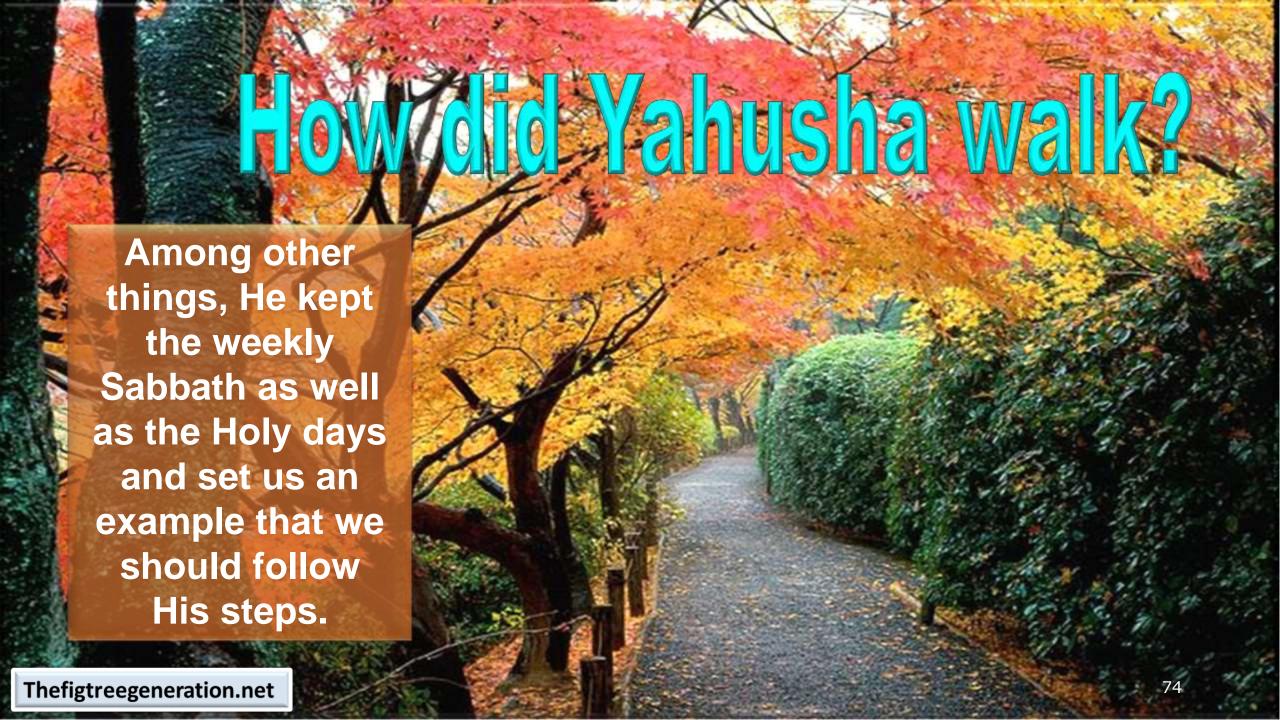
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To KNOW Him meant they kept His Torah, they turned from sin and all pagan practices. They then kept His commandments, statutes and judgments.

Is that a reasonable assumption?











Galatians 4:10 does NOT refer in any degree to the Holy days of YHVH, which He gave as statutes to be observed by His people forever. Paul didn't want these Galatians, once converted and keeping Yahuah's commandments, to go back to their previous idolatrous heathen practices of keeping the pagan "days, months, times, and years."



