

# Yahuah's Appointed times are shadow pictures of good things to come!

## The "The Spring Feasts!"



Passover



Unleavened Bread



First Fruits



Feast of Weeks



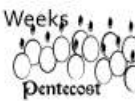
Crucifixion



Messiah in tomb



Resurrection



Pentecost

**Passover** (*Death of Messiah*)

**Unleavened Bread** (*His Burial*)

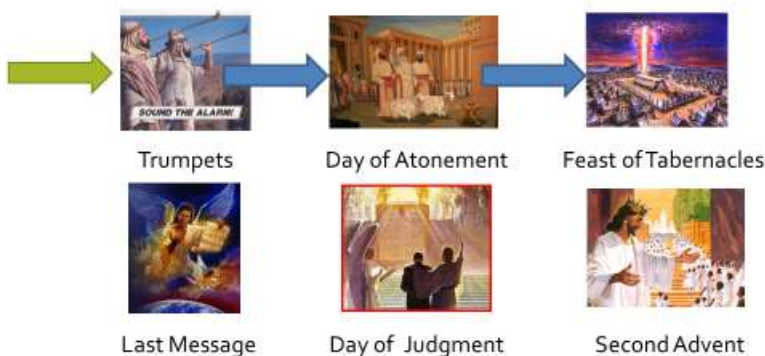
**Wave Sheaf – First fruits** (*His Resurrection*)

**Pentecost** (*His anointing as priest, king and prophet*)

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## The Autumn Feasts



**Feast of Trumpets** – The Last Message of Mercy

**The Day of Atonement** - The Day of Judgment

**Feast of Tabernacles** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – Travel to Heaven

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**TIME IS  
RUNNING  
OUT!  
  
PREPARE TO  
MEET  
YAHUSHA!**



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## **Let me first say, do NOT follow religion, for all religions are man-made.**

Stay away from religion, may it be Christianity, Judaism, Islam or others and all man-made teachings!

Accept Scripture only as your compass, starting in Genesis 1:1

Get a Bible that has not been changed or altered!

Accept the Elohim (God) of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, whose name is YHVH (Yahuah)!

Accept the sacrifice of His Son Yahusha (NOT THE GREEK (Christian) JESUS CHRIST, who was created by Constantine in the third century and never lived and could not have died for you.

The Christian Jesus is an image, a copy of the Hebrew Messiah Yahusha BUT IS NOT Yahusha.

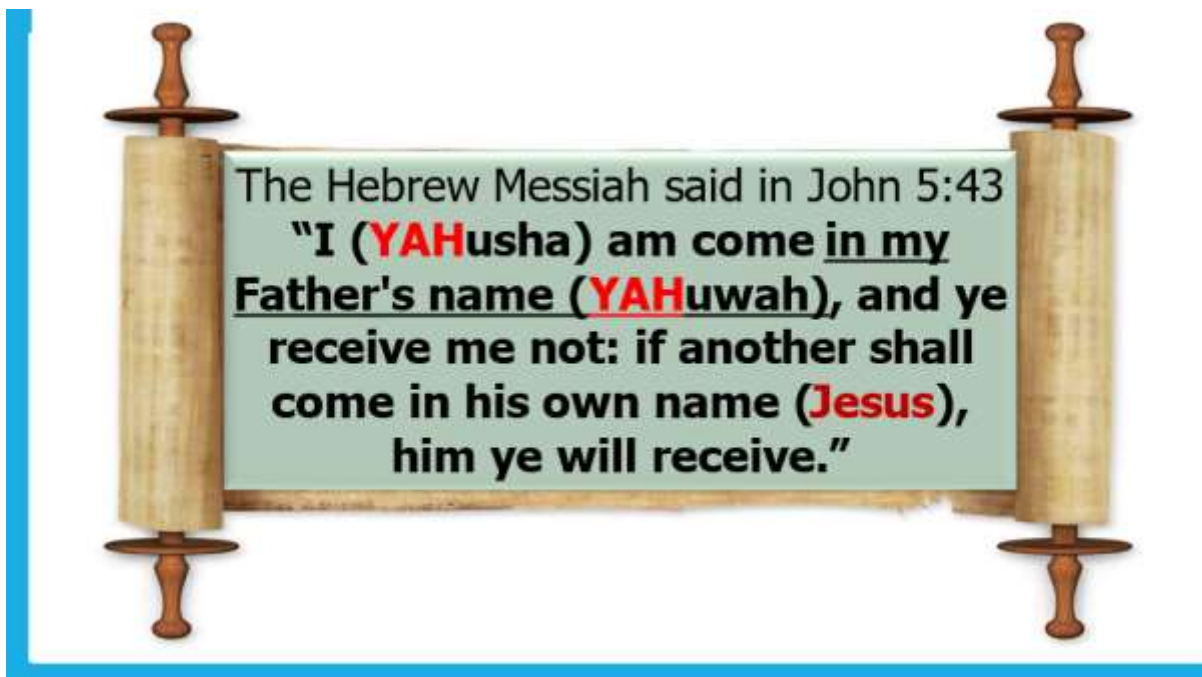
Acknowledge, confess your past sins, and be baptized in Yahusha's name ONLY.

Obey His instructions He Himself gave to Moses, called Torah, which is your seal according to Isaiah 8:16! That includes the weekly Sabbath, the yearly appointed feast days, the health laws and to keep yourself unspotted from the world.

Live a set-apart, holy life, endure until the end, and your name will be written in the lamb's BOOK OF LIFE. Do your own research, don't follow man! Do not take my word, nor the word of anyone else. Prove all things according to 1Thess 5:21!

## **Do it soon, it is salvational!**

**Through my studies a few years ago** I learned that God, LORD, and Jesus are fake names put into our Bibles to replace the Real Names of our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son. The True Names have been removed over 7000 times from Scripture and replaced by God, LORD or Jesus which are not Names but titles like Mr. or Miss. Isn't it amazing if you ask a Muslim who he worships he will say Allah which is the name of his god and if you ask a Buddhist the name of his god, he will say Buddha. Yet we as professed believers in the only true Elohim, the Creator and Savior, do not even know the name of who we worship. Therefore, I use the four Hebrew letters yod, hey, vav, hey in English YHVH (and I pronounce it as Yahuah - Yahuah) instead of LORD, which is a title - not a name. I also use Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration from a Greek mistransliteration. The name Jesus has no meaning, in Hebrew nor in English! YHVH and Yahusha are the actual original Hebrew names that speak of our Savior's true nature and character. Since the Father has a Hebrew name, the Son cannot have a Greek name, because the Son came in the name of His Father (John 5:43)! His Father's name is contained in His name as you can see in this example! The Father's name is YAH according to Psalmss 68:4!



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## **Chapter 1**

The question is: **Why** do “I” keep Yahuah’s yearly appointed Feast Days, **when it does not seem**

## popular among professed Christians to keep them?

Keeping the feast days is considered “**Jewish**” and even despised and ridiculed by well-meaning Christians, mostly because of Ignorance! It is said, these were nailed to the cross and ended at the cross! **Is that true?**

Before I continue, I would like to say that Christianity was not started by our Savior Yahusha, but by Constantine in the third Century, who was a sunworshipper until his death! That means Constantine is the god of Christianity! **THAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW AND TO UNDERSTAND!**

Over the past two thousand years, traditional Christianity has systematically laid aside the “feast days of Yahuah” and established their own holidays!



As an example, Christmas was established to enable pagan converts to come into church fellowship without forsaking their heathen customs and practices. Easter is a replacement for the biblical Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Even the weekly Sabbath was abandoned in favor of Sunday, the pagan day of the sun supposedly to commemorate Messiah's resurrection.

The questions we all need to ask ourselves: **Does it matter to my Creator, which weekly day I keep? The 1st day or the 7th day of the week?**

**Does it matter to my Creator, which annual holidays I keep?** His appointed feast days or man-made holidays? You and I have a choice! The choices we make affect our eternal destinies, it impacts




our relationship with our Creator, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel!

- In Acts 5:29 we read, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **we ought to obey YHVH rather than men.**” KJV
- This is the stand every believer should take whenever he or she is challenged on Biblical Issues!

**I personally believe that the feast days were known before Sinai!**

I just want to mention a couple of examples:

*In Genesis 19:3 we read: “And he (Lot) ...made them (the two angels in Sodom) a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.”*



One should ask the question: Why does the Bible specifically mention “**unleavened bread**”? Unleavened bread is not the best to offer your visitors.

**There is a reason for everything written in Scripture.**

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That means that the visit of the three angels to Abraham to announce the birth of Isaac and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah took place during the Passover - Unleavened Bread celebration. That is evidence that the keeping of feast days pre-date the Exodus and Mount Sinai.

The other example we find in Psalms 81:3-5 where it states:  
**“Blow up the trumpet in the new Month, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel and a law of the God of Jacob. This He ordained in Joseph for a**

**testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt.” KJV**  
The only first day of the month that Scripture commanded to blow the Shofar is the first day of the Seventh month!

I know in many translations it states, **“new moon instead of new month!”** However, when you do a detailed study, you will discover **that the moon has absolutely nothing to do with the start of the Biblical month!**

One source claim that the sect of the “Karaites” developed a procedure that involved the sighting of the new moon by two witnesses. This practice is from the Mishna, NOT FROM THE TORAH! Beginning the month with the sighting of the moon (sliver or full moon) comes from Egypt and Babylon! The Hebrew word Chodesh H2320 does not mean “new moon” but new month!

The pre-Islamic moon deity called Allah is symbolized by a crescent moon and star. The origin comes from the Hindu culture and the worship on Shiva. The crescent moon was also venerated in the Egyptian culture with the moon below a solar disc. Because Christianity sprang from Alexandria Egypt, these objects in the sky were also adopted for veneration. (Emphasis supplied.)

<http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/sightedmoonorigins.html>

Islam’s most prominent symbol is the crescent moon, Shiva’s symbol.

For a deeper, detailed study on this topic that will open your understanding, I recommend the presentation with the title “The Moon! Oh, the Moon!”

You will find that study on the website [studythecalendar.com](http://studythecalendar.com)

In Psalms 81:3-5 the word **“solemn”** is from the Hebrew word “Moed” or feasts. This text is further understood by studying Leviticus chapter 23, where it states that the Feast of Trumpets is



on the first day of the seventh month and on that day the trumpets were to be blown.

**“And afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh ‘Thus saith Yahuah Elohim of Israel, let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.’” Exo 5:1 KJV**

The word “**feast**” in this text is from Strong’s H2287 – chagag, one of the three words listed in the Bible as **meaning Yahuah’s Holy Days.**

Moses is asking Pharaoh to let His people go, so that they can celebrate Elohim’s Holy Days.



Shortly afterward, we find that Israel left Egypt on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Yahuah's people were very much aware of His Holy Days before Sinai. At Sinai YAH merely repeated what they already knew regarding these Holy Days!

**YHVH Elohim spoke the Ten Commandments aloud from Mt. Sinai amid fire and smoke and trumpets and an earthquake!**

*The people were afraid, and they said to Moses: “**Speak thou with us, and we will hear but let not Elohim speak with us, lest we die.**”* After this YHVH did not speak directly to the people, but instead He called Moses into the Mountain and spoke the rest of His laws to Moses privately and Moses wrote them in a book, called the statutes and judgments explaining the 10 Commandments in details.

You can read that in Exodus 20:19 and Deuteronomy 5:22-25!

After receiving these laws from Elohim, Moses came down the mount and repeated the laws to the people. The people solemnly

promised, “All that Yahuah hath said we will do and be obedient.” (Exodus 24: 7 - KJV)

**So, the covenant consisting of Exodus 20, 21, 22 and 23 was ratified in chapter 24 without the instructions for the Aaronic priesthood, the temple services and the sacrifices or also called the ordinances of the altar.**

**The ordinances of the altar, which were added after the golden Calf apostasy in the book of the law, passed away with the death of our Messiah according to the prophecy of Dan 9:27.**

The covenant Yahuah made with Israel at Sinai, or the book of the covenant, is for all time, it has never been cancelled! That means it is as much in force today as it was then!

I discovered through my studies that Scripture speaks about more than just the 10 commandments. I kept on seeing the word “**law**” in most of the translations of the Bible and assumed it always meant the 10 commandments. Until I realized the word “**law**” in the KJV is mostly translated from the word “**Torah**,” which means the first 5 books of the Bible, written by Moses, which of course include the 10 Commandments.

The Torah includes, besides the 10 commandments, also statutes, judgments, ordinances, etc. When Yahusha said in Matthew 5:17 that “He came not to destroy the law,” He meant “He came not to do away with the Torah.” Then I came to the conviction that the annual appointed Feast Days are statutes, part of the Torah, part of the Book of the Covenant that was ratified with blood, and therefore, they are still binding.

**HERE IS PROOF: *Leviticus 23:14***

**“It shall be a statute”**

**(H2708) Unleavened Bread**

*Leviticus 23:21* “It shall be a statute”

**(H2708) Pentecost**

*Leviticus 23:31* “It shall be a statute”

**(H2708) Day of Atonement**

*Leviticus 23:41* “It shall be a statute”

**(H2708) Feast of Tabernacles**

Consider the following: Every one of these # H2708 Statutes are the bride's part of the covenant agreement. The bridegroom's part are the #H2706.

**What happened to affect a change and confusion among professed believers in their belief that these yearly appointed feasts are no longer binding?**

**We will find out a little later! Remember, keeping Yahuah's feasts is about worship!**

**And who deserves our worship and whose plan will we subscribe to? ONLY YAHUAH!**

**Let's look at the history of  
Yahuwah's appointed  
Feast Days in N.T. Times:**

At 12 years of age Yahusha attended Passover for the first time (Luke 2:41).

One can safely assume that Yahusha attended all of the feasts from then on with his parents.

**At the first Passover after Yahusha began His ministry He cleansed the temple from all the unholy traffic (*John 2:13*).**

Yahusha healed the lame man at Pentecost. (John 5:1)

Yahusha taught in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacle (*John 7:14*).

When Yahusha had his last meal with His disciples during the night when He was taken custody, He told them, **“With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof Until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of YAH.”** Luke 22:15-16 KJV

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This was not a Passover celebration which Yahusha had with His disciples on Abib 13 like people allege, it was only a supper, and He promised them He would keep the Passover with them in His kingdom! He was fasting at that time, not eating and drinking fulfilling the antitype requirements.

*Our Messiah died on the cross (stake or tree) as “The Lamb of YAH, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29 KJV*

But as we will soon see ...Yahushua’s followers continued to celebrate the yearly divine appointed Festivals as days of rejoicing and worship for many centuries after Messiah’s death!

In the beginning YHVH had commanded the people to assemble for the three main feasts in the place where He had put His Name (*Deut. 12:10-11*).

**Take note:** These were divine appointments by the Creator to meet with Him on **His** Calendar! The Creator invited the people to meet with HIM!

In the beginning Yahuwah Elohim did not command the people to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts. Jerusalem was not even a Jewish city **until about 400 years after the feasts were repeated at Mt Sinai.**



According to Deuteronomy 12:10-11, the people were to come and worship in the place where Yahuwah chose to put His Name! At one time this was at Shiloh (Jos. 18:1), and then later, when Solomon build the Temple, He chose to put His Name at Jerusalem (2 Samuel 7:13).

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- ▶ But when they finally rejected and crucified Messiah, their temple was left unto them **desolate** (Luke 13:35; Daniel 9:27).
- ▶ At that time Yahuah's Name was no longer at Jerusalem! **It was no longer a holy city!**
- ▶ Yahusha had foreseen this time when He told the woman at the well, “**Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father ... but the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.**” John 4:21-23 *KJV*
- ▶ His followers did not need to go to Jerusalem to worship, **because YHWH's name was no longer there; the city and the temple was destroyed.** We see this illustrated in Paul's conduct – he still came to Jerusalem at times to attend the feasts, but we will soon see times when he also celebrated the feasts with his converts in various gentile cities of Asia Minor.

Yahushua's followers assembled at Jerusalem during the Feast of Pentecost and received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2)

### About 49 A.D.

- Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem“ to meet delegates from the different churches and those who had come to Jerusalem to attend the approaching festivals.” **Acts 15**

### About 52A.D.

- *Paul bade an early farewell to the Ephesians because, he was on his way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Acts 18:20-21*

### About 56 A.D.

Paul speaks to the Corinthians about Passover and unleavened bread and urges them, **“Therefore, let us keep the feast ... with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” KJV** 1 Corinthians 5:7-11 He commands them not to do the Passover with those who call themselves brethren but are living in open sin.

### About 56 A.D.

Paul tells the Corinthians that he will tarry at Ephesus until the Feast of Pentecost (1 Corinthians 16:8).



Paul writes a letter to the Galatians, in which he warns them not to return to the pagan feasts of the **“False gods.”**

He tells them that they have now come to know the true Elohim and must not return to the “weak and beggarly elements” of the “NO gods” (idols) to which they had once been in bondage **before** they came to know the true Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.



*Paul had planned to be at Jerusalem for Passover, but upon hearing of a plot to take his life he decided to go around by way of Macedonia. “For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.” (Acts 20:16) KJV*

### **About 58 A.D.**

Paul kept Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread at Philippi with his converts; Philippi was a gentile city (Acts 20:6).

### **About 58 A.D.**

Paul does not spend time in Asia, because he is hurrying to get to Jerusalem at Pentecost. He reaches Jerusalem in time for Pentecost, but the leaders at Jerusalem give him unwise counsel which results in his arrest and imprisonment. (Acts 21)

### **About 60 A.D.**

The ship Paul was a prisoner on was in danger, as it was the time of the year for dangerous storms Also we are told in Acts 27:9 the Day of Atonement (“the fast”) was past!

### **About 62 A.D.**

Paul wrote to the Colossians not to let anyone judge them in respect of Feasts, New Months, and Sabbaths (Colossians 2). Paul also kept the feasts and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath. We also know that the first day of every month and all Sabbaths will be kept In Heaven (Isaiah 66:23). So, there is no reason for anyone to judge those who keep these days.

**The Passover/Easter Controversy Begins!**

Shortly after the last of the apostles had died a sharp dispute broke out between Paul's churches in Asia Minor and the bishop of Rome over the date for Passover. The Asiatic churches wanted to continue following the tradition of the apostles in celebrating Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of month of Nisan as God had commanded in the beginning. **But the bishops at Rome**, who were backed by the church in Alexandria, Egypt, **insisted that Passover** (*or Easter, as they had begun to call it*) be celebrated on a fixed day of the week each year, namely Sunday, the first day of the week.

Therefore, the Roman church always celebrated this day on **the first Sunday after Nisan 14<sup>th</sup>**, and **the Asiatic churches always celebrated it on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan**, as the Bible commanded, regardless of which day of the week it fell on. This became a great controversy which lasted for hundreds of years and is well documented in history books.

**According to Polycrates, John the Revelator** (6 A.D. – 100 A.D.) still observed Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. John the Revelator was the last surviving apostle, and he died somewhere around 100 A.D. Polycarp (ca. 69 – 155 A.D.), a disciple of the apostle John, went to Rome to discuss with Pope Anicetus the day to observe Passover. But the pope was not able to persuade Polycarp not to observe what he had always observed with John the disciple of our LORD, and the other apostles with whom he had associated. (Irenaeus, in a letter to Pope Victor) Polycrates of Ephesus and Pope Victor of Rome disputed over the date for Easter/Passover.

He wrote a letter to the pope, which stated the following, "We observe the exact day; neither adding, nor taking away. For in Asia also great lights have fallen asleep, which shall rise again on the day of the LORD's coming, when he shall come with glory from heaven and shall seek out all the saints. Among these are Philip, one of the 12 apostles, who fell asleep. John, who was both a

witness and a teacher, who reclined upon the bosom of the LORD ... And Polycarp in Smyrna, who was a bishop and martyr; and Thraseas, bishop and martyr all these observed the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Passover according to the Gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of ... faith ... seven of my relatives were bishops; and I am the eighth. And my relatives always observed the day when the people put away the leaven..." Pope Victor immediately attempted to excommunicate Polycrates and the other Asiatic Bishops ... for not celebrating Easter on Sunday but was finally persuaded by Irenaeus to make peace with them." *Eusebius 'Church History' Volume 5* **THAT WAS IN 195 A.D.**

Over the span of centuries after the last of the apostles, John the Revelator died, the church began to drift away from the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (*Jude 1:3*)  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath was replaced by Sunday;  
and the **Feast Days were replaced by Christmas, Easter, and other such holy days of the Catholic Church.**

The Christians began observing **the pagan feasts of the "false or no gods"**, **except with new names and new symbols.** As time went along there were still isolated groups in different places who kept the Sabbath and the Feasts, but much of the church had abandoned them.

**The pagan feast of Saturnalia became Christmas!**

**The pagan feast of the god Attis became Easter!**

**The pagan “feast of the Dead” became “All Souls Day” now called Halloween etc.**

**The pagan “feast of the Dead” became “All Souls Day” now called Halloween etc.** “The new law has its own spirit ... and its own feasts which have taken the place of those appointed in the law of Moses. If we would know the days to be observed ... **we must go to the Catholic church, not to the Mosaic law.**”



**In 321 AD** a Sunday Law was enacted by Constantine the great, ordering Tribunals, shops, and workshops to be closed on the day of the sun.

**In 325 AD** The Council of Nicaea made the first universal Easter Sunday Law, commanding that Easter be observed on the Sunday after the day of Passover.

**“Rome’s custom replaced Heaven’s statute in the fourth century A.D.”**

(New Catholic Encyclopedia,1062-1063)

In the third to fourth century there were some Christians who were still resisting the power of Rome observing Yahuah's Festivals. John Chrysostom (*ordained a saint by the Catholic Church*), in his **“Homilies Against the Jews,”** vehemently denounced Christians for keeping the Feasts like the **“pitiable and miserable Jews”** did.

**At this time, the anti-Jewish sentiment was very strong, and it was very unpopular to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath or YAH’s other Festivals.**

**“The festivals of the pitiful and miserable Jews are soon to march upon us one after the other and in quick succession:**

the feast of Trumpets, the feast of Tabernacles, the fasts. There are many in our ranks, who say they think as we do. Yet some of these are going to watch the festivals and others will join the Jews in keeping their feasts and observing their fasts. I wish to drive this perverse custom from the Church right now.” (John Chrysostom, Against the Jews, 1:6)



**The Irish were keeping Passover with the Hebrews.** Therefore, Pope Honorius, and afterward, John, Counselor of the Apostolic Sea, wrote letters to the “Nation of the Scots” (Irish) “earnestly exhorting them not to think their small number, placed in the utmost borders of the earth, wiser than all

the ancient and modern churches of Christ, throughout the world; and not to celebrate a different Easter, contrary to the Paschal calculation and the synodical decrees of all the bishops upon earth.” (Bede’s Ecclesiastical History, book 2, Chapter XIX) 634 A.D.

Believers in Transylvania again began keeping the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath and the Feast Days. They had a songbook called “*The Old Sabbath Songbook*.”

**“The hymnal was written in Hungarian ... it consisted of one hundred and two hymns. Forty-Four for the Sabbath, five for the New Month, eleven for Passover and Unleavened Bread, six for the Feast of weeks (Pentecost), six for Tabernacles, three for New Year’s, and one for Atonement, and twenty-six hymns for everyday purposes.” (Samuel Kohn in Die Sabbatharier in Siebenburgen pp 62-67) THAT WAS AROUND 1590 A.D.**



## Remember, the covenant made on Mt Sinai?

Included besides the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath the yearly appointed Festivals. One can not keep half a covenant without causing violence to the other half.

Some people keep the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath weekly, but do X-mas, Easter, Valentines, etc. yearly. Some ignore the pagan holidays but they also ignore YHVH's yearly Feasts.



The Lamb's Bride is to have no spot or wrinkle! In Leviticus chapter 23 Yahuah Elohim calls the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath and the yearly feasts "**the feasts of YHVH.**"

These feasts belong to the Creator (*Leviticus 23:4*) Yahuah and not to Moses, the Jews or any man and He Himself is inviting His people to these holy gatherings in order to be specially blessed!

A Catholic Priest, called Father T. Enright wrote a letter in June 1905, stating clearly that the Catholic Church was the power who



had not only abolished the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath but also the Feasts of Yahuah Elohim. The Sabbath keeping Church I was a member of for 50 years, used that letter frequently in their evangelistic meetings, but they conveniently never mentioned this sentence, **“but also the Feasts of Yahuah Elohim.”**

**I WONDER WHY?**

S. M. J. A. T.  
  
 St. Alphonsus' (Rock) Church,  
 1116 N. Grand Ave.  
 St. Louis, June 1915

Dear Friend, I have offered & still offer \$1000. to any one who can prove to me from the Bible alone, that I am bound, under grievous sin to keep Sunday holy.

It was the Catholic Church which made the law obliging us to keep Sunday holy. The Church made this law long after the Bible was written. Hence said law is not in the Bible.