Neither should we keep the pagan holidays like Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Lent, Valentines etc. Why not? **Because Yahuah Elohim calls them** abominations



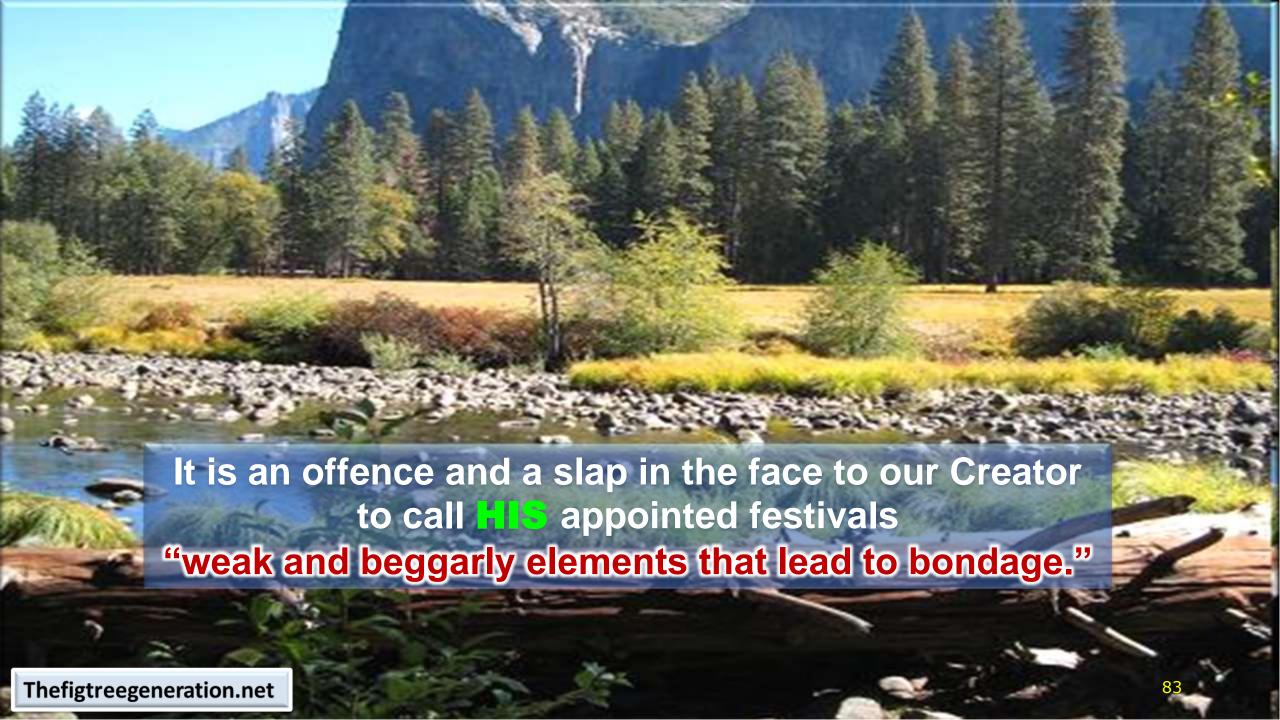






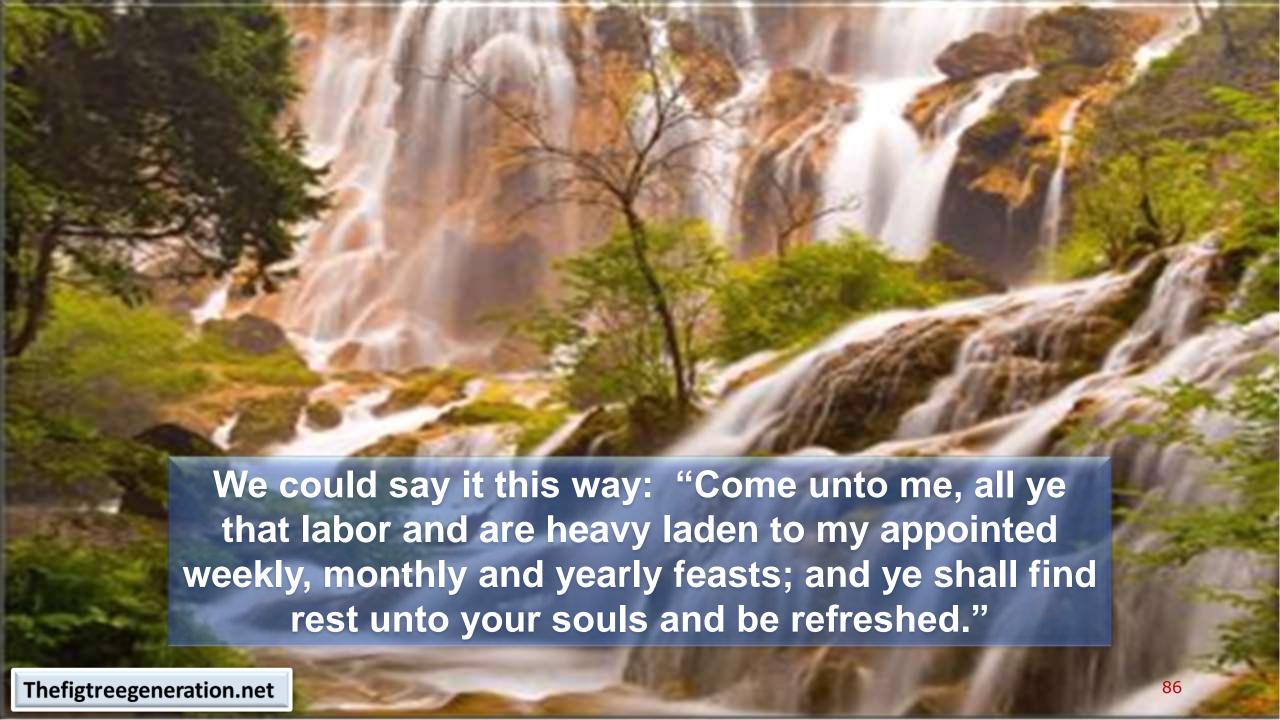
Neither the weekly Sabbath, the New Months nor the Yearly Feast days were ever, nor will they ever be called: "weak and beggarly elements."

Neither will they lead to "bondage."









**The Creator himself** invites man to His feast days. He personally made the appointments not the