Christ, our Lord empowered His church to make laws binding on Conscience. He said to his apostles & their lawful successors in the priesthood "Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be binding in heaven." *Mt. 16. 19. Mt. 18. 17. Luk 16. 19.*

The Cath. Church abolished, not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals.

Pray & study. I shall be always glad to help you as long as you honestly seek the truth

Respectfully  
 J. Enright C.S.C.

**This was all prophesied in Daniel 7:25**

- **“He shall think ... to change times and laws.” KJV**

- **“Thinking ... to change the feast days and the law.”**

*New American Bible*

- **“Thinking to change the feast days and the law.”**

*New Catholic Translation*

- **“He will try to change their religious laws and festivals.”**

*Good News Bible*

- **“Calendar and ordinance, he shall think to set aside.”**

*Knox Bible*

The new Catechism (1993) of the Catholic Church urges Christians to make laws about Sunday and the other Catholic holidays, which were once the pagan feasts of the “no gods.”



So “**Why don’t Christians keep the three annual feasts of Yahuah, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and ISRAEL?**”

Because the Roman Church abolished Yahuah’s feasts in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and replaced them with her feast days. She took the pagan feasts on the “false-gods” and changed their names so Christians could keep them, and they do.

What about the timing of the yearly feast days of Yahuah because there is much confusion in this respect?

As an example, Judaism is looking for the sunset to usher in the weekly Sabbath. They are looking to the moon (whether conjunction or crescent) to calculate when the month begins, so they can calculate the appointed worship statutes.

This is paganism and comes from Babylon while Israel was in captivity for 70 years.

### **We have ‘Zero’ Scriptural Permission!**

- **Consider this website quote: which we copied in the year of 2016, and two years later this was removed from the website; I wonder who was behind the removal?**  
[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Hebrew\\_Roots/New\\_Moon](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Hebrew_Roots/New_Moon)
- **“There is zero scriptural evidence for sighting new moons to determine the beginning of new months. It is based 100% on teachings within the Talmud.”**
- **The ancient [pagan] Greeks** recognized the visible new moon as the beginning of the month when they celebrated the “sickle of the new moon” with offerings and meals. This was also the case with the ancient Babylonians who worshipped the new moon as the goddess Isis, and had her wearing horns, which

**resembled the new moon.”** (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, vol. 4, p. 639.)

- Yahuah’s 1st day of the new year is the day after the spring-equinox, because it is the equinox that ends the old year. Logically the next day begins the new year.
- This happens to be the First Day of Spring and the 1st day of the month Abib and the first day of the year.
- It is that simple.
- To find the 1st day of the 2nd month, just count to 30.
- The 30th day ends the old month; the next day begins the new month.
- If you desire the detailed study on this topic, please go to this website: [studythecalendar.com](http://studythecalendar.com)



The final question, who will you follow? MAN’S TRADITION?

**Or will you follow the example of Yahusha Paul, John the Revelator, Philip the Apostle, Polycarp, Polycrates and The other faithful followers of YHVH through time, who have faithfully refused to bow the knee to the false Messiah?**

**Yahuah never changed His appointments! Never!** They are still valid today! It was the Anti-Christ, Satan himself who did away with them.

According to Malachi 3:6 **YHVH never changes!** This invitation to meet with Him on His calendar **is still valid!**

The spring feasts represented Messiah's coming as a **suffering servant!** Yahuwah has given His people the plan of redemption, so they need not be in darkness. They know exactly what the plan is, so they can be prepared and ready for each event. The feasts also have a final fulfillment when the Messiah returns as the conquering king!

**All festivals have had fulfillment in the 1st application during the first 4,000 years of history.**

**Yahusha fulfilled His part of all the Festivals during His Messianic time on earth, the second application.**

**All the Festivals are still awaiting their complete and final third application through Yahuah's Bride, the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5). These are completely unleavened people to be chosen as the final Wave Sheaf/First Fruits to be anointed at Pentecost. They will also herald in the kingdom, after the final Day of Atonement where all are "sealed or marked," and then the long-awaited 2nd Coming will finally be realized at Tabernacles.**

## Chapter 2

### The Importance of Celebrating the **Passover** of Yahusha!



### The Passover Memorial Meal of Yahusha

**Q1 Should we celebrate Easter in memory of our Savior Yahusha?**

We are not to remember the death of Yahusha on Easter, which is a Pagan Holiday, but we are to celebrate the Passover by



remembering His death at Passover. Yahusha our Passover Lamb was slain for us on Passover.

## **Q2 When is the Passover to be celebrated?**

Leviticus 23:5, 'In the first (Biblical) month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the evenings, is the Passover of Yahusha.'

To be celebrated by all believers, true Israelites who keep Yahuah's Torah.

(See study on How to Calculate Yahuah's Feast Days.)

## **Q3 When do we celebrate the Passover?**



**THE PASSOVER COMMEMORATIVE MEAL TAKES PLACE ON PASSOVER IN THE AFTERNOON AROUND 3PM WHEN YAHUSHA DIED.**

**It is not a food feast but a serious introspective of self.**

It is **the New Covenant** Yahusha as our Melchisedek High Priest Who is interceding for us in the Heavenly Realm until He returns to fetch us.



#### Q4 What Feast is on a High Sabbath meaning we are not to do any servile work on these days?

The First and Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened bread is a high Sabbath unto Yahuah. NUMBERS 28:16-18, 28:25 **"And in the fourteenth day of the first month *is* the Passover of Yahweh. And in the fifteenth day of this month *is* the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. In the first day shall be a holy convocation: you shall do no manner of servile work *in it*. And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no servile work."**


The point that we need to see here is that special days, which were counted as Sabbaths, were appointed for Israel to keep, and were separate from the regular weekly Sabbaths ([Leviticus 23:3-8](#)). These days were usually described using two particular phrases, "**set-apart convocation**" ([Exodus 12:16](#); [Leviticus 23:24](#); [23:35-36](#); [Numbers 28:18](#)), and "**you shall do no servile work**" ([Exodus 12:16](#); [Leviticus 16:29](#); [23:25](#); [23:35-36](#); [Numbers 28:18](#)).

***Yahshua's Engagement to His Bride***

After the Ketubah was given and accepted, the groom could propose to His bride. Yahshua came to do just that. The Last Supper - Matthew 26:26 - 28

'Communion' is not a monthly or weekly ritual, it is annual remembrance of the betrothal we entered into with Yahshua...it is Passover!

If, after we enter into this covenant with Yahshua, we commit spiritual adultery by trying to be like the world, we are in serious trouble. The penalty would be spiritual divorce or death. (Hebrews 10:26, Hosea 4:15, Leviticus 20:10)



## **Q5 What does the New Covenant Passover represent?**

### **The New Covenant Passover**

Yahusha our Bridegroom has made an offer of Betrothal to us, to be His Bride. He has given her the Covenant promises, and He is now waiting for the bride, to accept — or not accept — His Betrothal offer. When we do not celebrate the Passover, we reject the Passover Betrothal of Yahusha.

## **Q6 According to Scripture, how does the prospective Bride accept the bridegroom's offer?**

The bride's acceptance of the bridegroom's offer of Betrothal is to be made by drinking of the same Covenant cup from which the bridegroom drank, both literally and figuratively. Let's look at the Scriptures, to see what this Covenant Cup is.

**The Bridegroom Yahusha Messiah has stated very clearly:**

### **THE BREAD AND THE WINE READING**

And he said, go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.... And as they were eating, Yahusha took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink all of it; For this is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:18-28)

And wheresoever he shall go in, say you to the goodman of the house, The Master says, where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples? And as they did eat, Yahusha took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave to them, and said,

Take, eat this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and **they all** drank of it. (DRINK THE GRAPE JUICE FROM 1 CUP AND PASS IT AROUND)

And he said unto them, This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many. (Mark 14:14-24)

And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer and he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, **This cup** is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19-20).

BRAKE THE BREAD AND PASS IT AROUND

**The above passages clearly reveal that the Body and Blood of Yahusha represented by the bread and unfermented wine (grape juice) were eaten and drunk at the Last Supper with Yahusha and His Disciples.** We then note that the apostle Paul gives us a summary of the above, in the following passage:

For I have received of the Master that which also I delivered unto you, That Yahusha Messiah the same night [at sunset was the start of the fourteenth day of the first month, known as the day of 'Passover'] in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do** in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup** is the new testament in my blood: **this do**, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat **this bread**, and drink **this cup**, you do shew the Master's death till he comes. (1Corinthians 11:23-26) [in reference to Leviticus 23:5]



**Q7 Why did Yahusha wash the feet of his disciples at Passover?**

### **WHY YAHUSHA WASHED THE FEET OF HIS DISCIPLES**

According to Luke 22 at that very moment the disciples were having an argument. They were arguing about which of them was the greatest in the kingdom. As they argue over which of them is the greatest in the Kingdom of Yahuah, the sovereign Yahuah of the kingdom humbly washes their feet, **“Yahusha rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”** John 13:4-5.

The initial and fundamental cleansing that Yahusha provides is a once-for-all act. Once having believed in the Yahusha we have the bath of regeneration, but we need cleansing from daily sin. We need cleansing from acts of sin to maintain our fellowship, but we do not need another bath. I see this foot washing as performed by the Word, as believers continue in the Word, reading it, studying it, memorizing it, we are cleansed. It shows us our sin and we confess it and forsake it. I don't understand how a believer can walk in fellowship with Yahuah without spending time in the Word.

**Q8 What does foot washing at Passover represent?**

Yahusha humbled Himself when He washed the feet of the disciples, and **we are to follow His example**. Humbling ourselves to be a servant for Yahusha is what foot washing represents. Yahusha's interpretation of the foot washing in verses 12-17 focuses on the reversal of values that come with the Kingdom of Yahuah. **"Do you understand what I have done to you?"**—Yahusha began to explain the significance of what He had just done, though full comprehension would come to the disciples later (v. 7). The Greek text suggests, **"Do you recognize what I have done?"** Obviously, they all knew that He had physically just washed their feet. But He was pointing to a symbolic meaning behind what He had just done. **"You call me Teacher and Master, and you are right, for so I am."** John 13:13. The traditional Jewish titles of Rabbi and Master are typical ways that disciples or servants of a Rabbi would address their Master. Both titles were respectful and acknowledged Yahusha's superiority over His disciples.

The title Rabbi (*kyrios*) was first applied to Yahusha as a mark of respect for His teaching role. But after His resurrection, "Rabbi" took on richer meaning as their understanding of who Yahusha is took hold. Those earlier Believers who used the Septuagint were used to referring to Yahuah Himself as the **"Master"**. **"I am"** — it seems like Yahusha is evoking Yahuah's chosen way of identifying Himself in the *Tanakh*—saying that He is Yahuah, the Elohim of Israel and ruler of the universe. In other words, He is so much more than their Rabbi, He is their Elohim. "If I then, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." John 13:14-15 True greatness is manifested in humble servanthood. It is not how many serve me, but how many I serve. And it is through humble servanthood that we are exalted. This is a principle that is found all through the Word of God in precept and example:





## *Matthew 23:12*

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled,  
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Matthew 23:12**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER**

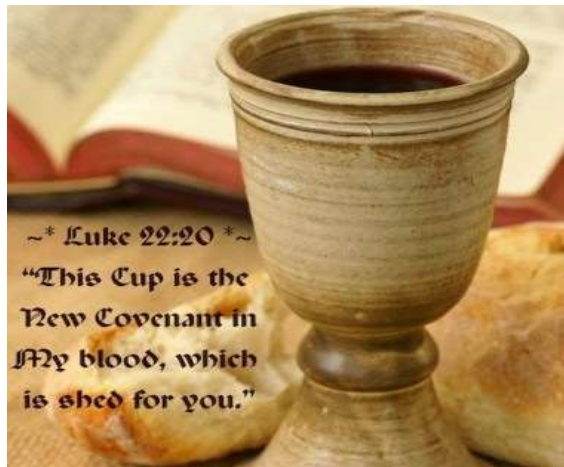
In the above passages, Paul reminds us that Yahusha has said, regarding the eating of the bread, and drinking of the cup, **that we are to "Do this in remembrance of me (Yahusha)."**

**Q9 Have the followers of Yahusha, the Believers of today, accepted the offer of Betrothal given by the bridegroom?**

Most so-called believers do not celebrate Passover but follow pagan Easter which is not found in the Scriptures. Most Believers



of today have not drunk of Yahusha's Betrothal cup — of "this" cup — the same cup of the New Covenant of which Yahusha told us to drink? Let's look at the Scriptures.



### Q10 What does the Cup of the New Covenant represent ?

When someone gives a demonstration, and then says, "**Now, you do this...**" what is the meaning of the pronoun "**this**?"

The word "**this**" refers us to what is being demonstrated, concurrent with the words being spoken — and the demonstration is that of eating the bread of the Passover meal, and of drinking the *third* cup of wine (the cup of 'Redemption') after the Passover meal.

### Q11 What was Yahusha was doing when He drank from the third cup and said, "Do *this* in remembrance of me?"

Yahusha was eating the Passover meal and was having the unleavened bread of Passover, and He was drinking the third cup (the Cup of Redemption) at the Feast of Passover! The Cup of Redemption — based on Yahuah's statement, "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm." This outstretched arm is through

Yahusha Messiah the right arm of Yahuah. And this we know to be true, for Yahushua's own words confirm this as the Passover meal (Matthew 26:18-28; Mark 14:14-24; Luke 22:15-20).

Yahusha then tells His Disciples that He expects them to do the same, but with a renewed understanding of the meaning of Passover.

**Q12 Why do we no longer slay a lamb at Passover or put blood on the door posts like the Israelite did in Egypt?**

YAHUSHA NOW EXPECTS US TO KEEP PASSOVER IN A NEW WAY — IN REMEMBRANCE THAT YAHUSHA IS OUR LAMB SACRIFICED AT PASSOVER REPRESENTS HIM; and that the unleavened bread eaten at Passover is His body, and speaks of Him as the Bread of Life, and of every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahuah; and that the cup of wine speaks of His Blood of the New Covenant, that was shed or spilled for us, as the *purchase price* of our redemption. This is the remembrance of the true meaning of Passover, and is what Yahusha's Disciples now remember, as they rejoice together, and as they eat the Passover meal together with a renewed understanding. So we see that in each of the above passages, Yahusha is revealing to His Disciples the *prophetic* meaning (the 'now' meaning) of the well-known Passover meal, practiced for centuries by all of Yahuah's people. Yahusha did not institute anything new or change anything. He merely revealed the true meaning of Passover. At the Passover supper, Yahusha simply revealed to His Disciples that He is the Passover Lamb Sacrifice, and that He would bring about the redemption of His people, and the sealing of the Everlasting (New) Covenant by His Blood. (Hebrews 13:20).

**Q13 Why is the Passover necessary for New Covenant believers? Let's look at Yahuah's *Covenant* requirements.**

The Blood Sprinkles the Tabernacle: The great importance of our participation in the Passover meal can be seen in the following passage, For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which Yahuah has enjoined unto you. Moreover, he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. (Hebrews 9:20-21) after Israel agreed to obey all that was written in the Book of the Covenant.

**First, we see that the original offer of Betrothal came at Mt. Sinai, where the Covenant Promise of Betrothal was sealed in the 'Blood of the Testament' which prefigured the Blood of Messiah.** (To see this account in Scripture of the Betrothal Agreement, see [The Two Witnesses of Devarim](#) by Brick Parrish.) Most importantly, the Blood of the Covenant was sprinkled on the Book (His Words), the people, the Tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

Beloved, this action of sprinkling the Blood of the Covenant pictures the physical Blood touching the physical items of the tabernacle and relates them all to Yahuah's Everlasting Covenant with His people. **We recall that every *Covenant* between Yahuah and His people must be confirmed or sealed by blood (Ex 24:8; Heb 13:20).**



#### **Q14 Why are we also required to be sprinkled by the blood of Yahusha by partaking of the Passover meal?**

We are His people, and we are also now in the Tabernacle of this fleshly body, the dwelling-place of Yahuah (1Co 6:19). Thus, we are required to be 'sprinkled' by the physical Blood of the Covenant, by that which represents Messiah's Blood. This covenant sprinkling is done when we participate in the Body (bread) and Blood of the Passover meal. It requires us to be in Covenant with Yahusha agreeing and doing all His Commandments, statutes, and judgments. **This includes keeping the Sabbath day and Yahuah's Feast days as well as eating only "clean" food according to the dietary laws in Leviticus 11.** We cannot partake of the New Covenant Betrothal Meal if we are not obeying His terms and conditions for His bride.

#### **Q15 What does drinking the Passover cup represent?**

When we drink of the Passover cup, the representation of the Blood of Yahusha goes down into this tabernacle of our body. (2Cor 5:4). Our drinking of the Passover cup, just as the bridegroom did, becomes '*our half*' of the Betrothal agreement. When we eat of His flesh (the Passover unleavened bread,) and drink of the grape juice, representing His blood, (the Passover cup of Redemption),

we are in effect saying, "**I do**" to the bridegroom's offer of Betrothal! Found in Exodus 19:5 to 8.

Exo 19:5 to 8, "**And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.**" Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra'el. And Mosheh came and called for the elders of the people and set before them all these words which יהוה commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, "**All that יהוה has spoken we shall do.**" So, Mosheh brought back the words of the people to יהוה.

Our participation in the New Covenant Passover is so important, that Yahushua tells us a frighteningly important bit of news.

**Q16 Can we be in Covenant with Yahusha and receive eternal life if we do not partake of the Passover Covenant meal?**

Then Yahusha said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, **you have no life in you**. Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:53-54)

**Q17 Beloved, let us ask this question. Why is Yahusha here telling us that unless we participate in His Body and Blood, we have no Life in us?**

It is because *Messiah-in-us* is our Life! And it is Messiah who, when living within us, prompts us to participate in the Passover! It is likewise the lack of Messiah-in-us, that would cause us to reject participation in Messiah's true Passover supper.



Perhaps the rejection of the True Passover by Rome is the origin of the counterfeit Passover, called by the Biblical name of 'communion' and 'Lord's Supper,' which most in the Evangelical world have embraced as a substitute for the True. It is time we put away the decrees of Rome and the many counterfeits and Doctrines of Men that promote these false practices and receive only the True! We need to focus on obedience to all the Torah so we can receive eternal life.

We serve a wonderful Heavenly Father! Look at His creation! His name is spelled with the 4 Hebrew letters Yod, Hey, Vav, Hey or in English YHVH, (pronounced as Yahuah) and His son's name is Yahusha! He gives me life and life more abundantly! He saved me by shedding HIS blood, He cleansed me, made me whole, redeemed me!



He paid the price, what a sacrifice, He died, he lives and gives me victory, what a wonderful Elohim!

He says in John 10:14: **“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”**

Shouldn't I be constantly praising HIM for what He has done and what HE does? Psalms 150:6 states, **“Let everything that hath breath praise YHVH. Praise ye YHVH!”**



In Psalms 150:3 it states, **“Praise him with the sound of the shofar ...”**

## EASTER IS PAGANISM



**“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families and **kill the Passover lamb**”**  
(Exodus 12:21 NKJV)

**Keeping Passover is biblical!**

## Chapter 3

### This presentation is about the Feast of Trumpets!

The Scripture states, **“But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.”** *Ezekiel 33:6*

YHVH has always had a heart to warn people before He executes His judgment, because he is a gracious Elohim .... **“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”** (*1 Timothy 2:4*)

**Yahweh is gracious!**

HE warned the people before the Flood!

HE warned Nineveh before it was destroyed!

HE is warning this generation before this world is being destroyed by fire.



*That's the purpose of the 3-Angel's messages:*  
*“Fear Elohim and give glory to Him; for the hour of his judgment is come.”*  
*Revelation 14:6-12*

That's why there is the 4<sup>th</sup> angel's message in Revelation 18, the warning of the fall of Babylon and the strong message for his people saying in verse 4 **“Come out of her, ... that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”**

In In Isaiah 62:6 YHVH says, “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, [which] shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of YHVH, keep not silence.”


Unless a minister fearlessly declares the whole truth, unless he has an eye single to the glory of YHVH and shall work under HIS direction, unless he shall move to the front, irrespective of censure and uncontaminated by applause, he will be accounted an unfaithful watchman.

The purpose of the Feast of Trumpets, **The Feast of Trumpets reflects the Father’s desire to summon His people to repentance, so that He can vindicate them on the day of His judgment.**

## What kind of Savior Do we serve?

One “who will have all men to be saved...” (1. Timothy 2:4)

*Or John 3:17: “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*



The first reference to the Feast of the Trumpets is found in Leviticus 23:23-25 (RSV)

“And YHVH said to Moses, say to the people of Israel, **in the seventh month, on the first day of the month**, you shall

observe a day of solemn rest (*Shabbathon*), a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work; and you shall present an offering by fire to YHVH.”

The second major reference is found in Numbers 29:1, "On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets (*Yom teruah*).” The Hebrew phrase “Yom teruah” literally means “a day of blowing”. The crucial word in both references is *teruah*, a series of staccato sounds on a wind instrument.

Since the blowing of the trumpets became the distinguishing characteristic of the day, it became known as the Feasts of the Trumpets: the feast that called people to prepare to stand before the judgment of YHVH.

The blowing of the trumpets was understood to be a call to repent and prepare oneself to stand trial before Elohim who would execute His judgment ten days later on the Day of Atonement. **Repent and prepare!**

The Feast of Trumpets is the first of the fall feasts, which in the biblical calendar is the first day of the seventh month (Tishri). The Jewish people call this feast ‘Rosh Hashanah’, which literally means “**Head of the Year**”, and it is observed as the start of the civil year (*in contrast with the biblical year which starts with Passover*) on the Biblical calendar.

The Feast of Trumpets is so important in Jewish thinking that it stands alongside Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) to comprise what Judaism calls “**the high holy days**” on their religious calendar. It begins the “ten days of awe” or the “ten days of repentance” before the “Day of Atonement”. According to Leviticus 23:24-27 that we just read, the celebration consisted of



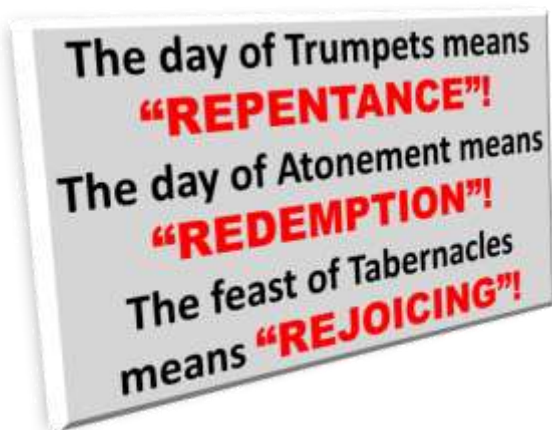
**“a time of rest”, “an offering made by fire,” and the blowing of the trumpets.**



According to Jewish tradition Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, it is the birthday of mankind, highlighting the special relationship between Yahuah and humanity!

The primary theme of the day is our acceptance of YAH as our King. Much of the day is spent in the synagogue. Yahuah not only desires to have a world with people, **He wants an intimate relationship with each one of us.**

In addition to the collective aspects of Rosh Hashanah worship, each man and woman personally asks HIM to accept the coronation, thus creating the bond of **"We are your people, and you are our King."**



The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is the sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn. The sounding of the shofar represents, among other things, the trumpet blast of a people's coronation of their king. The cry of the shofar is also a call to repentance; for Rosh Hashanah is also the anniversary of man's first sin...

.....and his repentance thereof and serves as the first of the **"Ten Days of Repentance"** which will culminate in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The shofar, a ram's horn was distinctive from the silver trumpets blown on the other new moons. Apparently Silver trumpets were sounded at the daily burnt offering and at the beginning of each new month (Numbers 10:10),

**But the shofar specifically was blown on the beginning of the month of Tishri!**

**The shofar is a curved ram's horn. In fact, this feast came to be identified also as "The Festival of the Shofar."**



"The shofar was a mass-produced instrument, relatively cheap, a common household article in the homes of farmers, shepherds, and many urbanites.

**It was used as a means of communication in everyday life. The shofar was a less sophisticated instrument than the trumpet, and its use required little skill when an occasion called for mass participation of wind instrumentalists, it was imperative to use the shofar. That was the reason for Joshua's use of the shofar (rams' horns) prior to the fall of Jericho. (*Joshua 6:4*) The same was true of Gideon's army, which used three hundred shofars (*Judges 7:16*).**



The Jews had both a religious and civil calendar. The religious calendar, which regulated the festivals, began in the spring, in accordance with Elohim's command at the time of the Exodus: "This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you" (Exodus 12:2; cf. Deuteronomy 16:1).

A religious and a civil calendar!

Abib was changed to Nisan! The first month in the religious year was the month in which the Israelites left Egypt and celebrated

Passover, the feast of their redemption. It was originally called Abib "the month of the ears," but after the Babylonian exile the month of Abib was named Nisan. It began at our new moon of March or April

The civil and agricultural year, as well as the sabbatical and jubilee years, began in the autumn with the seventh month, which after the Babylonian exile became known as Tishri. If it seems strange that the Jews should begin their civil year on the seventh month, it may be well to remember that even in our society the fiscal year for many organizations begins in other months than January.

The original practice of identifying the months by their numerical order was eventually abandoned after their Babylonian exile in favor of the Babylonian names of the month. Thus "the first day of the seventh month" became known as **"the first day of Tishri."**

The Jews still observe Rosh Hashanah as their New Year which marks the beginning of what is alternatively called the **"Ten Days of Repentance,"** or the **"Days of Awe."**



These are the ten days of self-examination, soul-searching and preparation for the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), which falls on the tenth day of the seventh month.  
**Repent and prepare!**

The Feast of the Trumpets shares with the Day of Atonement two fundamental differences from the other yearly festivals.

**First**, both feasts were not connected with any special historical or national event. They were a time for the individual to stand before the judgment seat of Elohim, seeking for forgiveness and cleansing.

**Secondly**, both feasts were observed, not like the other festivals in a spirit of exalted joyfulness, but in a spirit of intense moral and spiritual self-examination and soul-searching, as befits a plaintiff

coming before the Supreme Judge and Ruler of the universe, appealing for his life. In other words, these were very serious days of repentance and affliction.



A time of reflection and repentance!  
Is that a good idea to take time off for self-examination, to search our own hearts and souls?

**We must take time for self-examination in order to bring all our powers in subjection to the mind and will of the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel!**

## A call to repentance!

As mentioned before, the blowing of the trumpets or the shofar on the first day of the 7th month was understood to be a call to repent and prepare oneself to stand trial before Elohim who would execute His judgment ten days later on the Day of Atonement.

The prophets used the symbol of the shofar to call the people to repentance and return to Elohim. For example, the prophet Joel called for blasts of the shofar in Zion to impress the people with the needed repentance: "**Blow the trumpet [shofar] in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly**". (Joel 2:15).

Joel may be referring figuratively, if not, literally, to the Feast of the Trumpet, since he mentions its three major characteristics, shofar,

fast, and solemn assembly. During the religious reformation of King Asa, the Israelites .....**"Entered into a covenant to seek YHVH, the Elohim of their fathers, with all their hearts and all their souls"** (2. Chronicles 15:12) and they sealed their oath "with trumpets, and with horns [shofars]" (2. Chronicles 15:14).

The prophet Isaiah explicitly associated the sound of the shofar with an admonition against sin. **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet [shofar]; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins"** (Isaiah 58:1).

The symbolic usages of the shofar by the prophets to warn people of their sins and call them to repentance, was probably derived from the Feast of the Trumpets, the annual trumpet-call to repentance and cleansing in view of the judgment conducted in the heavenly court during the ten days running from the Feast of Trumpets to the Day of Atonement.

The shofar is the call to search our deeds and mend our ways before the awesome Day of Judgment. It is a reminder of our need to confront our inner selves just as YHVH confronted Adam with the question, **'Where are you?'** (Gen 3:9)"

The shofar beckoned the people with a solemn message of warning to repent **for the time of judgment had come**. It called upon the people to examine their lives, mend their ways, and experience divine cleansing.



The blowing of trumpets can be seen as a model of the Great Final Judgment of mankind. The day of YHVH is announced by the prophets with the blowing of the shofar. For example, in Joel 2:1 we read: **"Blow the trumpet (shofar) in Zion ..**



**... sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of YHVH is coming, it is near."**

*The same is shown in Zephaniah 1:14-16, "the great day of YHVH is near ... a day of the trumpet (shofar) and alarm",*

**The ten days between the Feast of Trumpet and the Day of Atonement were seen by the Jews as a continuous judgment process that determined their fate.**

**The notion of a ten day period of testing is not foreign to the Bible.**

### **Ten (10) days testing!**

**Daniel and his three companions were tested for ten days (Dan 1:12).**

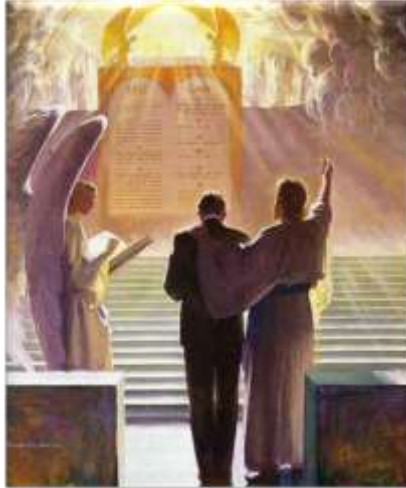
**In Revelation the church of Smyrna is told that she would be tested for ten days (Rev 2:10).**

Nabal died ten days after learning from his wife, Abigail, how she spared his life by providing food for David and his men, contrary to his refusal to do so (2 Sam 25:38). Apparently during those ten days Nabal did not repent for his wrongdoing. One could connect this time of ten days with the Ten Days of Penitence. **"Elohim waited for Nabal (1 Sam 25:38) ten days, like the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur so that he may repent."**

### **Lessons from the O.T. practice**

Think about it, the religious practices performed on Rosh Hashanah and the subsequent Ten Days of Penitence, reveal how the Jews lived out in practical ways their belief that Elohim would judge during those days their conduct of the previous year. This is one of

the areas where as believers we can learn valuable lessons from the Jews. We tend to make our beliefs more of a profession than a practice, more creed than deed.



**Sooner or later each one  
must give an account to  
the Creator!  
We must keep these  
thoughts of a coming  
judgment in mind in order  
to live a set-apart life!**

Most Christians believe, like the Jews, that they must appear before the judgment seat of Elohim (*Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10*), but no significant attempt is made to translate such a belief in some practices according to Torah

..

What does Scripture say in Ecclesiastes 11:9?

**“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but Know thou, that for all these things Elohim will bring thee into judgment.”**

*Ecclesiastes 11:9*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Elohim and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For Elohim shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”**

*Is it time to blow the Shofar now?*

In view of the day of Judgment the Word of Elohim, in the most solemn and impressive language, calls upon his people to arouse from their spiritual lethargy, and to seek his face with repentance and humiliation while there is still time.

**Joel 2:1, 15-18, 12, 13 (KJV) says, “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of YHVH cometh, for it is nigh at hand.” ...“Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children. Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto YHVH your Elohim; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.”**



**Is that a serious  
matter? Should one be  
concerned?**

It is a matter of eternal life or eternal death for any believer!  
This understanding of the Feast of Trumpets as an annual trumpet-call to stand trial before the Creator and to seek for His cleansing grace is most relevant for Believers today.

**Additional Rosh Hashanah Observances include:**

We eat a piece of apple dipped in honey to symbolize our desire for a sweet year, as well as many other special foods. All have special significance and symbolize sweetness, blessings, and

abundance. We bless one another with the words "**May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.**"

## **Let's summarize.**

The Feast of Trumpets in the Old and New Testaments reveals that Elohim is not in the business to punish but to save. **He uses attention-catching methods to warn and lead His people to repentance before executing His judgments.**

The Feast of Trumpets reflects Elohim's desire to summon His people to repentance, so that He can vindicate them on the day of His judgment. By means of the annual trumpets blasting, He summoned His people in Old Testament times to repent and amend their lives in view of the judgment going on in heaven and He is still doing it to-day.

This same clarion call is sounded today to mankind by the flying angels of Revelation, who proclaims with a loud voice, "**Fear Elohim and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come.**" *Rev 14:7*

**First**, this feast has no title or an explicit reason for its observance in the Bible. It is simply called "**the day of blowing**" or "a remembrance blast" (*Numbers 29:1; cf. Leviticus 23:24*). Since the blowing of the trumpets (shofar) was the distinguishing characteristic of the day, it became known as the Feasts of the Trumpets.

The texts give no specific reason for observing the Feast apparently because the reason was too obvious to require comment. The blowing of the trumpets was understood to be a call to stand trial before the Heavenly Throne to give an account of one's deeds and to receive the promise of Yahuah's mercy.

**Secondly**, the blowing of the shofar on the first day of the seventh month was understood as the beginning of their trial before the heavenly court where books would be opened, and the destiny of each individual would be decided. The trial lasted ten days until the Day of Atonement when Elohim would dispose of their sins in a permanent way.

The blowing of the shofar during the Ten Days of Penitence served not only to call to repent, **but also to reassure them that Elohim would remember and vindicate them on the Day of Judgment.** The ten days preceding the Day of Atonement were an existential reality lived out with real trumpet-calls to repentance, trusting in Elohim's mercy to vindicate them.

**What about us today?**

The Feast of Trumpets reminds us annually that the heavenly court will soon close the books and the Messiah will come to save the faithful, to punish the wicked, and to bind Satan before destroying him "in the lake of fire" (*Revelation 20:10*).

**Y'shua is coming SOON!**

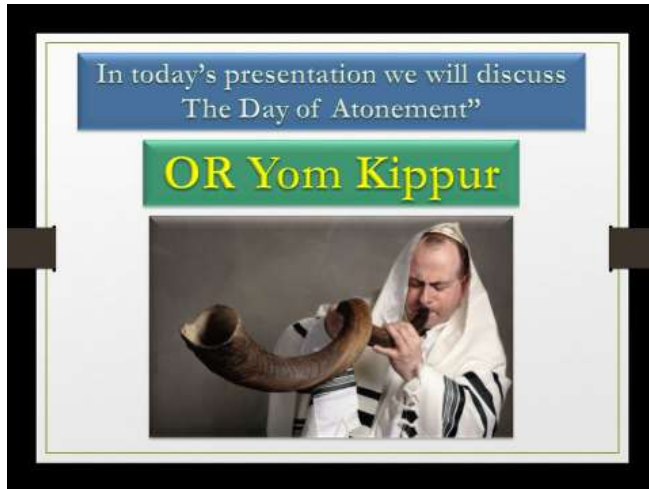
This reassuring message should inspire us to live godly lives with joy, confidence, and hope while **"awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great Elohim and Savior Yahusha Ha Mashiach"** (Titus 2:13).

**This time HE is not coming as a suffering servant but as a conquering king!**



## Chapter 4

### Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement!



One day each year the High Priest would draw aside the Veil and enter **the Holy of Holies to make atonement** (*Heb. Kafir*) and cover the nations sins from the judgment of YHWH and receive forgiveness. It took place on the 10th day of the 7th month, Tishri. By our calendar that would be around the end of September or early October.

**This day revealed more clearly than any other the work of the High Priest as mediator between Elohim and man. On this day, as the official representative of the people, he alone had access to the presence of YHWH and the people shared this access in him.**

**By returning alive from the holy of holies the people knew that their covenant-keeping Elohim had once more extended his mercy to them. But this could not happen without repentance and the confession of sin and, of course, the blood of a substitute!**

**Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement is the most important holiday of the Biblical year.** Yom Kippur is a complete Sabbath; On this day no work is permitted, but on the other holy days **“no servile work.”** Exodus 12:16 tells what servile work means. **“Except that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.”** It is well-known that you are supposed to refrain from eating and drinking (even water) on Yom Kippur. It is a complete,

24-hour fast beginning before sunset on the evening before Yom Kippur and ending after nightfall on the day of Yom Kippur.



What does the word “Atonement” mean?

Webster’s Dictionary says: “To join in one, to form by uniting.” This day symbolizes Yahuah and man being set at one, literally. Yahuah and the created human race can never be fully at one, in full agreement, until the time, when man is redeemed and Satan with his group is cast into the lake of fire.

Most professing Christians don’t even know that this Holy Day exists. Or if they do, they think upon the death of Yahusha, the Messiah, it is no longer to be kept. Is that correct?

**Was the Day of Atonement to be done away with the death of Yahusha? Does this day apply only to the Jews as many people claim?**

Leviticus 16:29 (KJV) states, “And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in **the 7<sup>th</sup> month, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day** of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger (Gentile) that sojourned among you.” The word “statute” means it’s a law. But was it a law just for the Israelites?

*Galatians 3:2,9*, “If ye be Messiah’s then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

*Romans 2:28*, “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly, neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh.”

*Now read Romans 11:17*, “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree (Gentiles) were grafted in among them, and with them partakes of the root and fatness of the olive tree.” **If we belong to Elohim, then we are spiritual Israelites!**

The ritualistic laws of the Old Testament on the Day of Atonement were given to the ancient House of Israel to remind them of the need for the payment of their sins. These various sacrifices pointed ahead to the sacrifice of the One who would come later as the Savior of all mankind.

Those laws were fulfilled by the events leading to and including Yahushas own sacrificial death. **So, we don't sacrifice animals today, not only that, but there is also no priesthood to perform theses physical duties.**

***Let's take a brief look at the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament.***

After making the covenant agreement with Israel, Yahuah told the nation to build a Tabernacle, which is a physical type of Elohim's habitation in heaven (*Ex. 25 – 27, 30; Heb. 9:23-24*) The Tabernacle consisted of an enclosed courtyard, containing an altar for animal sacrifices and a tent. The tent was divided into two sections by a veil. The section behind the veil was called the Most Holy Place or Holiest of All. The other section was the holy place (*Ex. 26:33*).

The Most Holy Place represented YHVH's throne, also located here was the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments and other items. The lid of the Ark was called the mercy seat; this was where YHVH manifested Himself (*Ex. 25:22*). The job of the high priest was given to Aaron; his sons served as priests. On the Day of Atonement, special animal sacrifices and ceremonies were conducted; these are explained in the 16th chapter of Lev.



Before going into the Most Holy Place, he had to bathe and dress himself in his priestly garments (Lev. 16:4). Once this was completed he took a censer, a vessel that held burning coals from the altar, and entered the Most Holy Place.

He then took incense, an aromatic compound, and placed it on the burning coals. Next, he sprinkled blood from the bullock on the mercy seat, which represented Elohim's throne (vs. 11-14). **What did all this picture or point too?**

**First Aaron had to make atonement for himself as a sinning human before YHVH Elohim.**

**Washing himself pictured having his conscience changed to accept Yahuah's standard of righteousness (Heb. 10:22). The incense pictured prayers ascending to Elohim (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8). His linen coat symbolized living a righteous life (Rev. 19:8). The blood represented the way sins are forgiven (Heb. 9:13-14; Rom. 3:25).**

Aaron, the High Priest, was a type of Yahusha Ha Mashiach who is now our High Priest. By living a sinless life, He was qualified to offer Himself as a sin sacrifice for all humanity through His death.



**The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, that means we now have direct contact with Yahuah, the Father through prayer in the name of Yahusha.**

**Again, was the Day of Atonement to be done away with at the death of Yahusha?**

*The Bible says in Leviticus 16:29-30, "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls [by fasting], and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you that you may be clean from all your sins before YHWH. "*

**What did Those Verses Say?**

Let's look at it again, because it is a good idea to read things slowly as we sometimes superficially read over things, but they don't seem to sink in.

**The Day of Atonement shall be a statute for how long? Forever! When shall this day be observed? On the 10th day of the 7th month.**

**How shall that day be observed? The people were to afflict their souls by fasting and not do any work at all on that day.**

**Who all was to participate? The natives and the stranger in the land.**



What was the priest's job? He was to make atonement for the sanctuary, the tabernacle, the altar, and the priests and for the people. For what purpose? To cleanse them from all sins! On the Day of Atonement each year the nation of ancient Israel was figuratively cleansed from its sins. This figurative cleansing was only a type of a spiritual cleansing for the people of Israel. Spiritual cleansing is what man needs.

Yom Kippur atones only for sins between man and YHVH, **not for sins against another person**. To atone for sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible. **That must all be done before Yom Kippur.**

**Again:** “The Day of Atonement” is known as Yom Kippur, which is the holiest day of the Biblical year. Atonement may also be termed the Day of Cleansing.

Leviticus 16:31 describes it as **"a Sabbath of Sabbaths."** **That means it is a very, very high, important, and holy day.**

***In Elohim's Word translation it states it this way,*** “This is the most important worship festival there is for you. You will humble yourself. **It is a permanent law.** “

- What is the Day of Atonement? The Day of Atonement is an opportunity, year by year, to obtain divine forgiveness of sin, and to cleanse oneself before YHVH. **Leviticus 16:30** says **“on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before YHVH.”**
- That was an opportunity to restore oneself to a state of wholeness or holiness.

- Anyone that still had any sin left on their record had their name blotted from the Book of Life.
- Therefore, a common greeting on the Day of Atonement was **“May your name be written in (or “not be blotted from”) the Book of Life.”**

**Is there anything more important for anyone living, than that our names are being written in the book of life?**

**In Luke 10:20 Yahusha told the Seventy after they returned to him with joy, saying, Master, even the devils are subject unto us through your name, “rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”**

**They were to be Set apart! According to Leviticus 20:26 Israel was supposed to be holy as Elohim had severed them from other people to be his.**

What does that mean “to be set apart?” Being set apart is to be sanctified through His word, to be holy, dedicated 100% to Yahusha. It means to live by HIS word, His Torah. If you live by Elohim’s word, you will be set apart **from** sin, evil, **from** the lust of the world, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

To be set apart, means to love the Father Yahuah and live by His word. Matthew 4:4 states, **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim.”** If one does that, that individual is set apart!

**Atonement involves individual as well as collective purification.**

What standard applies today?

- Are we supposed to be set-apart today or does Elohim have a different standard for today's generation, for today's believers?
- Does YHWH have anything different in mind as then?
- Are we to be set-apart and separated from the world, from sin and sinners?

The Bible says in 1. Peter 2:9, “**ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**”

What are the characteristics of Elohim's true people?

- **They are a chosen generation.**
- **A royal priesthood,**
- **A holy nation and a**
- **A peculiar people.**

Or Hebrews 12:14, “**Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see Yahuah.**”

In Leviticus chapter 16 are shown the physical rites of purification on the Day of Atonement like

**The washings**, *verses 4, 24, 26, 28.*

**The sacrifices**, *verses 5, 6, 11, 15.*

**The fumigations**, *verses 12-13.*

**The sprinkling of the sacrificial blood**, *verses 14-15, 18-19.*

**And the changes of clothes**, *verses 4, 23.*



Which finally culminated in the act for Aaron, the high priest, to select two young goats (*Lev. 16:5*) and to cast lots to determine which goat would be “for YHWH” and which for “**the scapegoat**”.

The word “scapegoat” was invented by William Tyndale in his 1530 English translation of the Bible. He translated the Hebrew word "Azazel", which only occurs in connection with this ceremony, as **"ez azel"** the **"goat"** (ez) which **"escapes"** (azel). That seems like a good translation because in the ceremony the goat is indeed released in the wilderness. The King James Version followed his lead, as have many modern translations.

From the Hebrew definition of Azazel, the meaning is **“goat of departure.”** Leviticus 16:8 actually should read: **“One lot for YHVH and the other for the goat of departure.”** Because the first goat called "a lot for YHVH," the translators wanted the Hebrew word Azazel, to be a representation of someone. Therefore some translators have concluded that Azazel must represent an evil spirit or Satan. Other translators see the scapegoat being sent to a place where Azazel, or evil spirit is located in the wilderness.

Some Bibles translators use the word “scapegoat” others use the Hebrew term “Azazel”. **This term “Azazel” has created much controversy.**

**NKJV** uses the word “scapegoat”.

**KJV** uses the word “scapegoat”.

**New American Bible** (Catholic): uses “Azazel”

**Holy Scriptures** (Jewish): uses “Azazel”

**The New English Bible:** “one to be for YHVH and the other for the Precipice.”

The Septuagint Bible, **“one lot for YHVH and one lot for the escape.”**

According to Strong’s, the word **“scapegoat”** comes from the Hebrew **“Azazel”** which literally means **“goat of departure”**. It is formed from the Hebrew **“ez”** meaning goat and **“azal”** meaning **“to go away.”** The precise meaning has been greatly disputed. Some commentators believe “Azazel” refers to the name of

the region, where the goat was sent. Others believe it to be the proper name of a spirit, demon, or Satan himself.

The interpretation that Strong suggests occurs in both the Septuagint and the Vulgate and underlies the rabbinic view, "**the goat that is dispatched**" in Mishnah Yoma 6:2.

*In "Pentateuch & Haftorahs" by Dr. J.H. Hertz (Late Chief Rabbi of the British Empire), Soncino Press, 1990, pg.481, we read; "The Heb. Azazel, however, is not a proper name, but a rare Hebrew noun ... meaning, 'dismissal' or, 'entire removal' (RV Margin, Gesenius, Hoffmann, and the Oxford Hebrew Dictionary).*

Again, the goat on which the lot fell for YHVH, was offered as a sin offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for the Scapegoat was presented alive before YHVH to make atonement over, and it was sent away into the wilderness! (*Leviticus 16:7-10*)




Before the live goat was released into the wilderness, Aaron laid hands on it, confessing upon it the people's sins! (*Lev. 16:20-22*).

The act of laying on of hands (vs. 11; also *Lev 1:4; 3:2; 4:4, 15, 29, 33*) symbolizes the transference of sins from the guilty party (the children of Israel) to the innocent party (scapegoat). The innocent then becomes the sin-bearer. **Yahusha undeniably fulfills the type** (*Is. 53:4, 6, 11, 12*). Can Satan fulfill the type since he was never innocent? It will not satisfy the justice of Elohim to transfer the sins of the guilty to another guilty party. Since



lots were used to decide which goat was “for YHVH”, it meant **that both goats had to be unblemished, without a defect or flaw.**

According to Leviticus 16:10 the scapegoat was designed **for making atonement to Yahweh** because of the sins of Israel. This atonement has to be made to YHVH. If we choose to believe “Azazel” represents Satan, this leads us to the question of whether or not Satan can make an atonement for God’s people. However, nowhere in Scripture is there a reference to Satan having any part in the atonement.



Both goats were representing **the completed atonement!**

**Those who believe that Satan is the scapegoat and bears the sins of the redeemed and is going to be punished for them are saying that the death of Yahusha on the tree was not sufficient to save man. And that Yahusha somehow needed Satan’s help to complete the atonement to save mankind. If this were true then the redeemed would be indebted to Satan as well as to Yahusha for all eternity for their salvation.**

1Pet 2:24 (NIV), "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

### **Two Goats -- One Offering!**

The KEY to answering this question is found in Leviticus 16:5, which says: "And he [Aaron] shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two male goats for A [singular] sin

**offering and one ram for a burnt offering."** In other words, the TWO goats made up a single offering -- not two different offerings!

**Both goats were representing the completed atonement!**

I personally, for over 50 years being a member of a Christian denomination, firmly believed that Satan represented the scapegoat and that Yahusha would put my confessed sins on Satan's head, and he would be punished because their prophet said so. As an example, she stated in Great Controversy, page 422: **"the scapegoat typified Satan, the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed."**

*Or in Great Controversy, page 658* **"the sins of Elohim's people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit."**

*Then in a book called Early Writings, pp 294, 295* **"Satan bore not only the weight and punishment of his own sins, but also of the sins of the redeemed host, which had been placed upon him."**

**This explanation sounded good and made sense at the time, but is it biblical and truth?**

I made the serious mistake of trusting that explanation and accepting the official position of that particular denomination as my authority, instead of checking out Scripture alone!

I should have taken the advice or better said the command in 1. Thessalonians 5:21, where it states, **"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."**

**The Bottom Line**

The bottom line is this, The Bible unequivocally declares Yahusha the Messiah to be the ONLY sin-bearer who not only died for the remission of sins, but also the only one to actually take those sins away. **When we realize that YEHOVAH's goat and the Azazel goat are ONE atonement offering -- rather than two separate offerings separated by thousands of years -- we can understand and appreciate the symbolic fulfillment more readily.** Yahusha is the perfect fulfillment of the typical atonement sacrifice. As YEHOVAH's goat his blood CLEANSED the heavenly sanctuary (*Hebrews 9:23*) and the Israel of YEHOVAH (*Leviticus 16:17*). **As "Azazel" he bore our sins and took them away forever!** [www.hope-of-Israel.org/azazell.htm](http://www.hope-of-Israel.org/azazell.htm)

After explaining the process whereby, the two goats were chosen, author E. Raymond Capt adds that atonement was accomplished by the offering of blood and sprinkling it before the Mercy Seat. The LIVE GOAT [Azazel] was public manifestation and proof of acceptance of the sacrifice in the Divine Presence and the transference of GUILT from the sinner to the Scapegoat. **What was accomplished "within" was manifested "without." It signified the dismissal,** (*Azazel -- dismissal, R.V. margin*) **of our sins.** Christ is our "Azazel," our "Scapegoat," "cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken" (*Isa. 53:8*). -- *King Solomon's Temple, Artisan Sales, Thousand Oaks, CA. 1979, p. 59.* [www.hope-of-Israel.org/azazell.htm](http://www.hope-of-Israel.org/azazell.htm)

## **Purpose of the Day of Atonement!**

- The purpose of the Day of Atonement was to re-direct Elohim's anger for the sins of the past year and seek his favor in the one that lay ahead. **It was the day on which the meaning of the sacrificial system reached its highest point.**

- in spite of all the daily, weekly, and monthly sacrifices that had been offered, there was still sin that was not fully atoned for, and on this special day all the people sought Yahuah for forgiveness.