Jews, nor the Israelites, nor any other individual! **And He expects** man to come to these appointments!



Over and over again we can read the words of Scripture saying:



#### However, there are places listed in the Bible when ...

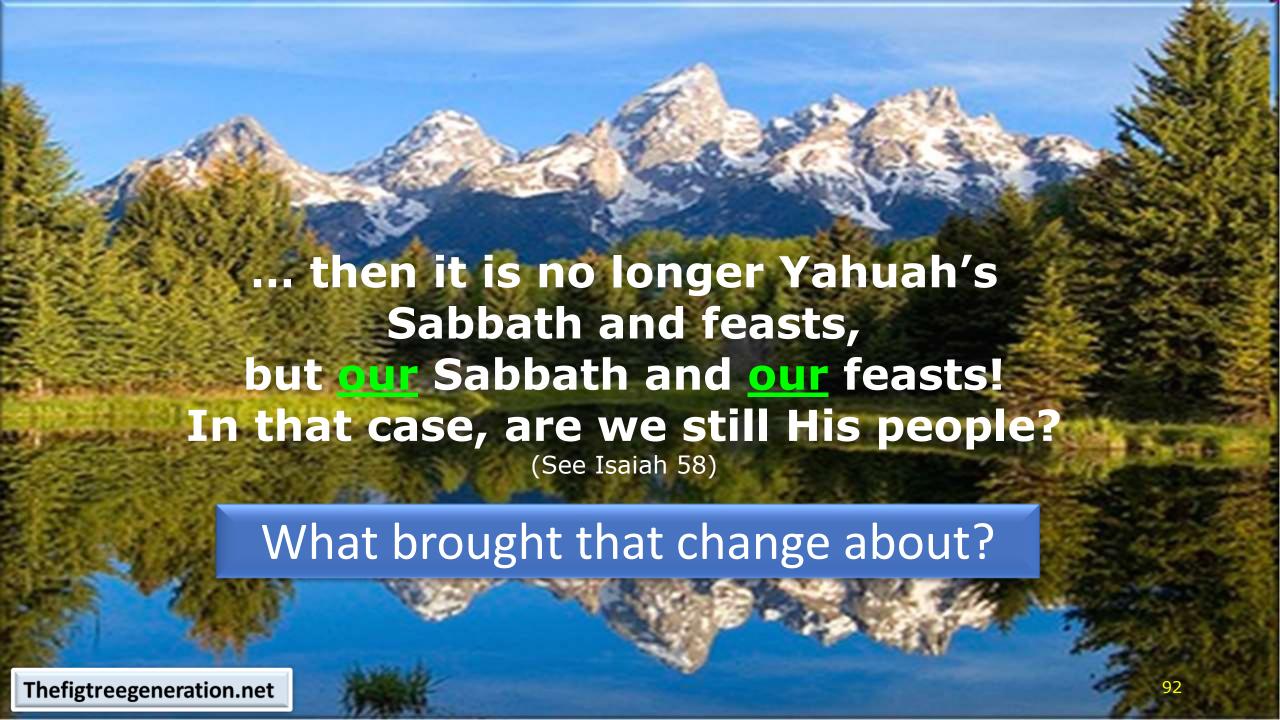
Yahuah calls the new Months and the yearly feast days "Your new Months, your appointed feasts etc." We have some examples in Isaiah 1:13-14; Amos 5:21; Amos 8:10; Malachi 2:3; Is there a contradiction here? Aren't all of these **His** appointments? Why the change from "My" to "yours"?