## **The only commanded fast day!**

- **The Day of Atonement is the only commanded annual fast day.** As was mentioned before the **Day of Atonement** is the *tenth day of the Seventh Month*. We begin fasting by missing the evening meal of the previous day!

As always, any restrictions, like fasting, can be lifted where a threat to life or health is involved. In fact, children under the age of nine and women in childbirth (from the time labor begins until three days after birth) are not permitted to fast, even if they want to.

Older children and women from the third to the seventh day after childbirth are permitted to fast, but are permitted to break the fast if they feel the need to do so. People with other illnesses should consult a physician and a rabbi for advice.

**Prayer, Bible Study, meditation, and spiritual fellowship are our spiritual food during this annual "Sabbath of Sabbaths."**

**There are four main reasons for the command to fast on the Day of Atonement,**

### **REASON # 1**

**1. By fasting we show contrition for the wrong we have done and the good we have failed to do. Fasting fulfills the need to make a self-sacrifice in order to demonstrate that one has repented and not merely given lip service of sorrow for past sins. Fasting affirms a man's sincerity, and shows he knows he deserves to be punished for his sins.**

## **REASON # 2**

**2. Self-discipline.** Repentance must be preceded by an attempt at self-discipline. The ideal person is one who is hard on himself but indulgent towards others. Fasting on the Day of Atonement serves as a reminder for the need of self-discipline which leads to self-improvement.

## **REASON # 3 & 4**

**3. Fasting is a means of focusing the mind on the spiritual.**

**4. Fasting is a means of awakening compassion for others.**  
**See Isaiah 58:6-7**



**The Day of  
Atonement drives  
home the reality  
and ugliness of  
sin!**

The Day of Atonement drives home three points .....

- (1) That sin is real, and an offense against YHVH,
- (2) That YHVH is willing to pardon sin, and
- (3) That such pardon does not come unless man does something -- repents with fasting and rends his heart.





## REPENTANCE

**Teshubah**, the Hebrew word for repentance, means "turning back." It involves, according to Jews,

(1) **Contrition for the sin committed and**

(2) **Firm resolve not to repeat it.**

**True repentance is more than sorrow for sin. It is a resolute turning away from evil and a turning towards YHVH and HIS Torah, His instructions.**

Isn't that what the Bible says? **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."** *Proverbs 28:13*

### **Customs connected with the day of Atonement!**

**It is customary to wear white on the holiday, which symbolizes purity and calls to mind the promise that our sins shall be made as white as snow (Is. 1:18).**

Before going to the Synagogue, the father of the house blesses the children.

**To sons**, he says, "Elohim make you as Ephraim and **Manasseh**," and **the daughters**, "Elohim make you as Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah."

- If possible, food should not even be handled on the Day of Atonement, except to give children their meals.
- Jews feel that children under nine should not be allowed to fast even for a few hours. But from this age on they should be trained to fast in gradually longer periods. It is believed that a sick person does not have to fast if he feels strongly that to fast may endanger his life.



After Yom Kippur, Jews have a minor feast, quoting Ecclesiastes 9:7, "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, And drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepts thy works."

The rigorous fast and total abstinence of work may only be broken in the case of serious illness or where life is imperiled. The preceding evening and the whole of the day are devoted to religious services.

**Fasting on this day reveals to us just how much we still love ourselves and how difficult it is to give up some of self. This day is a test to see which we will put first, will it be for the cry of food, or our sincere desire to obey YHVH!**

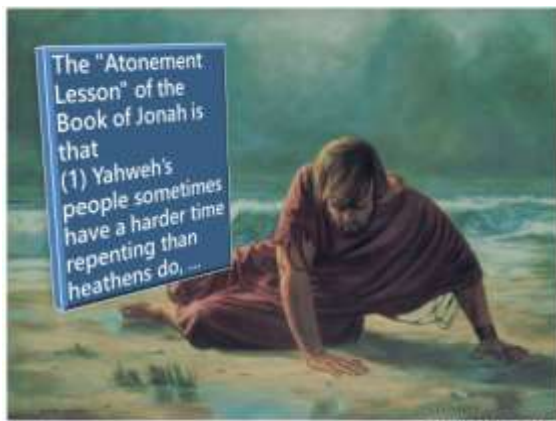
Scriptures being read by Jews on the Day of Atonement!

- **Leviticus chapter 16.**
- **Numbers 29:7-11,**
- **Isaiah 57:14 through 58:14, and**

- The Book of **Jonah** is being read. The theme of these latter passages is true repentance.

One of The Book of Jonah's major points is the contrast between the **instant trust** and ready repentance of the heathen and the lack of confidence and infidelity of the servant of Elohim. When the storm rages at sea, the idolatrous mariners immediately call upon their Elohims, but Jonah does not call on the true Elohim.

Instead, Jonah goes inside the ship to sleep. When they find out that Jonah is responsible for the tempest, they acknowledge YHVH, the king and the whole city of Nineveh fast in sackcloth and do repent, **but Jonah is displeased.**



**The "Atonement Lesson" of the Book of Jonah is that,  
(1) Yahuah's people sometimes have a harder time repenting than heathens do,**

Why do you think that is the case? Religious people, people in churches, in denominations believe that they don't need anything. I am rich, increased with goods and in need of nothing! However, people outside any church group feel that they are in need of a change. It is more obvious to a smoker, drinker, adulterer than one that doesn't do these things. There is always the need to reach higher!

**(2) Fasting is necessary to really repent,**

**(3) If YHVH accepted the repentance of heathen Nineveh, He will certainly accept the genuine repentance of His people,**

(4) It is impossible to flee from YHVH's presence. He sees all, and "your sin shall find you out" according to Numbers 32:23.

The Hebrew word for Jonah means "dove," the symbol used in Song of Solomon as a representation of Israel.

We read of Israel's constant disobedience!

**Isn't that the same story today?**

**Has anything changed?**

**Is YHVH still the same today as then?**

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

What were the conditions to be healed? They must humble themselves, pray, seek YHVH and turn from their wicked ways. Four conditions are listed.

It is obvious that a revival of true godliness is the greatest and most Urgent of man's needs! Our work is Confession, Humiliation, Repentance and Prayer!

- ☐ *Further readings on the Day of Atonement include Leviticus 18, which says in verse 4, "Ye shall do my judgments and keep my ordinances . . . ,"* and then it continues with the account of forbidden marriages, warning one not to fall into (sexual) temptation.
- ☐ Another passage is Micah 7:18-20, which emphasizes Yahuah's mercy.

*Let's always remember Micah 7:18-20, "Who is a Elohim like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy 19. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue*

our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depth of the sea 20. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.”

Yah’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin but **reclaiming** from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.

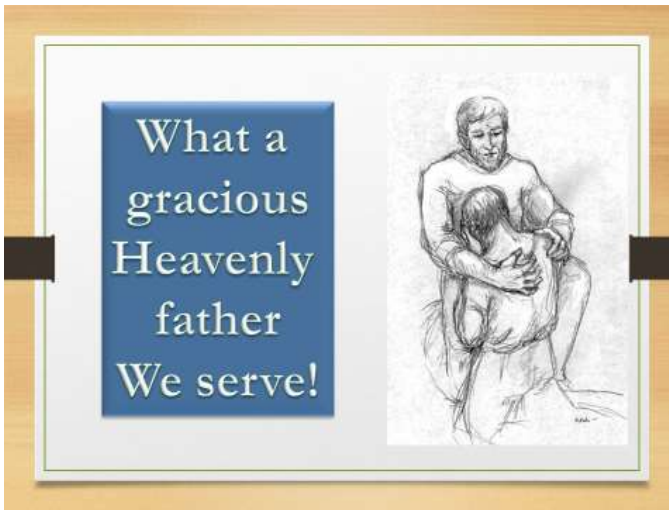
David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, **“Create in me a clean heart, O Elohim; and renew a right spirit within me.”** *Psalms 51:10.*

The promise that YHVH made to king Solomon in 1Kings 6:12-13 KJV applies to every generation, **“If thou wilt **walk** in my statutes, and **execute** my judgments, and **keep** all my commandments to **walk** in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father, 13 **And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”****

This applies not only to Israel as a nation but to each individual as we read in Psalms 103:17-18, KJV.

**“The mercy of YHVH is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children; 18. To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.”** *Psalms 103:17-18 KJV*





**“Like as a father pitieth his children, so YHVH pitieth them that fear him. 14. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” *Psalms 103:13-14***

**Therefore “Be glad in YHVH, and rejoice, ye righteous and shout for joy, all ye that are upright**

**in heart.” *Psalms 32:11 KJV***

**The Seven Feasts of Yahuwah found in Leviticus 23 1-44 are a SIGN that you are His Bride**

- ☐ The Sabbath not Sunday
- ☐ The Passover not Easter
- ☐ The Feast of First Fruits not Lent
- ☐ The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost) not Mothers Day
- ☐ The Feast of Trumpets not Halloween
- ☐ The Day of Atonement not Guy Fawkes
- ☐ The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles not Christmas

28

## Chapter 5



**Or the Feast  
of  
Ingathering!**

**Is it a  
salvation**

It was a week-long autumn harvest festival. It is one of the most joyous feasts, a drastic change from one of the most solemn holidays, the day of Atonement.

The feast of booths, the seven-day harvest celebration is the last appointment on Elohim's Leviticus 23 calendar!

This is basically another invitation to be sanctified and made holy by spending more time with Yahuah on the date appointed by Him!



**The Feast of  
Tabernacles or Sukkot  
is to the other festivals  
what the Sabbath is to  
the other six days of  
the week!**

As mentioned before, it is the most joyous feast! It fell during the time of year when the hearts of the people would naturally be full of thankfulness, gladness, and expectancy. All the crops had been

long stored; and now all fruits were also gathered, the vintage past, and the land only awaited the softening and refreshment of the 'latter rain,' to prepare it for a new crop.

### **What about the pitching of the tent?**

The common name, feast of Tabernacles -- among Greek-speaking Jews is "the pitching of the tent" (John 7:2) – it recalls to mind the custom established by the law of Leviticus 23:40

Sukkot is the last of the seven major festivals/holy days commanded by Elohim for the children of Israel to celebrate annually. According to the Biblical calendar it was to begin five days after Yom Kippur, on Tishri 15, and to continue for seven days ([Lev. 23:33-36,39-43](#); [Num. 29:12-38](#); [Deut. 16:13-15](#)).

It was a time each year to remember the forty-year period in which the children of Israel, led by Moses, wandered in the Sinai Desert with Elohim supplying all of their needs: **food, water, shelter, clothing, guidance, light, and heat.**



During Sukkot, the Jews were (*and are*) to “...take choice fruit from the trees” (Leviticus 23:40a) and to enjoy these choice foods and sweet drinks (*Nehemiah 8:10a*).

The 15th and the 22nd day of the feast of tabernacles **is a Sabbath** and no servile work is to be done on that day. It was required of all men to travel to the Sanctuary in Jerusalem (*Exodus 23:14, 17, Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:16*).

*Exodus 34:23*, “Three times in the year **every male** shall appear before the Master Yahuah, the Elohim of Israel.”

That was not an option **but a requirement!** That was a must. However, many are quick to point out that this says males, so it isn't necessary for all the family to go. But in later verses, the difference will be seen.

**It simply means that the males must appear, whether the rest of the family is able to or not.**



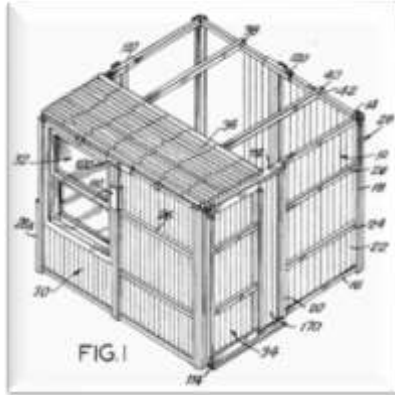
For seven days the people moved out of their homes and lived in small temporary dwellings or shelters called "Sukkah" (Sukkot plural) Sukkah #5521 is the word for booths - It is a hut or lair - often translated as booth, cottage, covert, pavilion, tabernacle, tent.

*These booths were made of branches, as Ezra described it in Nehemiah 8:1,5, "Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths."*

These booths were located in courts, streets, public squares, and on house roofs. Every home-born Israelite was to dwell during the festival, in memory of their fathers dwelling in booths after their exodus from Egypt (*Leviticus 23:40 and Nehemiah 8:15*)

**A Sukkah (*singular*) had to be precisely constructed. The hut had to be no lower than five feet, no higher than thirty feet.**





The roof had to be of leaves or straw, allowing some exposure to the sky above. They were encouraged to look up through the thatched roof at the stars in the night sky to remind them of the promise Elohim *made to Abram (Abraham) that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens!*

A biblical injunction from Leviticus, to gather branches and fruits from four species of trees and rejoice, remains essential to the Sukkah ritual.

The custom as it developed is to assemble a branch from a citron tree, a palm branch, a sprig of myrtle, and a willow branch, to shake them in all four directions, plus upward and downward.

One historian wrote that the “the four kinds of plants” represent various parts of the body, the eyes, the mouth, the heart and the spine!

**The myrtle leaves, is the eyes;**

**The Willow Leaves Is the mouth!**

**The citron is the heart.**

**And the date palm leaves represents the spine.**

Yahuah provided them with trees during the wilderness journey from which they could obtain all the branches to build temporary dwellings or booths. They were temporary, because the children of Israel constantly were moving from place to place, actually 42 times. **The booth in Scripture is not an image of privation and misery, but of protection, preservation, and shelter from heat, storm, and tempest** (*Psalms. 27:5; 32:20; Isaiah. 4:6*).

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread was celebrated at the time of the **barley harvest**, Pentecost was celebrated at the time of the **wheat harvest** and Tabernacles was celebrated at the time of the **fruit harvest**.

**As mentioned before, this was a time of rejoicing!** This was a celebration of ingathering (Exodus 23:16) as well as a time of rejoicing and fellowship. It symbolizes the gathering or harvest of Elohim's people at the time of the end!



According to Historians, Yahusha was born during the Feast of Tabernacles rather than in December (*at Christmas*) as is commonly accepted and celebrated. This is being based on the establishment of three things:

- 1) The date that the angel Gabriel told Zechariah, the soon to be father of John the Baptist, about the birth of his son (who was born six months before Yahusha);**
- 2) The approximate date of Mary's conception; and**
- 3) The date of Herod's death**

Interestingly, when Mary (*Yahusha's mother*) and Joseph (*Mary's betrothed husband*) arrived in Bethlehem to register for the census, all the inn rooms were taken. So, when she gave birth to Yahusha, she had to place him in a manger according to Luke 2:3-7

He was born during the time of Sukkot, a festival for which all the men in Israel were to assemble in Jerusalem and the surrounding towns (*Ex. 34:22,23; Deut. 16:16a*).

With so many people there at once, it is no wonder that Mary and Joseph could not find a room. Therefore, it would be reasonable to assume that the only shelter they could find would be a sukkah, or booth, built to shelter and feed all the incoming animals for the festival.



The Festival of Sukkot is referred to as the “Season of our Joy.” At the time of Messiah’s birth, an angel appeared to shepherds in the fields nearby, saying, **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Messiah the Master.”** (Luke 2:10, 11).

Many scholars agree and Jewish tradition teach that Yahusha was actually born on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Feast of Tabernacles and circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Tabernacles. How grateful we should be that He chose to pitch His tent or build His tabernacle with us and for us as the Son of Man and Savior.



This is the final and probably the most important fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles because it is also called the feast of Ingathering.

*Revelation 14:15* tells us of His great harvest at the end of time, **“And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, thrust in thy sickle, and reap for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”**

Just as Yahusha came to plant the seed for salvation, He too will return for the harvest.

The Feast of Tabernacles was not only commemorative but typical. It not only pointed back to the wilderness sojourn, but, as the feast of harvest, it celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth and pointed forward to the great day of final ingathering, when Yahusha

shall send forth His reapers to gather the tares together in bundles for the fire, and to gather the wheat into His garner. At that time the wicked will be destroyed.

We know that the Passover Feast was fulfilled not only to the event, but as to the exact time and hour. Therefore, in like manner the Second Coming will occur on a feast day. Does that make sense? Since Yahusha died on the very feast day that pointed forward to His death **He will come back on the very feast day that points forward to His Second Coming!**

That is exactly what Daniel in chapter 8:19 prophesied. He states, **“For at the time appointed the end shall be.”** The word appointed in this text is “moed”, or “feasts.”

Isn't Daniel telling us here that the Second Coming will be on a feast day? As I have mentioned before, the Feast of Tabernacles is also called **the Feast of Harvest**, because it comes just after the fall harvest has ended!

Yahusha said in the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13:39, **“The harvest is the end of the world!” And the end of the world is the Second Coming of Messiah!**



In the Bible a woman represents a church. (*Jeremiah 6:2*) The woman in this story is a harlot, representative of those who claim to be Elohim's children, but are in a state of apostasy.

Elohim's people are also represented as jewels. See Malachi 3:17. When Yahusha went to heaven He took with him righteous people


who had been resurrected at the same time (*Matthew 27:52-53 and Ephesians 4:8*)

## Time Setting?

Time setting is wrong, but time study is not wrong.

**There is a difference!**

When we say that the Second Coming of Messiah occurs during the Feast of Tabernacles is that time setting?



It was revealed in Scripture when and where (*the year and the day*) the Messiah would appear at the First Advent.

If the religious leaders had been studying like they should have been and had a close walk with YHWH, they would have known these things!

The prophecy of Daniel pointed so unmistakably to the time of Messiah's first coming, His birth and His death! The same way is HIS Second Coming foretold, but do we pay attention?

When we read 1Thessalonians 5:4-6 we are told that the Second Coming will **not** come as a thief in the night **for His people!**

What about Mark 13:32 where Yahusha said, **"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father?"**

An old English version of the passage reads, 'but that day and hour no man maketh known, neither the angels, which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.' This is the correct reading according to several of the ablest critics of the same age.

Strong's Concordance says that the word **"knoweth"** in Mark 13:32 can also be translated as **"tell"**. Therefore, this text in Mark can then be translated as saying, **"But of that day and that hour**

**tells no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."**

In other words, neither man, angels, or Yahusha Himself will announce the day nor hour of the 2nd Coming, but the Father will announce it!

**When Messiah comes, He will bring in the final harvest of Elohim's kingdom and an end to sin and misery.**

The prophets relate that day to the festival of Sukkot, a day when every man will sit beneath his own vine and fig tree in the earth made new.

The Feast of Booths, the Feast of Tabernacles as a whole anticipates the return of the Messiah, when the dead will be raised to life again and the redeemed will sit at the table with the aforementioned in the kingdom of Heaven.



Here is the invitation: **"Come to the Feast!"**

The question is, " **But are we today obligated to observe the yearly fall festival of Yahuah?** Or come to the Feast?

Leviticus 23:41 states: states very plainly, **"It shall be a statute forever..."**

Another translation states it this way **"this is to be a never-ending statute."**

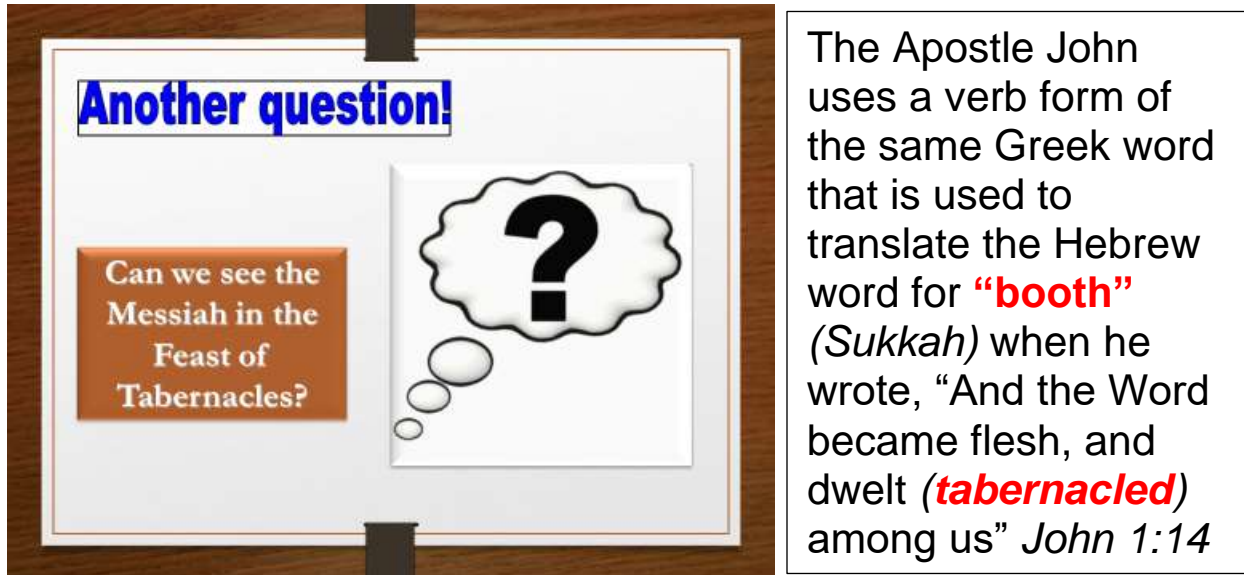
**So, it is still in effect today - it has not been done away. Nowhere in the bible does it say that the statute of the feast of tabernacle has ceased or been nailed to the tree.**

Why should we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles now?

Because it is a “**foreshadow of things** *(the wedding anniversary)* **to come.**”

Why is it important to the Father? Because, if we do not observe His appointed festivals, **it is like a slap in His face, an insult, a literal rejection of Him**, just like a woman who thinks nothing of her wedding anniversary, her wedding vows to her husband.

According to Zechariah 14:4 and 16-19 the Feast of Tabernacle **will be kept** by everyone after Messiah returns. “And it shall come to pass that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”



The Apostle John uses a verb form of the same Greek word that is used to translate the Hebrew word for “**booth**” (*Sukkah*) when he wrote, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt (**tabernacled**) among us” *John 1:14*

**Yahusha tabernacled among us 2000 years ago and He will tabernacle among us again in the future. The celebration of the Festival of Booths (Sukkot) celebrates the Messiah in every way!**

Who once tabernacled **among** us,  
Now tabernacles **within** us, and in the future  
Will **again** tabernacle **among** us.



## To dwell among His people

When we look at the earthly sanctuary, the earthly tabernacle in the wilderness, it was a temporary, earthly structure.



It was symbolizing Yahusha, that according to Exodus 25:8-9, **“Elohim might dwell among His people.”**

Yahusha **is** our tabernacle! We see some aspect of HIM in every piece of its furniture, boards, pillars, ropes and curtains.

Just as Israel was physically sustained in the wilderness with manna and water, so Yahusha is our spiritual and eternal “bread and water.” Yahusha is the bread of life!



**“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35).**



John 6:48-52, “I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.”



Yahusha is **the Rock and the source of Living Water**

“They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Messiah.”



YHWH provided the children of Israel a pillar of cloud and fire to guide them, as well as to supply them a covering from the hot sun during the day and **a light at night!** (Exodus 13:21, 22; Psalms 105:39). **He is the light of the world!**



Another term for the Messiah is “**the Branch**”. The fact that He is the branch is signified in scriptural references as such. Yahusha is the Branch! Isaiah 11:1 (a “shoot” or descendant of Jesse would grow into a “Branch” which would “bear fruit”) and Jer. 23:5 a “**righteous Branch**” would be raised up **from the lineage of David**).

It is interesting to note, concerning the **“Branch”** which would **“bear fruit,”** that Yahusha told the children of Israel to collect fruit to eat, as well as branches to build their booths, on the first day of the Feast of Sukkot.

## The last day of the feast!

Called the "Last Great Day!" **This was the 22nd day of the 7th month** – (See *Leviticus 23:36 and 39 and Numbers 29:34*)



**Shemini Atzeret, meaning “the eighth day of assembly.”**

**"On the eighth day you should hold a solemn gathering; you shall not work at your occupation"** (Numbers 29:35). It was a Sabbath!

**This is the beginning of the millennium! The 8th day stands for a new beginning!**

It was on the last and the greatest day of the Feast that Yahusha stood up and made a very important statement, he said with a loud

voice, “If a man 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.” *John 7:38*

Yahusha chose this very day to make this announcement because according to Jewish tradition the saved will enter heaven on this day and drink of the water of life for the first time.

When Yahusha comes back to earth to get His people, He comes from the east, because heaven is in the east. Ezekiel 46:1 says that the gate that looks to the east is the one that is opened so the prince can come.

**“And behold, the glory of the Elohim of Israel came from the way of the east.”** (*Ezekiel 43:2*)

**“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”** (*Matthew 24:27*)

**“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living Elohim.”** (Revelation 7:2) Ascending from where? **FROM THE EAST!**

An Interesting thought: Orion is very strikingly in the East in the Fall, at the time of the fall feasts, just above the Horizon right after sunset. **When? At the time of the Fall Feasts!**

*In the Bible the number  
eight means new  
beginnings.*

As seven represents the day of completion, then eight, which follows seven, means „**over and above perfect completion,**“ or „**the first of a new series.**“ (*Numbers in Scripture* by E.W. Bullinger, page 196).

**The first-born was given to YHVH on the 8th day** (See *Exodus 22:29-30*)

This can also be seen in the musical scale. There are 7 whole notes in music. **The 8th note begins a higher octave** of the same 7 notes.

**Elohim began the world anew after the flood with eight people.**

Noah's ark came to rest on Mount Ararat during the Feast of Tabernacles. (See *Genesis 8:4* “*And in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.*”)

**YHVH will also begin this earth anew by recreating it at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> Millennium!**

The author of the book “Cross and Shadows” on page 240 claims that the earth was created on the Feast of Tabernacles!



**Another interesting point to consider is this: During the 7 days of the feast of Tabernacles, the priests were to sacrifice 70 bullocks (Numbers 29:12-32) starting with 13 (Rebellion) bullocks to be sacrificed on the 1st day decreasing to 7 (*perfect completion*) on the last day. Only 1 bullock was to be sacrificed on the 8th day.**

**1<sup>st</sup> day of Tabernacles – 13 young bullocks**



**2<sup>nd</sup> day of Tabernacles – 12 young bullocks**

**3<sup>rd</sup> day of Tabernacles – 11 young bullocks**

**4<sup>th</sup> day of Tabernacles - 10 young bullocks**

**5<sup>th</sup> day of Tabernacles - 9 young bullocks**

**6<sup>th</sup> day of Tabernacles - 8 young bullocks**

**7<sup>th</sup> day of Tabernacles - 7 young bullocks**

**TOTAL ..... 70 young bullocks were sacrificed.**

**Genesis 10 records the beginnings of 70 nations descended from Noah!**

There are 70 appointed times, that the Creator himself has established to meet with His people!



52 weekly Sabbaths	52
7 Days of Unleavened Bread	7
1 Day at Pentecost	1
1 Day of Trumpets	1
1 Day of Atonement	1
7 Days of Tabernacles	7
1 Day for the 8th Day	1

**These are 70 times  
To assemble**

<http://www.hebroots.org/hebrootsarchive/0310/0310d.html>

A fascinating and mysterious pattern emerges from the seemingly endless list of sacrifices found in Numbers (*Bamidbar*) 29:12-35. During the week of Sukkot (*Tabernacles*), 70 bullocks were offered on the altar. The connection of the 70 bulls to the 70 nations is taken from Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 32:8; Genesis (*Bereshit*) 46:27; and Exodus (*Shemot*) 1:1-5. Once again, the association of the nations of the world to Sukkot (*Tabernacles*) is found in Zechariah 14:16-19.

When Jacob (*Ya'akov*) and his family went to Egypt (*Mitzrayim*), there were 70 people who went, and it was there that they became a nation. The nations of the world are associated with Sukkot (*Tabernacles*) in First Kings (*Melachim*) 8:41-43 when Solomon dedicated the temple (*Beit HaMikdash*) during (*Tabernacles*). For this reason, the festival is also called the Feast of the Nations.

Another fascinating thing about the sacrifices during Sukkot (*Tabernacles*) is that when the offerings are grouped or counted, their number always remains divisible by seven. During the week, there are 182 sacrifices (70 bullocks, 14 rams, and 98 lambs; 7 divides into 182 exactly 26 times). Add to this the meal offerings, 336 tenths of ephahs of flour (48 x 7) (*Numbers [Bamidbar] 29:12-40*). **It is no coincidence that this seven-day holiday, which takes place at the height of the seventh month, had the perfect number, seven, imprinted on its sacrifices.**



All of Yahuah's appointed Holy Days point forward to wonderful events yet to take place.

**The Second Advent fulfillment is the final ingathering or harvest of all of Elohim's people! We will be given new tabernacles** (*new temples, new*



*bodies*). When we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles we anticipate and rehearse for the return of the Messiah, when the dead will be raised to life again and the redeemed will sit at the table in the kingdom of Heaven. It is a yearly reminder of that great event, the final harvest and redemption!

## **Yahusha is coming soon!**

Three times in the book of Revelation (3:11; 22:7; 22:12) Yahusha says: **“Behold I come quickly!”**

In Romans 13:11 it states, **“Knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed.”**



**Therefore,  
let us  
heed the  
invitation:  
“To come  
to the  
Feast!”**

## Chapter 6



Let's see, if we can find out, what Galatians is really talking about! We need to read everything in context and let the Bible interpret itself.

Here is what Paul states in Galatians 5:1, **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Messiah hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”**

Insisting that Paul taught that the OT law was “done away”, **Christians conclude that they no longer need to keep the Law of Yahuah**, which according to their idea means that they should not keep the 7th day Sabbath nor YHVH's yearly appointed festivals.

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

**"Free From The Law, O Happy Condition!"**



However, Yahusha, our Savior had a different message in Psalms 40:8, **"I delight to do thy will, O my Elohim: yea, thy law (Torah) [is] within my heart."** KJV

Let's turn to Galatians 4:8-11, **"Howbeit then, when ye knew not Elohim, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 9 But now, after that ye have known Elohim, or rather are known of Elohim, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 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

The common, traditional explanation of Galatians 4:8-11 is that Paul is reprimanding the Galatians for returning to Old Testament observances that were a form of "bondage".

**Is that explanation Correct? Is that what Paul is 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!

2Peter 3, 16 (KJV) states, **“As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”**

**Could among the ignorant mentioned in these verses also be preachers and pastors?**

In Galatians 4:10 Paul states, **“Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.”** People claim that the days referred to here are YHWH's yearly feast days. They further hold the idea that this Scripture gives permission to avoid observing these holy days. They are no longer valid for His followers today.

At first glance does it say literally 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. We need to ask some questions and then search for the answers.

Is Paul referring to YHWH's yearly appointed festivals in Galatians 4:8-11? What right does anyone have to make that kind of an assumption? We should never read anything more into a Bible verse than what it actually says.



## Who were the Galatians that Paul wrote to? Where did they live, what was their background?

Galatia was not a city but a province in Asia Minor. The church membership was undoubtedly composed mainly of Gentiles, and the males were physically uncircumcised. (See *Galatians* 5:2; 6:12-13).

They were Gentile converts and 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 Elohim, ye did service unto them which by nature are no Elohims.” They served the “no gods!”**

Acts 14:8-10 shows us plainly that the Galatians believed and worshipped idols. Paul was used by Yahusha to heal a man born in a crippled condition.

### What were the results?



As a result the pagan Gentiles wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas thinking the apostles were their gods, Jupiter and Mercury! They even wanted to do sacrifice to them v.11-13 **They wanted to do what?**

**They wanted to do sacrifices to them. They thought Paul and Barnabas were Jupiter and Mercury that came down from Heaven and they wanted to worship them.**



Paul and Barnabas pleaded with them to not do such a thing and were scarcely able to restrain them (v. 14-18) People were so convinced that Paul and Barnabas were gods that it was very difficult to restrain them!

### **What is the major theme of the Galatians epistle?**

The major theme of the Galatians epistle 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 got off track! Actually, that can happen to anyone, if we don’t know why we believe what we 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 comes 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).

**False teachers were trying to beguile them into returning to their former ways. What were they returning to? To their former ways! And Paul was alarmed!**



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

Many interpreters conclude that Paul now associated 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 Elohim. But now that you know Elohim — or rather are known by Elohim — 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 **being a child**, (4:1), someone who is silly and foolish, who lives under the 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, as somehow Elohim'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, Elohim (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.”**

Yahushas 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 Elohim.” KJV*

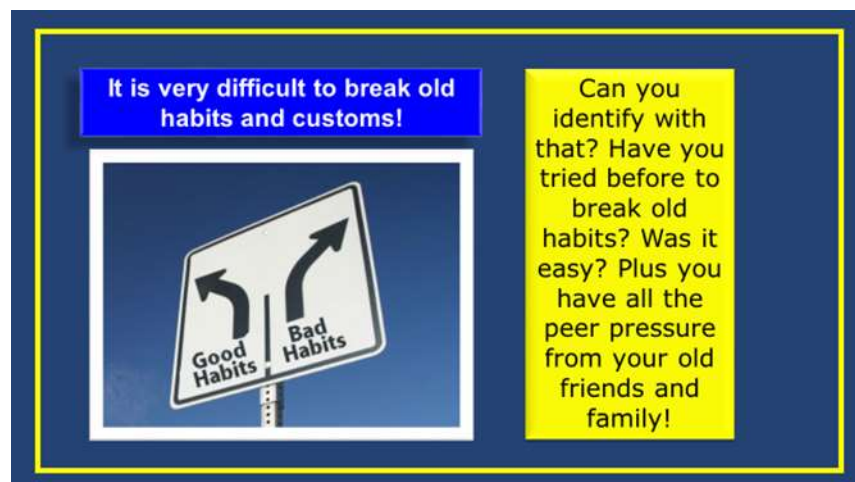
In this verse Paul brings up the subject of the idolatry and paganism that the Galatians had participated in before their conversion.

*Paul is making it clear that Elohim 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?**"

So, verse 9 reveals that these Galatians after their conversion to Yahusha, did "turn again" or backslid to the "weak and beggarly elements". These "beggarly elements" Paul says, is what they got in "bondage" of, again! Since the Galatians were Gentiles, it makes no sense to say that they were returning to the "law of Moses", which they did not even know anything about before and which they had not kept before in the first place! **So this "weak and beggarly elements" had nothing to do with the commandments of Elohim or even the "Law of Moses."**


**Before their conversion at certain days, times, months, and years they were serving their pagan gods, which they were doing again.**



**Isn't that the same today?** It is very difficult 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 learned to like and to love them and there is such a good time being together with old friends and family! It takes conviction to break such customs and loose friends because of that.

Paul calls them „weak and beggarly elements.“  
This is still 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 NOT to go back to the **“rudiments of the world”** – the man-made practices which Paul regards as “yoke of bondage”. Yahusha Himself spoke strongly against such man-made commandments because they negate the very Commandments of Yahuah.

The Bible stated 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 surely also for mankind today, which is 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 curse as Paul warns.

**Another important fact is verse 3 that mentions being “in bondage”.**

Bondage is something difficult to be born, of oppression, of captivity, of withholding liberty. Bondage is grievous, but keeping of Yahweh’s Law is not. James 2:12 calls it the law of liberty.



Keeping Yahuah’s commandments is freeing, liberating. It is not a burden. Love is never a burden but always supports, frees, and liberates. It should be very clear that the “elements of the world” and “bondage” of Galatians 4:4 cannot refer to the Law of Elohim, nor does verse 10.

**Another point to consider is 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,**

intended to be good and liberating as “weak and beggarly” and tending to “bondage”!

### What does pagan worship look like?

There is **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 23rd, the Roman world engaged in merrymaking and the exchanging of gifts in honor of father sun and mother earth.

<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 Bible as the 'Queen of Heaven'. In Jeremiah 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, leave it alone.**





**Women weeping for Tammuz – is called Lent 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 Messiah.

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



I am quoting 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 market place, and crowned their doors with garlands**" - as is done at Christmas time today!

**How much more proof does a person need that the days Paul was forbidding were pagan and NOT Yahuah - given?**

The Law of Moses absolutely forbids the observance of **'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 Saints Day (called Halloween by the world). Paul forbids Christians to observe these heathen days!



The days the Gentile Galatians were returning to, are 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 Jacob THUNDERS at our people saying, "**LEARN NOT the way of the heathen!**" *Jeremiah 10:1-4*

**One wonders, how long it will take for professed Christians to get that message?**

**There were numerous days observed as idolatrous festivals by the 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 Christians, 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. We must 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, plague, and sometimes, the sun.



## Zeus was their highest god!

The month of February and June were dedicated to him. He was considered to be the god of the sky and weather and 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 him. Bacchus was the Roman name for the Greek god Dionysus, the god of wine.


Dionysus was the god of wine and 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 Elohim 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.



Paul and Yahusha **never** observed them and commanded the Church NOT to observe them! That means His followers today shouldn't observe or participate in them either.

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

KNOW Him meant they kept His Law (His Torah), they turned from sin and all pagan practices, and kept His commandments, statutes and judgments. Is that a reasonable assumption?

**The Galatians walked even as Messiah walked. (I John 2:6) So must we walk as HE walked!**

**How did Yahusha walk? Among other things, He kept the weekly Sabbath as well as the Holy days and set us an example that we should follow His steps.**

If Yahusha is truly living within our hearts, we will keep the same days as He did while on earth. **HE does not change!** (Heb. 13:8). *Hebrews 13:8 says, „Yahusha the same yesterday, and today, and forever.“*

## **SUMMARY!**

**It is obvious that the Gentile Galatians were being admonished NOT to return to the heathen practice of observing days, months, times, and years they had kept before their conversion.**

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, Valentine etc. Why not? **Because Yahweh Elohim calls them abominations!**



**Let's remember and keep Yahuah's weekly and yearly appointments. These convocations will be a blessing as well as a joy, a delight, holy and honorable.**

These appointments are for our sanctification, to be sanctified!

**To emphasize again:** Neither the weekly Sabbath, the New Months nor the Yearly Feast days were **ever**, nor will they be ever called: „weak and beggarly elements.“ Neither will they be leading to „bondage“.

Actually, it is a slap in the face, and an offence to our Creator to call HIS appointed festivals „**weak and beggarly elements that lead to bondage.**“

The purpose of all the feast days (weekly, monthly, yearly) is to focus on the Creator and Savior, to spend time with him. From Him come all the earthly and spiritual gifts and blessings. When we meet with our Creator we are being recharged anew! *In Matthew 11:28* he invites His people to come to Him, „**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**“ *KJV*

We could say it this way, „**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden to my appointed weekly, monthly and yearly feasts; and ye shall find rest unto your souls and be refreshed.**“

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! Has He a right to do so?



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

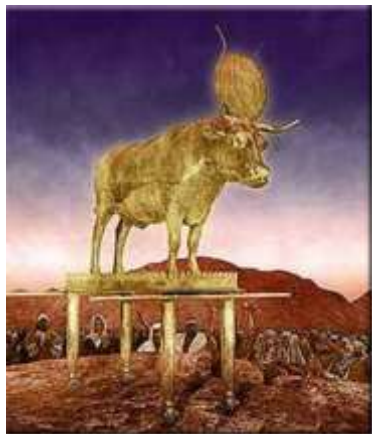
Yahuah calls the new Months and the yearly feast days “**Your New Months, your appointed feasts etc.**” We have some examples in Isaiah 1:13-14; Amos 5:21; Amos 8:10; Malachi 2:3; Is there a contradiction? Aren’t all these His appointments? **Why the change from “My” to “yours”?**

**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!**

When we are doing our own pleasure, when we do our own thing and speak our own words on that holy day, **then it is no longer Yahuah's Sabbath but our Sabbath, neither are we His people any longer!** (See Isaiah 58) What brought that change about?

In Exodus chapter 32 Yahuah did not acknowledge the Israelites His people anymore by calling them Moses' people! It states in Exodus 32:7, **"And the YHWH said unto Moses: Go, get thee down; for thy people which thou broughtest out of the Land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."**

**Why not?** Because they had corrupted themselves by making a golden calf proclaiming that these are thy Elohim, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the Land of Egypt, even thou they claimed that 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, they separated themselves by this act from YHWH, even though they proclaimed the next day a feast to His honor. (See Exodus 31:5)

They were no longer His people when they did that because His people do not make and worship golden calves. The same holds true when we today celebrate pagan holidays even though we are giving them Christian names. That does NOT make them holy and acceptable to the Creator. Why do people refuse to see that?  
**Because most of the time they do not want to!**

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

We cannot keep pagan holidays and expect that we receive a blessing from the Creator. Only His appointed days at His appointed times on His calendar are blessed and holy (set-apart). Why is that so difficult to understand?

Remember, Satan hates Yahuah's, he hates His appointed times for rest and worship! **That's the reason he invented his own holidays! That's the reason he invented his own calendar and his own holidays that honor him!**

**The bottom line is loving our Creator and worshipping  
HIM ALONE!**

**It is an invitation  
to worship!**

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.



**An invitation  
to worship,  
what's wrong  
with that?**

**Let's stay away from following the moon,  
the sun, and the pagan holidays, including  
all of the “weak and beggarly elements!”**

Let's obey and honor the Life-giver by **keeping His appointed times is my prayer for each one of us! Let's not. Forget YHVH is inviting us, we do not invite HIM!**

## Chapter 7

Today we want to consider **Ephesians 2:14-16**, because this is a text which is often being used by those who hold that Yahusha abolished the Torah by His death at calvary! REALLY?

When one reads the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Ephesians, it can be seen that **the central theme of Paul is the oneness of Jew and Gentile as united in Messiah**

That the Gentiles should be blessed within the scope of the Abrahamic promise was never questioned.

What had been left a mystery was the manner in which the blessing would come upon the nations!



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Let's read Ephesians 2:18-20, "18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, But **fellow citizens** with the saints and of the household of Elohim. 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahusha Ha Mashiach himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in Yahuah. In whom ye also are **builed together** for an habitation of Elohim through the Spirit.



The method of blessing the Gentiles is emphasized by the words like **fellow-citizen, fellow-heirs, fellow-members, fellow-partakers**. The Gentiles would be blessed not in a separate community, a separate entity but by being grafted into the ancient community of YHVH.

**Both Jews and Gentiles would be wedded into one and thus and thus mutually share the blessings of Elohim.**

Gentile believers were to be accepted as full citizens within the believing community without undergoing the ritual or a proselyte.



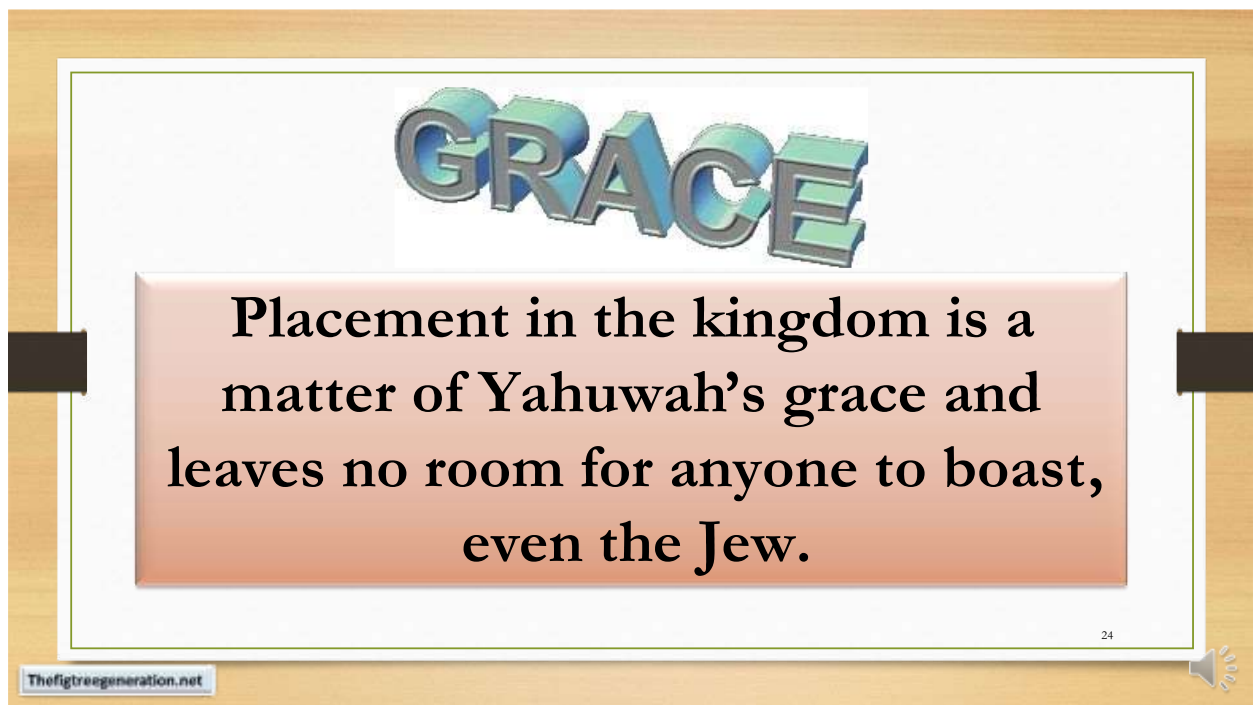
This issue brought division within the early emerging Believers. Some felt that a non-Jew had fewer privileges within the community than a Jew; some considered full fledged salvation impossible apart from becoming a proselyte, and still others refused to fellowship in fullness with the non-Jews of The Way.

Each of these perspectives was for Paul a “different gospel,” since union with Messiah was the sole basis of entrance and privilege within the family of Elohim. This union was a matter of grace, not of the works of the Torah. All members had the same position before the Father, because all members were in Messiah.

Any activity that taught something different than this was to be cursed. We could assume that each party was sincere in their stand but grossly influenced by their past upbringing and teachings.

**The text in Ephesians centers upon this unification of Jew and Gentile in Messiah but does so from the perspective of the cross. It is the sacrificial death of Messiah that has established the means of unity, for it was by His death that the enmity between Jew and Gentile was destroyed.**

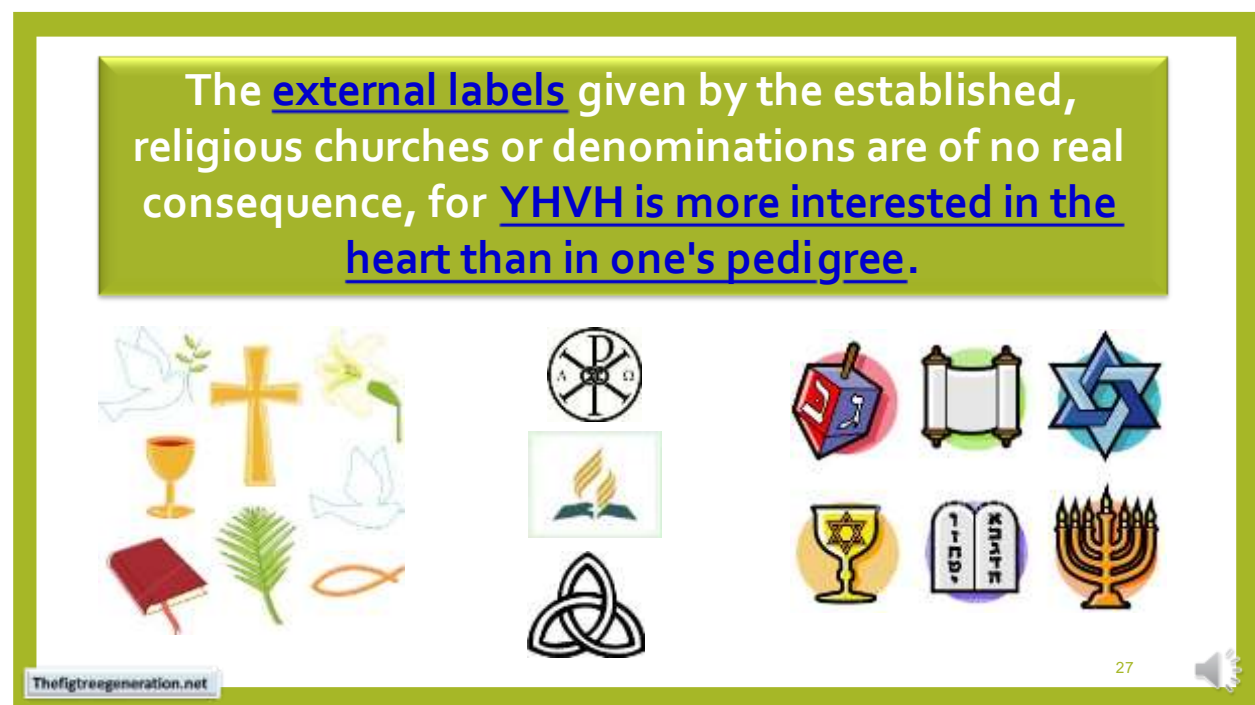
For Paul the sacrifice of Yahusha not only made atonement for sin, but it also established the basis for blessing the Gentiles by removing all the obstacles to unity with the chosen people. Both Jew and Gentile, apart from union with Messiah, are excluded from the blessing of YAH.



Biblical Grace is not only unmerited favor, or mercy, or forgiveness, but a change in the human condition, because of a change in the human heart by YHVH!

Many bible translations and bible scholars explain grace as simply unmerited favor. However, according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the main connotation is, "that grace is that divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in that life." In 21st century language this means, YHVH touches your heart and changes you. When that change is reflected in your life, that's Grace!!