## What caused the sudden change?

When Judah and Israel observed
Yahuah's feasts according to
their man-made timetable
AND the pagan moon calendar,
Yahuah refers to them as "Your feasts."

Doing this, they separated themselves from HIM!

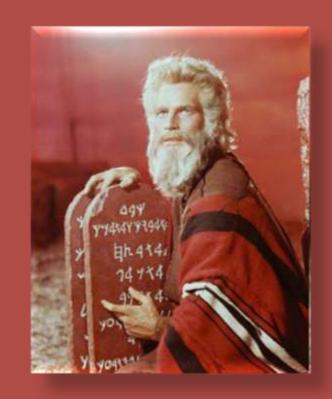




In Exodus chapter 32 Yahuah did not acknowledge the Israelites as His people anymore by calling them Moses' people!

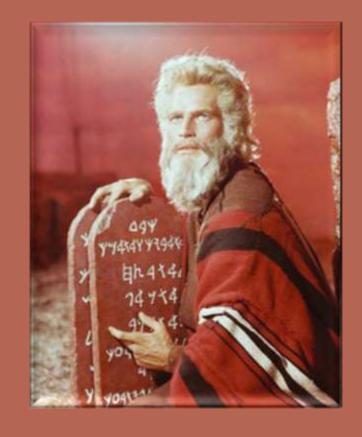
It states in Exodus 32:7:

"And YHVH said unto
Moses: Go, get thee down;
for thy people which thou
broughtest out of the
Land of Egypt, have
corrupted themselves."



### What happened?

Because they had corrupted themselves by making a golden calf proclaiming that "these are thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the Land of Egypt," even though they claimed this would honor Yahuah by proclaiming a feast for Him.



By doing this they changed leaders, they separated from the Life giver and were no longer His people.

#### So when the Israelites made ....

A golden calf, by this act they separated themselves from YHVH, even though they proclaimed the next day a feast to His honor. (See Exodus 31:5.)





They were no longer His people with this action, because His people do not go their own ways; they don't do their own thing and worship golden calves. The same holds true with the celebration of pagan holidays, even though these pagan holidays are given Christian names – they are still linked to paganism. Pagan holidays are not holy because they have Christian names, neither are they acceptable to our Creator.

Man cannot make something holy or keep something holy that Yahuah, the Creator, has not made holy!

We cannot keep pagan holidays and expect to receive a blessing from our Creator.

Only His appointed days at his appointed times on HIS calendar are blessed and holy.

Why is that so difficult to understand?





That's the reason he invented his own calendar and his own holidays that honor him!



The weekly, monthly and yearly divine appointments should be considered invitations from our Creator to spend quality time with Him for the purpose of being sanctified.

It is an invitation to worship!



# An invitation to worship!