**Grace is not divine permission to sin and do as we want, thinking it's all covered by grace anyway.** If you are going to sin, knowing that you shouldn't, you do not need grace, you need mercy, and forgiveness. Grace is, in fact, a divine power that allows us to think as YHVH thinks. It changes our heart; and it heals our hate, anger, hurt, fear, and betrayal. Grace is the power of Elohim that gives us the desire to live right, and the ability to do so. It gives us the desire and the ability to please YHVH; and point people to Him.



YHVH accepts into His family those whose sins have been forgiven by the death of Messiah. The Gentiles have been **“brought near”** because the dividing wall that prohibited them from coming near has been broken down through the cross. If Elohim the Father has accepted all who come by faith in Yahusha, then clearly the children ought also to accept each other.

Let's look at some other Bible translations of Ephesians 2:14-15, **“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one,**

and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace.” **NASB** (*New American Standard Bible*)

“For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.” *Ephesians 2:14-15* **NIV** (*New International Version*)

“For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace.” *Ephesians 2:14-15* **NRSV** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

“For he is himself our peace. Gentiles and Jews, he has made the two one, and in his own body of flesh and blood has broken down the barrier of enmity which separated them; for he annulled the law with its rules and regulations, so as to create out of the two a single new humanity in himself, thereby making peace.” *Ephesians 2:14-15* **RSV** (*Revised Standard Version*)

“For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m’chitzah which divided us by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the

**two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom.”**  
Ephesians 2:14-15 *[Jewish New Testament]*

Taken at face value, some feel these translations present the text as a pointed assertion by the apostle Paul that Messiah abolished the Mosaic Torah by His sacrificial death, and that the Torah was the instrument of hostility that erected a dividing wall between Jew and Gentile.

Just reading these verses in Eph 2:14-15, you can conclude (as most Christian Churches come to) that the Messiah abolished, and did away with the Law, (or the everlasting Torah) at His death. However, the difficulty with such an interpretation is twofold:

**First**, it contradicts the clear teaching of Yahusha Himself that He did not abolish the written Torah (see Matthew 5:17-18) **and** **Secondly**, the written Torah never demanded a wall between Jew and Gentile!


**The dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles was 100% man-made!**

Ephesians 2:14 is making the plain statement that Yahusha didn't create the wall but he "broke down" the dividing wall.

The Greek term translated "broke down" can mean "to loose," "untie," "set free," "break up," "destroy," "bring to an end," "abolish," or "do away with."

**Notice, the LAST definition is "do away with."**

Contextually, the abolishing action is viewed as final = as a death. Thus, the barrier, whatever that barrier was, is done away with forever.



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Then we have the word “**Katargew**” (katargeo), translated as “**abolished**” describing what Yahusha did to the “enmity” between Jew and Gentile. It usually means “to render void,” “make ineffective,” “powerless,” “abolish,” “wipe out,” or “set aside,” and is used in the context of rendering laws or edicts of no more effect.

That is in verse 15 (Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments, contained in ordinances) for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.

The object of the verb “**to destroy**” is “**the dividing wall of the barrier**” or the “**middle wall of partition!**” BUT WHAT IS THAT DIVIDING WALL?

The Jews had actually a physical wall constructed even in the court of the temple to physically separate out the Gentiles. Yet, spiritually, both were cut off from YHWH because both were sinners. “**All have sinned...**” we read in Romans 3:23.

The **Soreg** is the small wall right before the stairs to go up to the Temple. It was meant to keep Gentiles (non-Jews) away from this most holy place.

The Soreg was a five-foot wall on the Temple Mount that kept the Gentiles away from approaching the Temple itself. The Temple area was considered holy and clean. Gentiles, on the other hand, were considered unrighteous and defiled. Thus, Jews could approach the Temple, Gentiles could not. In A.D. 1871, archeologists discovered the “**Soreg Inscription.**” The inscription was written in Greek with this chilling warning: **No Gentile may enter within the railing around the Sanctuary and within the enclosure. Whosoever should be caught will render himself liable to the death penalty which will inevitably flow.**

Here is a stone block from the original Soreg  
(the Middle Wall) - The Temple Warning to Gentiles!

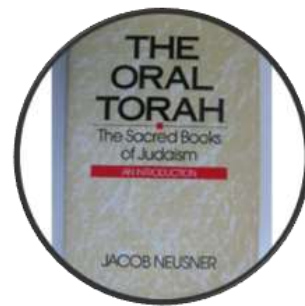


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However, the wall spoken of by Paul in Eph. 2:14 could not be the physical dividing wall made out of stone in the 2nd Temple as some commentators have assumed. Why? Because: (a) it was still standing at the time Paul wrote Ephesians, and (b) the terminology Paul uses to describe the wall is different than the terms regularly used for that dividing wall in the Temple. <torahresource.com>

**Secondly**, the Greek term "fragmo" (fragmos) was used in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to identify the Oral Torah as a "wall" or "fence" around the written Torah, and the Pharisees as "builders of the wall."



**So who was the builder of the dividing wall?**

**It was the Pharisees!**

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Thirdly, **aspects of the Oral Torah**, (not the Written Torah), laid the foundation for a strict separation between Jew and non-Jew. What we are simply saying is that the dividing wall that was abolished by Messiah **was none other than those Rabbinic laws which had enforced a separation between Jew and Gentile in opposition to the Written Torah**. In fact, the Tanakh gives very clear instructions against erecting barriers to separate Israel from the other nations.

**The foreigner who desired to worship the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel was to be welcomed into the community and treated with the same respect as was given the native born.**

**Here are a few texts that support this:**

**"Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, oppress him; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Exo 22:21 (KJV)**

**"Thou shalt not oppress a stranger for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt!" Exodus 23:9 (KJV)**

**"The stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your Elohim." Leviticus 19:34 (KJV)**

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**"And if thy brother be waxen poor and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee." Leviticus 25:35 (KJV)**

**“When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.”**  
Deuteronomy 26:12 (KJV)

The strangers were to be given full participation in matters of Torah and Torah-life. Like Sabbath keeping in Exodus 33:12, **“Six days shalt thou do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.”** KJV

Then we have Leviticus 19:10 when gleaning the land, **“And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the YHVH your Elohim.”** KJV

The same applied to justice in Exodus 12:49, **“One law shall be to him that is home born, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.”** KJV

The same principle applied for the festivals and the worship and prayer times in the temple. **“Thus saith YHVH, Execute ye judgment and righteousness and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.”** Jeremiah 22:3 – KJV

The prophets pronounced judgment upon any who would neglect the divinely given responsibilities to the “stranger,” on the same grounds as neglect of orphans and widows. ....  
This is what the Written Torah – or – what the law of Moses had to say!

The promise that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was spoken of in the Old Testament. YHVH speaking through the prophet Hosea said, **“I will call those who were not my people, ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved, ‘beloved.’ And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, ‘you are not my people,’ there they shall be called sons of the living Elohim.”** Romans 9:25-26 (New American Standard Bible)

**The claim that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was fulfilled through Yahusha!**

John 10:16, **“I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd... I am the good Shepherd.”** (KJV)

**“He made known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He called, not from Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.”** (Romans 9:23-24 - KJV)



The reminder that Gentiles could have access to know, love and treasure YHVH was also re-emphasized through the Apostles. Or, to put it as succinctly as Paul did, **“There is neither Jew nor Greek...’ for you are all one in Messiah.”** (Galatians 3:28 KJV)

The practical outworking of the Rabbinic laws of purity, **raised a strong wall of separation between the observant Jew and the non-Jew even if this was not the original intent.** With the emphasis put upon purity by the Rabbis, separation from those things that rendered a person unclean was inevitable.



When Gentiles were added to the “list” of those things that communicate uncleanness, the wall was built between Jew and Gentile. According to **Oral Torah**, mere contact with non-Jews could render a person unclean, as well as contact with the residence of a non-Jew or even with land outside the Land of Israel.



**These were  
man-made laws.**

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Contact with any object used for idolatrous worship was added to the list of what might render a person unclean. **Clearly, the oral Torah of the 1st Century functioned to separate Jew and Gentile in a dramatic way.**

**“The law of commandments *contained* in ordinances.”**  
Ephesians 2:15

The text in Ephesians helps to define the dividing wall with the appositional phrase “the law of commandments contained in ordinances.” **The question is, “did Paul use this phrase to denote those Rabbinic laws which had, in fact, separated Jew and non-Jew?”**

The first thing to note is that the term **“dogma”** is never used in the Septuagint for any of the commandments, judgments, statutes, or laws of which, according to Genesis 26:5, the total

**Written Torah consists of. In the Septuagint (LXX) “dogma” normally designates the edicts of a king or court.**

LXX = Septuagint – The oldest Greek Version of the Jewish Bible

The word “ordinance” in Ephesians 2:14-15 as well as in Colossians 2:14 is also translated from the Greek word **“dogma” #G1378 from the base of #G1380 a law (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical - decree, ordinance) (Strong’s Concordance).**

The noun ‘dogma’ is found five times in the Apostolic Writings. In Luke 2:1 and Acts 17:7 it is used of Caesar's decrees, while in Acts 16:4 it refers to the Apostolic decree formulated at the Jerusalem council.

Therefore, this phrase according to the Greek (twn patriwn dogmatwn - ton patrion dogmaton) **“the law of commandments contained in ordinances”** is best understood not to refer to the Mosaic Torah but to the **“traditions of the fathers,”** the Halakah of the community.

These man-made ordinances (#G1378) called ‘dogma’ prevented the salvation from extending past the Jews thus creating enmity. This is what was truly **“contrary”** and **“against”** the Gentiles, preventing them from being brothers in Messiah.



So the study of **the word ‘dogma’** in the LXX (the Septuagint) and Apostolic Writings confirms that the term **was used of man-made laws**, and not of the YHVH-given Torah of Sinai.

We may therefore conclude that Paul adds it to his description in order to identify **the abolished law as the legal fence of the Rabbis, particularly the parts of the Oral Torah that separated Jew and Gentile. The result?** They were at odds with the Written Torah that prophesied the unity of Jew and Gentile all within the promise of blessing given to Abraham.

This does not mean that Yahusha abolished the entire Oral Torah in His death on the tree. In fact, there are many instances recorded in the life of Yahusha where He gives clear allegiance to Oral Torah.

We have some examples of this in Matt. 9:14-15. The argument of Yahusha, in which He defends the way His disciples fast, is based upon a recognized Halakah that it is improper to fast in the presence of a bridegroom. **This is not found in the Written Torah.**

Matt. 12:5 - Yahusha states that the priests profane the Sabbath but are innocent. This teaching is not found in the Written Torah, but in the Oral Torah. Halakah means Jewish Law: 2. Halakah originates from the Aramaic word, "hilkheta" (direction of the action) and the Hebrew word "holech" (from the verb "to walk"). 3. We combine the meanings. Hilkheta and Holech give us "Halakah" which means **"This is the way to go."**

In Matt 15:1 the Pharisees are inquiring about the disciples of Yahusha: why do they transgress the traditions of the elders by not washing their hands according to Halakah before eating? Yahusha rebukes them, also citing their use of korban to 'hide' their wealth from aging parents who needed their support. In both cases, it is clear that the Pharisees consider the Halakah, based on Oral Torah, as binding.

Another example is in Matt 22:40 where Yahusha quotes the Shema and Lev 19:18, stating that upon these two precepts hang the Law and Prophets. The terminology of the Law and Prophets hanging from something is derived from Oral Torah. Yahusha knew both the Written and the Oral Torah.

The matter of tithing very small amounts of produce from volunteer seedlings is not taken up in the Written Torah but is part of the Oral Torah. Matthew 23:23



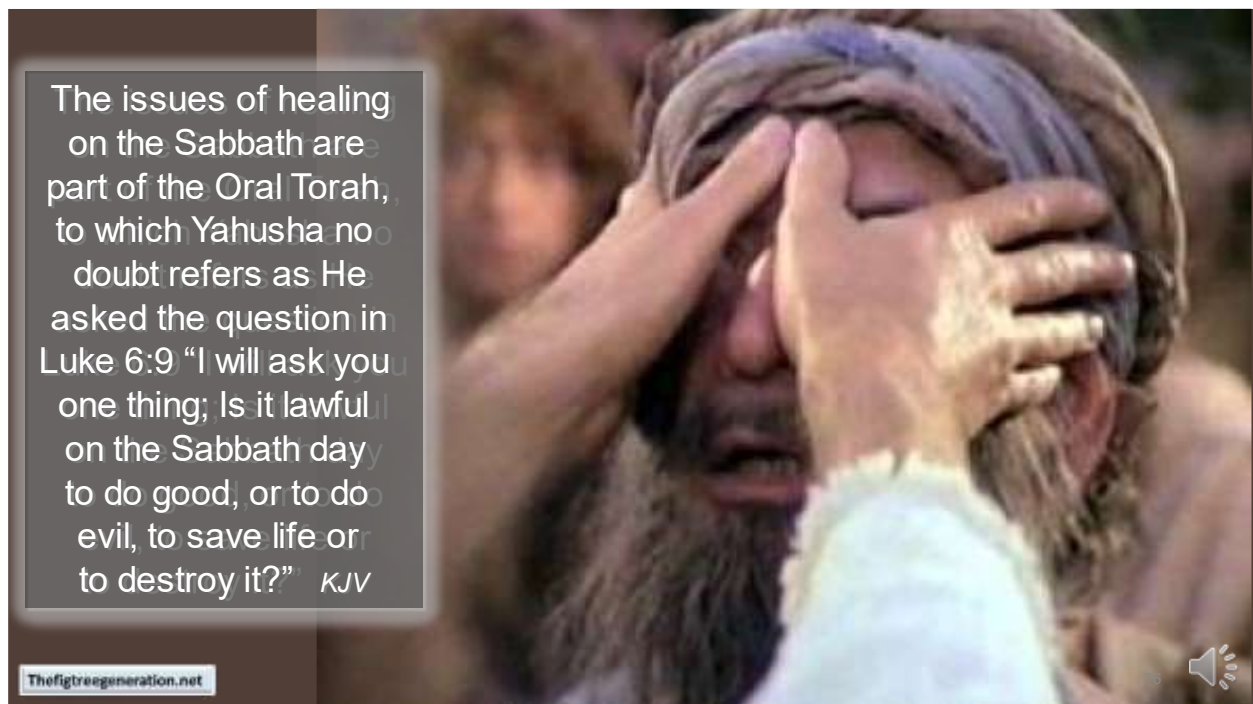
The Written Torah does not define the dimensions of one's "**place.**" It was the Oral Torah that developed, for instance, a "**Sabbath-day's journey.**" Matt 24:20

The Written Torah declares that a person is unclean from a corpse if he touches it or is in the same room with it. (See Numbers 19:11-15.)

## Did the Pharisees corrupt this too?

The Pharisees extended the communication of impurity to any object overshadowed by a corpse (or part of a corpse) or any object whose shadow contacts a corpse or tomb. The Oral Torah further elaborates the means by which impurity is transmitted from a corpse to an object.

It appears that Yahusha accepted at least some of this Oral Torah as grounds for His illustration of the Pharisees, as concealed tombs in Luke 11:44, that rendered those who overshadowed them as unclean.



We probably could recite many more like Matt 26:20 - reclining when eating at the Passover meal, which is not prescribed in the Written Torah.

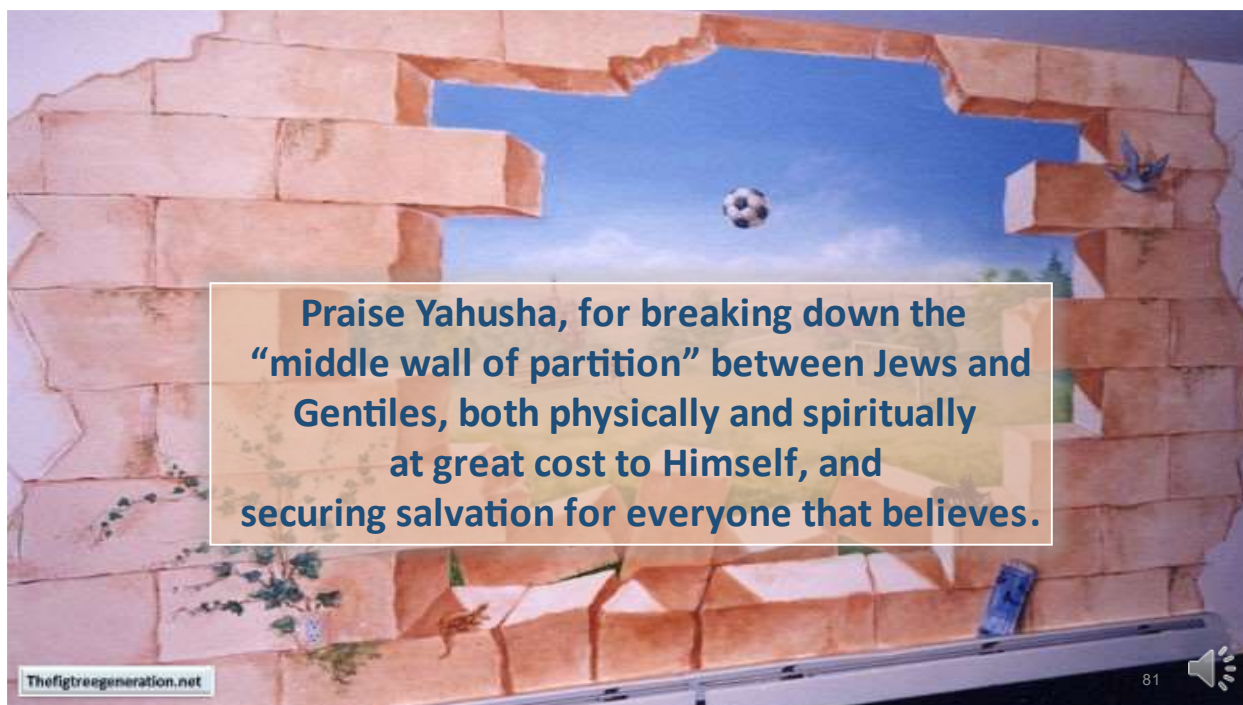


What law was violated in Acts 23:3 when Paul was struck on the mouth? **The idea that a person was innocent until proven guilty is a function of Oral Torah, not Written Torah.**



The only logical conclusion in regard to the Oral Torah, is that **Yahusha** **abolished those Rabbinic laws which, when practiced, set aside the Written Torah of Elohim by separating the Jew and Gentile,** which YHVH intended to make one in Messiah.

**This was the “dividing wall, or the (Rabbinic) law contained in the ordinances (of the Oral Torah).”** But, those parts of the Oral Torah that affirm the Written Torah, or are in harmony with it, remain viable for the Messianic believer as the traditions of the father.



**“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Yahusha Ha Mashiach.” Galatians 3:28 – KJV**

## **Summary!**

The middle wall of partition (the dividing wall)! 1) What is it? 2) Who made it? 3) How was it broken down?

The middle wall of division was the added **“man-made ordinances”** from part of the Oral Torah. This prevented the salvation from extending past the Jews creating enmity. This is what was **“contrary”** and **“against”** the Gentiles, preventing them from being brothers in Messiah.

Paul called these man-made laws **“the law of commandments contained in ordinances!”** The verses in Eph 2:14-15 cannot be referring to the sacrificial laws or any other divine laws.

None of those laws were ever “against us” nor did they create “enmity” but were for the good of the people. **It was these “other man-made laws” that were added and inspired by Satan.**

The Messiah broke down that middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile by spilling His blood on Calvary. He broke down the wall separating both from YHVH.



Let's remember Galatians chapter 3:26-29, **“For you are all the children of Elohim by faith in Yahusha the Mashiyach. For those who have been immersed in Mashiyach have been clothed with Mashiyach. For there is neither Jew nor Aramean, nor slave nor free, nor male nor female, but you are all one in Yahusha the Mashiyach. And if you are of the Mashiyach then you are seeds of Awraham und inheritors by the promises.”**” Aramaic English New Testament

The central theme of Paul in Ephesians 2:14-16 is the oneness of Jew and Gentile as united in Messiah by tearing down the man-

made wall of partition. Paul is **not** saying that the Messiah was doing away with any law, ceremonial or moral. **He is talking about man-made laws! That makes sense!**

## Chapter 8



### This is a teaching addressing the truth about Acts Chapter 15



#### SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS!

Many of us possess the deep-rooted desire to find out the truth about life's purpose, who am I, why am I here? There is much confusion, division, and disagreement especially in religion. Religious people are divided into hundreds of different denominations, wearing different names, worshipping different ways and teaching different doctrines.

Finding the right answer, finding the truth, especially in matters of eternal salvation is a personal responsibility and a Biblical command! In 1 John 4:1 we read, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of YAH: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

It states in Hosea 4:6, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge!"**

If we don't want to be destroyed, it is important to seek the knowledge Hosea is talking about. **We must seek for answers because we have an obligation to look and to search!**



2 Timothy 2:15 has this advice, “**Study to show thyself approved unto Yahuah, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**”

We must dig deep into the Scriptures, starting in Genesis 1:1 and not in the middle of the Bible. Under no circumstances must we be satisfied until we have found our answers directly from the Word of Yahuah!

In Matthew 7:7, “Yahusha promises us by saying: Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.”

**This would prove that we are truly interested to find answers to our questions!**

There are as many different opinions and interpretations in Christianity in reference to Biblical doctrines as there are denominations!



**It is not enough to sit in a church and listen to someone preach a sermon! It is our responsibility to start asking questions and require a “Thus saith YHVH”! NOTHING LESS WILL DO!**

## **OUT MESSAGE TODAY DEALS WITH ACTS CHAPTER 15!**

Again, and again people are trying to use Acts 15 to do away with the Law of Moses, the Torah, specifically the weekly Sabbath, Feast days, dietary laws and other things they don't like or don't want to be accountable for. Are these people right? Is Acts 15 doing away with the Law of Moses, the Torah, the Sabbath, Feast days & dietary laws, etc.?

**Let's find out what Acts Chapter 15 is all about! Let's first consider some background and some history of what led up to this Jerusalem council.**

Let's be very clear: It doesn't matter what others do or believe, but it does matter what Scripture says.  
We are not worshipping people, churches or denominations.  
We are worshipping YHVH, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. YHVH has the final authority and the last word.


**According to the apostles, Gentile believers have been grafted into the family of Israel, brought near to the covenants of promise, and become citizens of the commonwealth of Israel. The dividing wall of partition is removed, and both Jewish and Gentile believers are as one new man, a spiritual temple being built together on Messiah. Together, Jewish believers and Gentile believers create the Israel of Elohim.**

What is the bottom line with Yahuah according to Peter in Acts 10:34-35? What is important? Peter opened his mouth and said,

**“Of a truth I perceive that Elohim is no respecter of persons, but: in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”**

That simply means, that Yahusha is no respecter of persons! He shows no partiality! He shows no favoritism! He makes no difference between Jew and Gentile, free and bond, male and female, neighbors and strangers between friends and enemies!

This truth was not self-evident to the first believers at that time. Some insisted that Gentiles could not be part of Israel and the kingdom or even inherit eternal life unless they underwent conversion and became Jewish after coming to the faith.



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In Acts chapter 15, believers from among the Pharisees charged that the Gentile believers needed to be circumcised and compelled to keep the Torah in order to be saved! They said in Acts 15:5, “...it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

By “circumcision,” they meant legal conversion to Judaism. By “ordering them to keep the Law of Moses,” they meant compelling the Gentiles to keep the Torah (*the Written and Oral Torah*) as Jews.

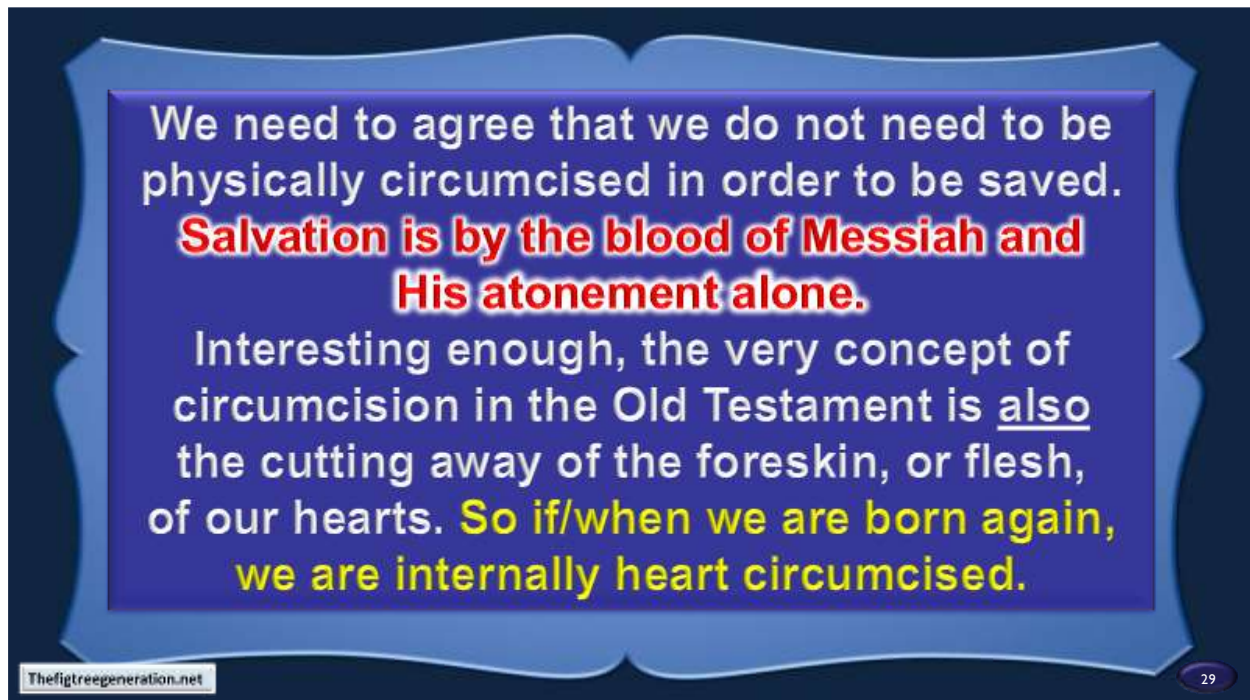
However the Oral Torah was to them even more important than the written one.

THAT WAS A SALVATIONAL ISSUE TO THEM!

We must understand what circumcision meant as a kind of **physical identifying mark** to the Jews of the New Testament times. It simply meant they were part of Israel and Elohim's people - approved and part of the remnant!

Also remember, **during the reign of Antiochus, there was an attempt to force the Jews to not practice circumcision. This caused them to lose their identity as children of Abraham.** It was one of the signs along with the weekly Sabbath and the Passover that they were His people, which were also attacked and forbidden by the Hellenists.

Circumcision was looked upon as the very **sacrament of salvation** much like water baptism for infants and the mass for Catholics.



We need to agree that we do not need to be physically circumcised in order to be saved.  
**Salvation is by the blood of Messiah and His atonement alone.**  
Interesting enough, the very concept of circumcision in the Old Testament is also the cutting away of the foreskin, or flesh, of our hearts. **So if/when we are born again, we are internally heart circumcised.**

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*We find this written in Deuteronomy 10:16, “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart and be no more stiff necked!”*


*This is repeated in Jeremiah 4:4, “Circumcise yourselves to YHVH, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench [it], because of the evil of your doings.”*

The Rabbis made it into a gate, or door, to be a member of YHVH's true people.

By the first century, circumcision took on a national identity mark to Judaism. The believing Jews did not want to lose that identity.

This was not the original intent of circumcision during the time of Abraham or Moses. It was a sign of righteousness that was already accounted to Abraham.

This is Paul's argument in Romans 4:11 saying, “And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith, which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he may be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also.”



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The Bible says in Leviticus 12:2, (NLT) “On the eighth day the boy's foreskin must be circumcised.”



This command is no different than any other YHVH would ask us to do. We don't eat pork, keep Sabbath, or keep the Feasts to be saved. **We keep them after we already have been saved and want to obey His Word because we choose to stop sinning and breaking His commandments.**

When we read Acts 15:21 we are told that after the Holy Spirit gave the directives on the **question that Moses was to be read every Sabbath in the Synagogue.**

The new believers coming into an understanding of the Torah would hear the rest of how they are to live. **There were four stipulations, which are merely the bare minimum they must start doing not so they can be saved, but so they can have fellowship with their brother Judah.**

According to Acts 15:2, it was Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them that went to Jerusalem unto the apostle and elders to get an answer to that question.

Reading Acts 15, the Apostles were gathered in Jerusalem for the express purpose of deciding, which laws the Gentile converts were required to observe once they had been baptized into the body of Messiah!



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We read in the Acts 15:7-8, **“And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago Yahuah made a**

choice among us, that the Gentiles by mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8. And YAH, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us.”

Then verse 9, “And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” **Yahuah Elohim has spoken! Let’s accept it!**

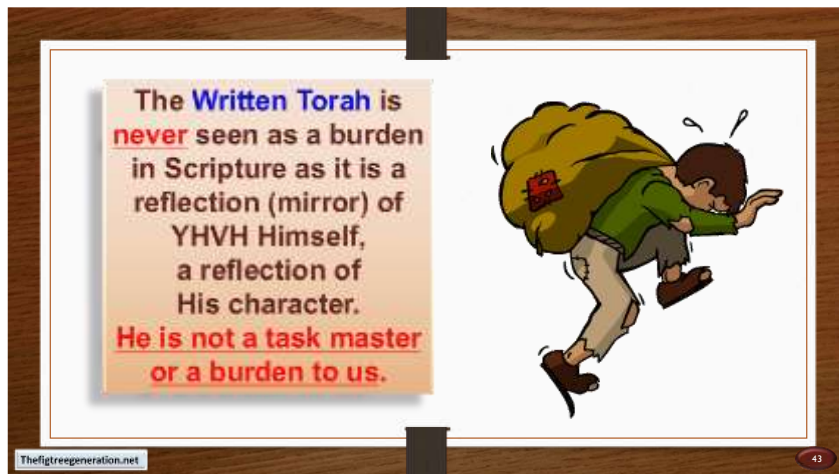
Before we go to verse 11, let’s first look at verse 10, at the idea of putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither their fathers nor they were able to bear? **What are they talking about?**

**10. Now therefore why tempt ye Elohim, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?**

The same thought is brought out in Acts 15:28 when it states 28, “**For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.**”

In verse 10 it talks about a yoke and in verse 28 it talks about a burden, which neither their fathers nor they themselves could bear. **What is this talking about?** Is it talking about the 10 Commandments, the statutes, the judgments, the written Torah?

**The Written Torah given to Moses was never seen as a burden in Scripture.** However, Christian theologians have always taken a dim view of Torah and are glad to dismiss the “Old Testament law” as an unbearable yoke.



*Paul states in Romans 7:12, "The Torah is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good!"*

**Let's look at some additional Bible verses and see what we can find?**

*Matthew 11:29-30*, "Take **my yoke** upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls..." 30. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." **MY BURDEN IS WHAT? IT IS EASY!**

Also see 1 John 5:3, (*NLT*): "**Loving YHVH means keeping His Commandments and His commandments are not burdensome.**" **NOT BURDENSOME!**

*Psalms 119:45 (NLT)*, "I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments."

**"Great peace have they which love thy Torah: and nothing shall offend them."** *Psalms 119:165 KJV*

I am still looking for the burden part or the yoke of bondage! Given this positive view of the Torah and the fact that 1 John 5:3 explicitly says that YAH's commandments are not burdensome, could Peter have referred to the Torah as a yoke "that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?"



**So, what is it talking about in Acts 15, verses 10 and 28?**

Are verses 10 & 28 talking about the Oral Torah? The Oral Torah was a set of man-made laws – an invention by the Jews. This became a system of sacramental

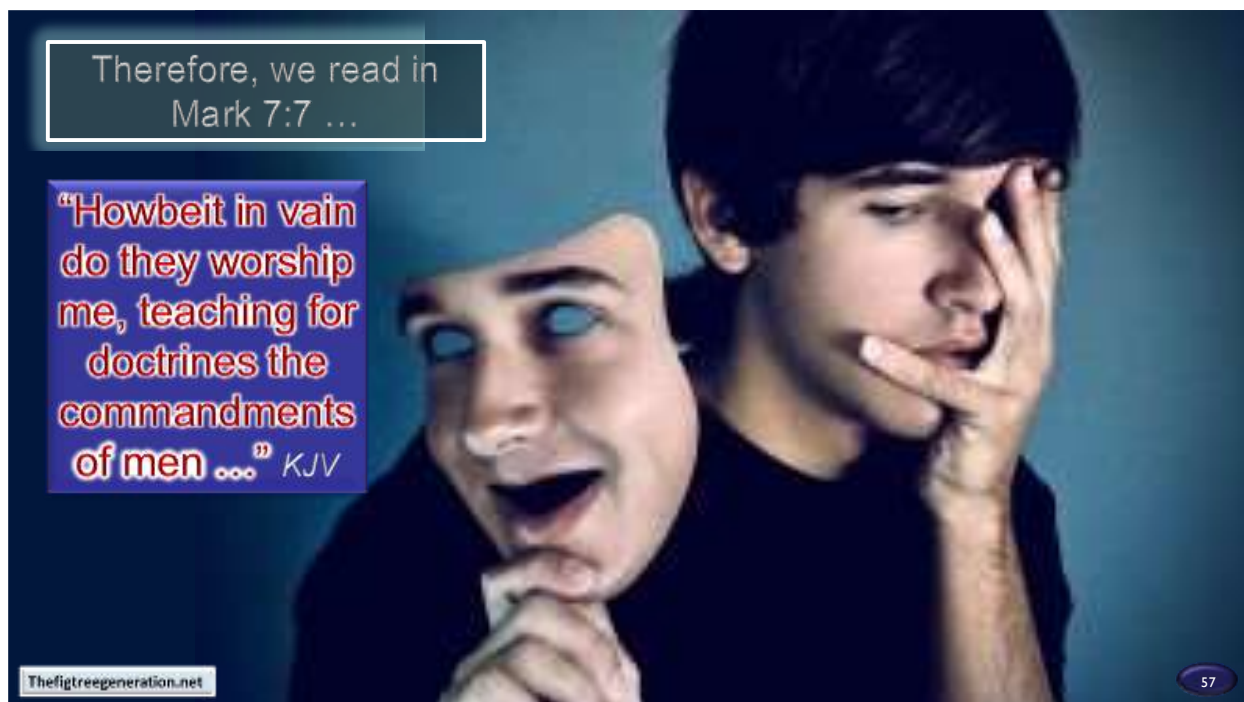
deeds and works (that the people had to jump through) to supposedly get into the Kingdom.

**In the Oral Torah, the Sabbath alone had over 1,000 commandments added to it. Circumcision in the Talmud (and Midrash) is another work (or sacrament) with multitudinous laws added. Even if a command was given only once in Scripture, the Rabbis made it into all kinds of laws that people came to believe were given to Moses. Unfortunately, most people did not have a copy of a Torah scroll and therefore had no idea where Elohim's laws started and then morphed into man's laws. This "burden" had to be the oral traditions, therefore, Peter uses the terms "tempt Elohim" and "yoke of bondage."**

*Here are the words of Yahusha in Matthew 23:13, "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people's faces. You won't go in yourselves, and you don't let others enter either." (New Living Translation)*

**"They crush people with impossible religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden." Matthew 23:4 (NLT)**

**"For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." KJV**



That was the problem that existed then, and it still exists today. Today's Christianity is a mixture of the Torah with customs from Paganism and man-made doctrines and teachings.

At this point let's go to Acts chapter 15:11. (*Restoration Study Bible*), 11 **“But we believe that through the grace of the Sovereign Yahusha Messiah we shall be saved, even as they.”**

**The Apostles were trying to be uniform in their teaching, and in sharing, the love and law of the Messiah with the Gentile converts.**

**Confusion and inconsistency was the last thing the Apostles wanted, or needed, to bring to the delicate faith of the Gentile converts. Uniformity of purpose and doctrinal agreement was the primary purpose for this convention.**

Before I continue, I cannot overemphasize the following facts:



#1 The observance of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath! #2 And the observance of the yearly appointed Feast Days **were not even up for discussion before, during or after the Jerusalem counsel** as it was already “a given” that Israelites (*native born and adopted/Gentile believers*) would always observe the Holy Days of Yahuah.

**I repeat,** It was a given that all Israel, whether native born or adopted, would attend Yahuah’s appointed Holy Days!

The primary law up for debate at that meeting was, **“Is circumcision necessary to be saved?”** The annual feasts, and the weekly Sabbath were not in question as the Apostles all knew that the celebration of the festivals were exactly what Gentiles were “grafted” into according to Romans 11:17-24!

The celebration of Sabbath, and Feast days gave the Gentiles opportunity to associate and learn from the leaders and founders of the Apostolic church who happened to be Hebrews!

If the newly converted Gentiles did not attend and observe the Sabbath, and the annual Feast Days, then they would have little to no opportunity to associate with the very men that brought them the good news of the Messiah in the first Place.

Let’s not forget that some of the natural branches were broken off and the Gentiles, (being a wild Olive Tree), were grafted in among them and with them are partakers of the root and the fatness of the olive tree!

Yahusha said in John 4:22, **“Salvation is of the Jews.”**

*Or Romans 3:2, “Unto them were given the oracles of YAH.”*

*Then we have Romans 11:25 saying, “Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.”*

*Romans 11:28, "As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes." (KJV)*



In Jer. 11:16-17, Israel is called a **"GREEN OLIVE TREE,"** fair, and of goodly fruit, but is warned that for its idolatry its branches shall be broken off. In Rom. 11:17-27 we have the Parable of the **"TWO OLIVE TREES."**

One is called a GOOD Olive Tree, the other WILD Olive Tree. The GOOD Olive Tree represents Israel, the WILD Olive Tree represents the Gentiles. The root of the Good Olive Tree consists of the main root Abraham, the other two are Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

**Israel was not broken off so the Gentiles might be grafted in, but they were broken off because of "UNBELIEF."** The Gentiles were not grafted in that they might supplant or take the place of the branches that had been broken off, but that they, as branches of a **"WILD Olive Tree,"** might be a PARTAKER of the **"root"** and **"fatness"** of the GOOD Olive Tree.

The **"Threefold root"** of the Good Olive Tree was SET-APART, separated, and as the **"root"** was SET-APART so we as the **"branches."** We next read that only **"some,"** (not all), of the branches were broken off.

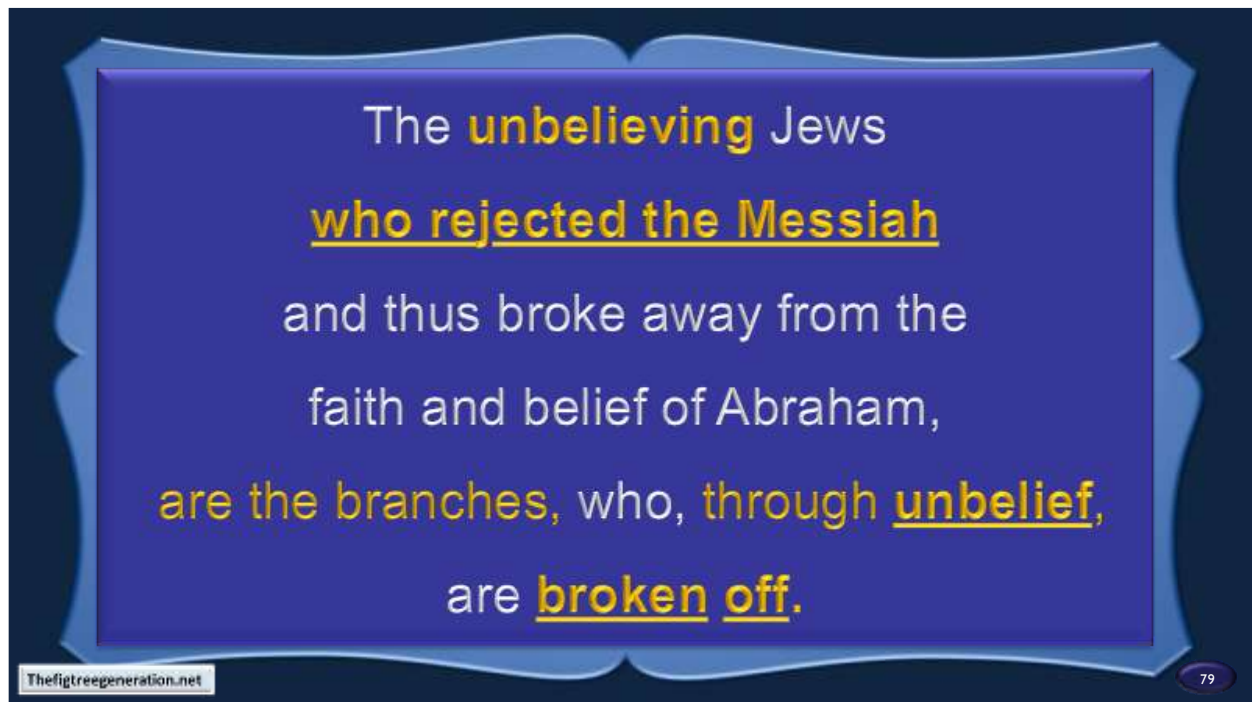
We see from this that the **"GOOD Olive Tree"** is **not** rooted up and destroyed with a **"WILD Olive Tree"** planted in its place. The GOOD Olive Tree remains alive and gives life to both the **"Good"** and **"Wild"** Olive branches.

## THE ROOT IS STILL THERE AND IS WELL!

Those who claim that the "Wild Olive Branches" that are grafted in represent the Christian Church, and that the Church has taken the place of Israel, **must be in error!** WHY?

The "Wild Olive Branches" do not remain on the "Good Olive Tree" when they are unfaithful." The "Wild Olive Branches" will be broken off so that the original branches may be grafted back again.

Jewish and Gentile believers in Messiah are like Abraham's spiritual children and are joint partakers of the "root" and the "fatness" of the "Good Olive Tree," for our Messiah was of the seed of Abraham.



In grafting, **the practice is** to graft the "**Good**" Olive Branch on the "**Wild**" Olive tree to improve the fruit of the "Wild" Olive. **If the "Wild" Olive is grafted on the "Good" Olive the effect is the reverse, and the "Good" Olive will run to wildness.**

**So, Paul knew what he was talking about when he said that the grafting of the "Wild" Olive branch on the "Good" Olive Tree was **"CONTRARY TO NATURE."** In nature, one puts a good branch on the bad tree and not a bad one on a good tree!**

From this we see that the injection of Paganism into Judaism is not beneficial to Judaism. Paganism (the wild Olive branches) must be removed or cut off from the "Good" Olive Tree and be replaced by the grafting back again of the "Natural Branches." (Romans 11:21)

By Paganism, we mean that part of the Gentile world now known as Christianity, or the professing Church, as described in the parables of Matthew 13. It is the Laodicean part that YHVH says He will "SPUE OUT OF HIS MOUTH" (Rev. 3:16). Yahuah will remove these "Wild" Olive branches from the "Good" Olive Tree. Why? Because all true believers who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, will make up the true Assembly (or the "Body of Messiah"). They are the ones that belong to the "Spiritual Israel" of Yahuah. **They are the ones that cannot be displaced.**

Today we are witnessing the Apostasy of the "Wild Olive Branches" by the professing Christian Church. Soon they will be "cut off," and then the BLINDNESS shall be removed from Israel, and the "Natural Branches" will be grafted back again.

This Parable teaches us that we are not to look upon the unbelieving Jew as a cast-off and withered branch only fit for firewood. **We are to consider that his "casting away" as well as his "blindness" is only temporary, and that some will again take up their position as believers among the nations of the earth.**

**Scripture does acknowledge "the Way" as the "Living Word of YHVH, HIS Torah!" That should be our way; and it is certainly what Yahusha taught while on earth. He did not teach any non-Torah beliefs of Christianity as we know it today!**

**Yahusha never taught us anything about Sunday, Easter, Christmas, St Valentine's Day, St Patrick's day, popes, nuns, holy water, sacraments, or any separation of His Church into a "priesthood" and "laity"!**

**We are all priests on level ground with one another, and HE is our High Priest!**

**If you are studying something, and embrace it as a way of living shouldn't you search it out completely and find where its roots lead?**



**Christianity is a religion without Hebrew roots, mainly Greco – Latin. Christianity could be called a usurper. Remember Esau and his Edomite descendants - they were usurpers seeking to steal the birthright and promises that were only**



given to Israel, the over comers. This is what is at the heart of Replacement Theology. **Today's Christianity, therefore, is like Esau and the Edomites. They modify the Covenant and still want to claim the promises made to Israel the Overcomers. Some also call Christianity the Synagogue of Satan!** These are strong words, but they do contain truth.

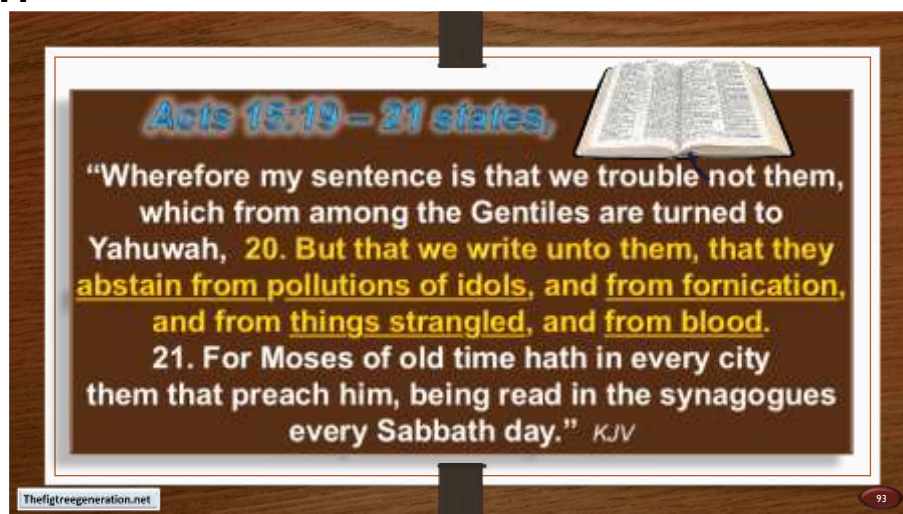
The new Jerusalem will have 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel engraved therein!

**Why wasn't there at least one gate called "Christians?" Or specifically Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, or Baptists etc.?**

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, only those who are sealed, will enter those gates!**

**We must become spiritual Israelites in order to be allowed to go through one of these gates!**

Let's go back to Acts chapter 15! **What was the decision of the Apostles (who were gathered in Jerusalem), for the Jerusalem Council?**



These four things are being repeated again in Verse 29, “**That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.**” *KJV*

“**That you abstain from what is offered to idols, and blood, and what is strangled, and whoring. If you keep yourselves from these, you shall do well. Be strong!**” *The Scriptures*

We should point out that the word “meats” is not in the original sentence at all, but “**apechomai**” meaning “abstain” and “**eidolothuton**” meaning “idol/sacrifice/service/offering.”

This would include a great deal of changes, such as participating in ANY pattern of Pagan idol servitude; going to a party and lifting a cup to toast “the gods,” or celebrating on a day that is only derived from a Pagan background (such as Saturnalia = Christmas) – even if it had been “cleansed” and turned into another meaning. That would also include the offering of “meat” to an idol.

**Just a note:** Under the influence of the Ruach Ha Kodesh, **the laws** that the Apostolic counsel decided to strictly enforce upon the Gentile believers are nowhere to be found in the Ten Commandments but rather, **are found in the statutes**, which of course explain the Ten Commandments. (See Lev 3:17; Lev 19:26 and Lev Ch 18.)

To take these verses as is, (without understanding the context and what the Gentiles were used to doing) and then claim that people born out of the Covenant may do whatever they wish except for these four things, is misinterpreting Scripture!

If this were the case, it would mean that former Gentiles (*who have become fellow citizens of Israel through the Everlasting Covenant*) could covet, lie, misuse YHVH’s Name, ignore the Sabbath, and

the Feast days and also dishonor their parents, and still be fine with Yahuah in a saving relationship with HIM.



The question is WHY these (4) prohibitions?

Someone said: **"The requirements ... were primarily practical social requirements for fellowship between Jewish and Gentile believers. A Gentile who did not immediately observe all four prohibitions would so offend his Jewish brothers in the faith that a spirit of community would never be able to develop.** These changes in the Gentile's behavior were necessary in order to gain acceptance into the Jewish congregations so that they could, eventually, learn the Torah and live it out."

The four prohibitions were not to become the only Torah standards by which all people everywhere would be bound for all time. This is evident in the conjunction **"For Moses"** of verse 21 as we have seen in previous slides. Since the context of this verse pertains to the public readings of the Torah in the synagogues on every

Sabbath, the Jerusalem Council thought it good to immediately bind the Gentiles “**turning**” to Yahuah with the understanding that they would be attending synagogues with the Jews on the weekly Sabbath.

**Why would the Council want this? The answer is obvious!**

So that the Yah-fearing Gentiles, now grafted into Israel, could **learn the Torah, do the Torah, and live righteously** as empowered by the indwelling of the Ruach Ha Kodesh.



This is apparent in Paul's writings of  
2 Tim 3:16-17.

**“All scripture (is) given by  
inspiration of YAH, and (is)  
profitable for doctrine, for reproof,  
for correction, for instruction in  
righteousness: That the man of YAH  
may be perfect, thoroughly  
equipped for every good work.”**

There are not two Torahs – one for the Jew and one for the Gentile. There are not two laws! There are not two ways of salvation. Only under one name is a person saved – Yahusha our Messiah. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, neither His ways nor His Instructions change. The beloved apostle says in 1 John 2:5, **“Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”**

*Then He states in 1 John 2:6* **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked!”**

**The Word of YHVH became flesh and walked among us as a Rabbi and a Torah-keeping Hebrew . He ascended into heaven as a Torah-keeping Hebrew / Jew and He will return to earth as a Torah-keeping Hebrew / Jew.**



During the last 2,000 years, people have looked at Scripture with ignorance and often through anti-Semitic lenses. Especially Christians have missed the point of Acts 15:19-21.

**These verses come to teach all who want to draw close to the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Isarrel to learn that salvation is wrought through faith in Yahusha alone. Further instruction comes by associating with like believers in the everlasting Covenant, who can continue to instruct them, (as Paul, James, Peter, John, and others did), in the ways of righteousness – the royal Torah of YHVH. Thankfully, the scribes of Judah did preserve the oracles of Elohim, (the Torah according to Romans 3:2) to be read and taught every Sabbath!**

After stopping their idolatrous style of living, the next step for these who were “turning” to YHVH was to hear the instructions that are being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day. We read about that in Acts 15:21, **“For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day.”**

**Isn't amazing that most of Christianity misses this blatant reference to the weekly Sabbath, and the yearly Feast days?**

The gentile converts were not required to get circumcised in order to be saved **but they were expected to learn and to study the Torah of Moses every Sabbath day!**

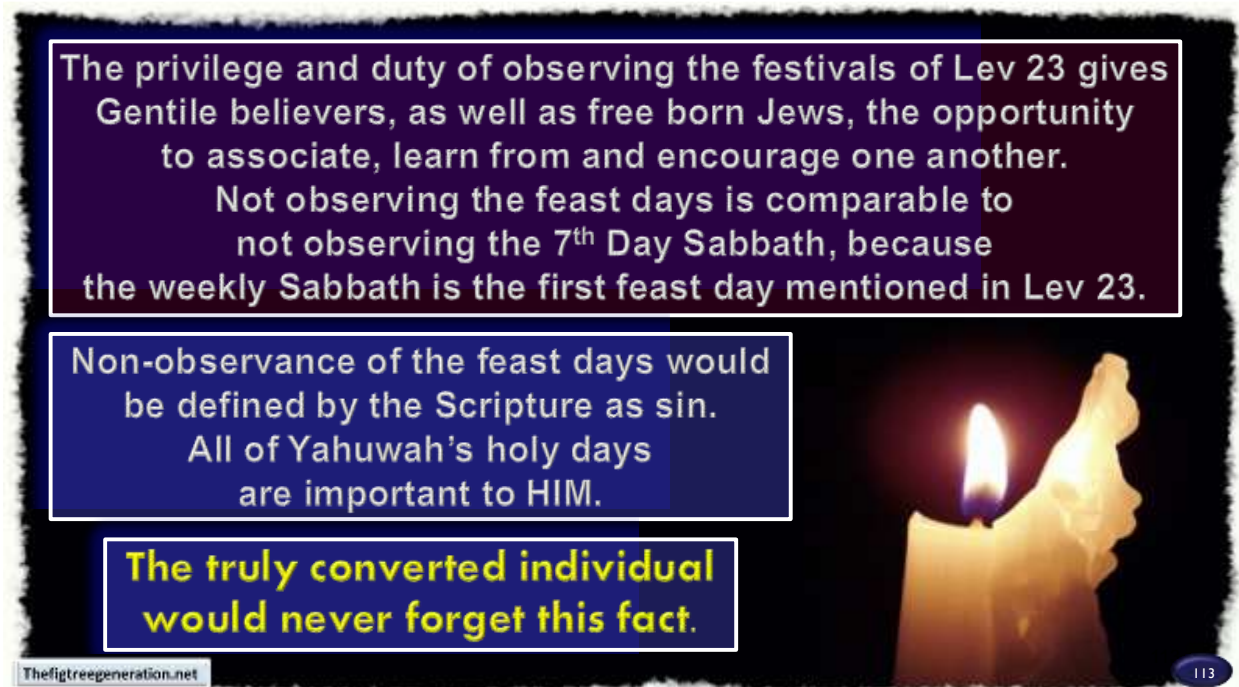
**Circumcision was/is an option but not a requirement for salvation!**

When the apostles convened in Jerusalem, they never in their wildest imagination dreamed that Christians some 2,000 years later



would attempt to use their meeting as an excuse (or justification) for NOT observing the weekly Sabbath, and the Annual Feast Days!

The apostles would cringe, if they knew how Christianity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century abuses and twists this passage of Scripture to excuse their ignorance of, and disdain for, the observance of the Sabbath, and Feast days.



The privilege and duty of observing the festivals of Lev 23 gives Gentile believers, as well as free born Jews, the opportunity to associate, learn from and encourage one another.

Not observing the feast days is comparable to not observing the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath, because the weekly Sabbath is the first feast day mentioned in Lev 23.

Non-observance of the feast days would be defined by the Scripture as sin.

All of Yahuwah's holy days are important to HIM.

**The truly converted individual would never forget this fact.**

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Read Leviticus 23 and you will see that these holy convocations are all about worshipping our Creator!

These are His invitations! Not only that but they are all important to YHVH and His true Disciples. His followers will live in a way that shows enthusiasm and excitement for the opportunity to gather during these holy, festive occasions to meet with their Creator and Savior.

Yahuah longs for modern Christians to purposefully clear away the rubble and debris of anti-Semitism and Replacement Theology from artifacts like Acts 15 and other passages like them. This “rubble” abrogates and destroys the Torah including the weekly Sabbath, the feast days, etc. May they seek to understand and interpret these scriptural teachings within their proper setting, the Everlasting Covenant.

*Believers should consider our Master's warning in Matthew 5:17-18*

**“Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Torah until all is accomplished.”**

**FULFILLED**

The Ten Commandments

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With these words in mind how could people ever accuse Paul, Peter, or the Jerusalem Council of doing away with the Torah, with the weekly Sabbath, and the yearly appointed Times?

Open my eyes  
that I may behold  
wonderful things  
from Your law

Psalm 119:18



It is time people mature past the days of Acts 15 and seek to study the Torah, petitioning YHVH as did King David.

**MAY THIS BE OUR LONGING AND DESIRE, SHALOM!**

## Chapter 9



This is a teaching which is addressing Yahuah's Feast in Colossians Chapter 2!

Scripture says: **"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."**

*1Thessalonians 5:21*

Having put  
an end  
to the  
handwriting  
of the law  
which was  
against us,  
taking it  
out of the way  
by nailing it  
to His cross.  
Colossians 2:14

**What about Colossians 2:14-17?** Are the yearly feast days still binding for Christians today? Does the Creator allow Man to choose his own religious festivals according to his discretion?

Doesn't Colossians 2:14-17 clearly state that YHVH's yearly appointed times (*feast days*) were abolished at the cross?

### Let's look at Colossians Chapter 2 a little closer!

This presentation is dedicated to the second chapter of Colossians, verses 14-17. We will also investigate various Bible translations.

Why? Because honesty requires that we examine several translations of this text. First the question: Could Colossians be one of the letters Peter is talking about in 2 Peter 3:15-17, where it says: **"And account that the longsuffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."** KJV



**Paul** was a Scholar! **Peter** was a simple fisherman! We can understand Peter's concern. Some things that Paul wrote are very difficult to understand. Paul was a Pharisee; he knew and understood the Hebrew Scriptures back and forth.

Before the Council, Paul stated in Acts 23:6, **"I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee."**

Peter was a simple fisherman on the other hand. And like most people today that are not so familiar with the Scriptures, Peter was no Scholar of the Old Testament Scriptures. There are many things in the Bible, that are not very familiar to us and sometimes some things do not make sense.

For that reason, we must read Paul's writings very carefully and not take them out of context and twist them **to our own destruction**. How can we make sure that we do not twist Paul's writings?

We must **copy** the assembly of Berea (*Acts 17:10-22*) in that we daily search the Scriptures in order **to know if the teachings of Paul agree with Scripture**. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA?

What Scripture did he research? **Was it the New Testament?**  
**No, because that was not written yet.**

They compared everything with the so-called Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures, the Torah, the Prophets and the Psalmss.

**If the teachings of Paul would have not agreed with those, they would have rejected his messages.**

SHOULD WE DO THE SAME TODAY? **Absolutely!** It is even more important today to prove everything. The Bible does not

contradict itself, for that reason we must check out Paul's writings and every other preacher, including Ellen G White for SDA's. We must compare them with **the Torah. That is our personal responsibility and our duty.**

Yahusha gives the same warning! He states in Matthew 24:4, **"Take heed, that no man deceive you."**

SOMEONE IS OUT TO DECEIVE US! Peter stated clearly in 1 Peter 5:8 exactly who this "someone" is, **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."**

2Corinthians 11:14, **"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."**

*That is why we are commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5: 21 to*  
**"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good!"**

In 1 John 4:1 we are told to try the spirits, **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God (Elohim); because many false prophets are gone out into the world."**

Let's remember, the Scripture is the test of all doctrines, **only by it**, beginning in Genesis 1:1 we can know what truth is and what is not!

**Now the question: are you also confused about Colossians 2:14-17?**



Are the yearly feast days  
still binding for  
Christians today?

Doesn't Colossians 2:13-17  
make it clear that the feast days  
ended at the cross?

Colossians is one of the letters over  
which most Christians fall **to their  
own destruction**, like Peter said.



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*Let us read Colossians 2, starting in verse 13 to 17 in the KJV,*

**13** And you, being dead in your sins, and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.** **15** And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. **16** Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new month or of the Sabbath days. **17** Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Messiah."



What was nailed to the cross? **It depends on who you ask and which Bible translation one reads!**

Many read various translations and come to various conclusions! This is sad, but it is true!

In order to find out the truth, one must go back to the original Hebrew Scriptures, because **YHVH wrote only one Bible**.

Most Christians claim that the sentence in the KJV, **“Handwriting of ordinances”** that **“was against us, which was contrary to us”** refers to the law of Moses. Therefore, most conclude that the whole law, or part of it, ended at the cross, therefore claiming **these laws are no longer valid for Christians. That was verse 14.** We will talk about that later.

Here are some examples of statements from other churches in reference to Colossians 2:16 and the following question, **“Are the 10 Commandments abolished?”** Here is their answer, **“Jesus removed the ordinances, so, we need not keep the laws regarding foods, holy days, or the *Sabbath* (Col. 2:16). But the Sabbath was one of the Ten Commandments, hence, all the Old Testament laws were removed, including the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath.”**

- Gospelway.com – “Old Testament Laws”

## **IS THAT CORRECT?**

**An important explanation must be inserted here,** If we understand that we are dealing with two different Messiahs, we know that it is the Greek Christian Jesus, (or the false messiah), who claims that the 10 Commandments are no longer binding for Christianity. However, the Hebrew Messiah by the name of Yahusha did not do away with any Commandments and Statutes in the blood ratified everlasting covenant! They are still binding for His followers as long as time should last.

**Here is another example: Question: Was the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath abolished? Bible.ca – “Sabbath Keepers refuted”**

*“The Sabbath commandment was stated to be abolished in Col 2:14-16.*

*This means that under the New Covenant law, 9 of the 10 Commandments have been carried forward and one is abolished.”*



**This Christian church comes to the same conclusion!**

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## **BUT ARE THEY CORRECT?**

Now another denomination comes along, and they have a different opinion regarding Colossians 2:16!

They state in their Bible Commentary, **“Sabbath days cannot refer to the weekly Sabbath, designated by the fourth commandment, but must indicate the ceremonial rest days.”**

**Is that correct? Are they right?**

The correct answer can be found only in Scripture! Remember also, that YHVH is not the author of confusion, someone else is!


When we read Paul's letters, we should remember, that he was a student of the Old Testament Scriptures. Paul was a rabbi, a scribe who knew the Old Testament in and out.

Paul was a Jew of Jews, a Pharisee of the Pharisees. Paul was a student of the Old Testament Scriptures. The OT was his primary point of reference for religious studies and teaching. The New Testament was NOT written yet.

*My question is:* "Where did Paul get this terminology holyday or of the new ~~moon~~ (new month), or of the Sabbath [days] from?"

There are **several places** in the Scripture where we find this terminology. The following passages will explain exactly where Paul learned this terminology.

**Note: the term "new moon" has been incorrectly translated. "New month" is the correct term.**



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Here is the sequence: (Note: words in parenthesis are added.)

- Feasts or feast days (yearly)
- New Moons [new months] (monthly)
- Sabbaths (weekly)

Here are the Bible texts where Paul must have received this terminology:

## #1. 2 Chronicles 2:4



"Behold, I build an house to the name of YHVH my Elohim, to dedicate [it] to him, [and] to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual showbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on *the Sabbaths* (weekly), and on *the new moons* [new month's] (monthly), and on *the solemn feasts* (annually) of YHVH our Elohim. This *is an ordinance* for ever to Israel."

#2. 2 Chronicles 8:13

"Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on *the Sabbaths* (weekly), and on *the new moons* [new months] (monthly), and on *the solemn feasts* (annually), three times in the year, [even] in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles."

#3. 2 Chronicles 31:3

"[He appointed] also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, [to wit], for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for *the Sabbaths* (weekly), and for *the new moons* [new months] (monthly), and for *the set feasts* (annually), as [it is] written in the law of YHVH. "



#4. Nehemiah 10:33

**"For the showbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of *the Sabbaths*, (weekly) of *the new moons* [*new months*], (monthly) for *the set feasts*, (yearly) and for the holy [things], and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and [for] all the work of the house of our God (*Elohim*)."**

#5. Ezekiel 45:17

**"And it shall be the prince's part [to give] burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in *the feasts* (annually), and in *the new moons* [*new months*] (monthly), and in *the Sabbaths* (weekly), in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel."**

These weekly, monthly, and annually set-apart times are HIS appointments. These are **NOT** Jewish or man-made dates! **The Creator invites us**; we do not invite HIM.


What must be the logical conclusion when looking at these Old Testament verses, we just saw? **The same principle must be applied to Colossians 2:16, because Colossians 2:16 speaks**

about the yearly, monthly, and weekly appointments - not the yearly, monthly and yearly appointments.

Did Paul needlessly repeat himself?  
Did he know what he was saying?

*Or did he have this in mind?*

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat,  
or in drink, or in respect of a y early  
ceremonial Sabbath, or of the new month,  
or of the y early ceremonial Sabbaths" ...??  
*(Colossians 2:16, NRPV)*



We need to ask the question, "What version is the NRPV?"

NRPV = Needlessly Repetitive Paul's Version

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Don't laugh! This is not funny, because this it is exactly what many denominations believe and teach their people (including Sabbath-keeping churches).

However, some Scholars don't go along with that teaching because they do agree that the 7th day Sabbath is the intent of Paul's statement.

HERE IS THE PROOF:

**"... When Paul here refers to 'Sabbaths', if he meant the ceremonial (annual) Sabbaths, he was needlessly repeating himself."** *Ministry Magazine, May 1997;*  
*Dr. Richardson, Andrews University.*

**Let's read Colossians 2:16 again:**

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink,  
or in respect of an

- **Holiday** (*yearly*) or
- **New Moon/New Month** (*monthly*) or
- **Sabbath days** (*weekly*).”

We see here the same sequence as yearly, monthly  
and weekly as in all the other previous examples.

Therefore, the word Sabbath in Colossians 2:16 refers **solely** to the weekly Sabbath and not to any yearly Sabbath as some theologians are teaching.

IS THAT CORRECT OR NOT?

In this verse Paul is talking about:

- ***Annual times of worship***
- ***Monthly times of worship***
- ***Weekly times of worship***

All three types of holy days stand or fall together. **We cannot pick and choose!**

**People that attempt to do away with the feast days, or the appointed times (or the appointed times), by their misuse of Colossians 2:16 may be sincere, but unfortunately, they are also absolutely ignorant of the true meaning of this passage!**

Again, the words “Sabbath days” in Colossians 2:16 refers without question to **only the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath!**

The word “Sabbath days” is found in the New Testament (KJV) nine (9) times. Every single time it refers to the weekly Sabbath including Colossians 2:16.

**Sabbath “Days”**

Holy days, New Months, or of the Sabbath “days” ...

By the way, the word “days”  
was not in the original text.

It simply reads:  
“Holy days, or of the New Months,  
or of the Sabbath.”

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Let’s examine the first eight (8) Bible texts.

### **#1 Matthew 12:5**

“Or have ye not read in the Torah, how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?”

**Note:** “Sabbath days” is G4521 “Sabbaton” which is the same as H7676 – a day of weekly repose.

### **#2 Matthew 12:10 - #3 Matthew 12:12**

Matt 12:10 “And behold, there was a man which had [his] hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the **Sabbath days** (G4521)? that they might accuse him.”



**Matt 12:12**, "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days (G4521)."

**#4 Mark 3:4 - #5 Luke 4:31**

**Mark 3:4** "And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days (G4521), or to do evil? To save life, or to kill? But they held their peace."

**Luke 4:31** "And came down to Capernaum, city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days (G4521)."

**#6 Luke 6:2 - #7 Luke 6:9**

**Luke 6:2** "And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the Sabbath days (G4521)?"

**Luke 6:9** "Then said Yahusha unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath days (G4521) to do good, or to do evil ...?"



**#8 Acts 17:2**

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days (G4521) reasoned with them out of the Scriptures."

**Now we go to #9: Colossians 2:16 ~**

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday (yearly), or of the new month (monthly), or of the Sabbath (G4521 - weekly) [days]:"

**Now the question remains ...**



Why do people, including Sabbath-keeping churches, use a different rule for Col 2:16 than in all of the foregoing Bible verses?

### **WHY NOT BE CONSISTENT?**

**The only reason seems to be, that they are trying to prove with this one text that the yearly feasts of YHVH (including the New Moons -[months]) have been nailed to the cross and are no longer binding.**

In order to be consistent with the rest of the New Testament, Col 2:16 refers to only the weekly Sabbath, never to the yearly Sabbaths!

Any other interpretation is contrary to the uniform usage of the word Sabbath in the New Testament.

Textually and contextually, “Sabbath Days” in Col 2:16 refers to only the Weekly Seventh-day Sabbath.

In the New Testament, there is basically no debate among many theologians that the weekly “Sabbath days” is found many times and understood exactly as the weekly Shabbat.

Why do some theologians insist Colossians 2:16 cannot refer to the weekly Sabbath?

In fact, the majority of Bible Commentaries known to man come to the same conclusion that the Greek word Sabbaton in Col 2:16 also refers to the weekly Sabbath – **EXCEPT ... EXCEPT – the SDA Bible Commentary!**

This commentary states these “**Sabbath days**” positively refer to the annual Festival Sabbaths because of the phrase in vs 17 referring to “**shadow of things to come.**”

**This cannot be, as the word “holyday” refers to the annual festivals – not the weekly “Sabbath.”**

**Is it possible that added word "days" is the problem?**

When this added word is removed, the context of the verse changes to:

**"an holyday** [annual festival Sabbath],  
**or of the new ~~moon~~ month, or of the** [weekly] **Sabbath."**

**Why would this make a difference?**

Because, IF the verse talked about [annual] holydays and [annual] Sabbaths, this is needless redundancy.

**Remember the "bundles" in the Old Testament included the: 1) annual holy days; 2) new month; 3) and weekly Sabbath.**

**Colossians 2 follows the same pattern!**

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Is that strange? Notice Paul's words again: "So, let no one (or anyone) judge you in food or in drink, or regarding [*Greek meros, meaning 'part,' or 'regarding any portion of'*] a festival or a new month or Sabbath, but the body of Messiah, which is the Church." *Colossians 2:16*

**DOES IT MAKE SENSE? Colossians 2:16-17 abolishes neither the weekly Sabbath nor the New Month nor the yearly divine appointments. In fact, Colossians is the strongest proof of the entire Bible that the yearly festivals are still valid for Yahuah's people.**

**Let's put Paul's words in plainer English!**

"Don't let **ANY ONE** judge you in food or in drink, **or regarding any part of a festival** or a new month or Sabbath, but only the Church (*the body of Messiah*)."  
*Col 2:16*


First, “**anyone**” means **anyone**, like friends, relatives, church members, priests, preachers, civil rulers, or anyone else that tries to judge us.

Secondly, the word that has been translated as “regarding” or “in respect” of an holy day is the Greek word “meros.”

That word “**meros**” comes from an obsolete but more primary form of μέρομαι - meiomai (**to get as a section or allotment**); a division or share (literally or figuratively, in a wide application): - behalf, coast, course, craft, particular (+ -ly), part (+ -ly), piece, portion, respect, side, some sort (-what).

Here is a better version of this verse:

“Allow no one (*no man, whoever he is*) regarding any details of how you (*or dictate to you how to*) keep the feasts, to confuse or to judge you, **but only the assembly, the congregation of Yahusha can do that.**



The question was not, **if** they should keep the feasts, but **how** they should keep the feasts.

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Remember, if we try to prove with Colossians 2:16 that the yearly feast days were nailed to the cross, then these verses are **also** definitely nailing the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath to the cross! **We all know this must be utterly false!!**

**Colossians 2:16 does not nail the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath, nor the yearly appointments to the tree!**

## IT IS THAT SIMPLE!

**The Colossians were converts from paganism.** How did they even know about the feast days, the first day of the new months, the Sabbaths or the health laws, unless Paul was teaching them these things from Scripture. Why would he suddenly preach the opposite? **How would he preach against something, that he himself was keeping?** (Acts 16:13; 20:1-5, 16; 1 Cor 5:6-8; Acts 24:14 and 28:17)

Does it make sense? Would Paul, who knew the OLD Testament, preach against Moses or against the Torah? **If yes, would he have been a false prophet according to Deuteronomy 14:1-5?**

Does that make sense? Something does not fit! Again, either all is abolished, or nothing is. We cannot pick and choose!

Is it possible to teach that the yearly feast days were abolished by the words: "Let no man therefore judge you" **and at the same moment try to hold fast to the food laws and the weekly Sabbath?**

**LET'S GO ONE STEP FURTHER!**

**What was really nailed to the cross?**



Let's look at Colossians 2:14

**"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."**



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The entire Christian world seems in agreement that Colossians 2:14 must talk about **the law** that was nailed to His cross. Some believe the Torah was abolished and some even believe the same about the 10 Commandments, or ... at least that ONE of the 10 Commands is no longer valid.

Some try to divide the law into two parts: the Moral Law and the Ceremonial Law. However, the words “Moral Law” or “Ceremonial Law” do not appear in Scripture!

**How do we get the idea that Colossians 2:14 is nailing the law (Torah) to the cross?**

Many believe Moses wrote the law on paper, in a book, and placed it in the side of the Ark (which is true for one of the books)! Next, they assume that “book of laws” most certainly included the feasts and festivals that were connected to many “ceremonies” like the sacrificial laws. All laws connected to ceremonies were simply abolished at the tree (cross).



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In other words: they have some important facts totally mixed up! It is the Moral Law that was first written in the everlasting Book of the Covenant that includes the Feasts & Festivals. Yahuah then engraved those same words onto tablets of Stone – insuring they would be permanent and everlasting!

**ON THE OTHER HAND: The Ceremonial Law was only written on paper and called he Book of the Law. It was only temporary!**



- ⊙ Some Sabbath keepers claim, that since the 10 Commandments (or Moral Law written on stone), cannot be nailed to the cross,
- ⊙ It must be the ceremonial laws, written in a book, that are nailed to the cross.
- ⊙ Their reasoning is: this saves the Seventh-day Sabbath (which is part of the 10 Commandments) from being done away with.
- ⊙ Is that reasoning correct even though some of the information is correct?

The problem with this theory is:

- ⊙ the grammar is ignored.
- ⊙ the linguistics is ignored.
- ⊙ the context is ignored.
- ⊙ the Greek is ignored.
- ⊙ the Bible is ignored.
- ⊙ All in the favor of a theological assumption!

What are the consequences of this kind of reasoning?

- ⊙ These theological assumptions blind many from the reality of the linguistics and the literal meaning of this text.
- ⊙ Many will not be able to accept the clear letter of Scripture.
- ⊙ This leads many Sunday keepers to say things like:  
**“Logic has never been a strong point with Seventh-day Adventists!” - Bible.ca**

**Everyone needs sound, logical arguments!** The theological premise for this whole argument rests on the meaning of the phrase “handwriting of ordinances that was against us.”

## Cheirographon Tois Dogmasin

- ◉ Handwriting of Ordinances in Greek is “Cheirographon Tois Dogmasin”
- ◉ Cheirographon = **Handwriting**
- ◉ Dogmasin (Dogma) = **Ordinances** (KJV)
- ◉ Now, we just need to prove that this is referring to what some people call the Ceremonial Law.
- ◉ But how do we find a Greek word in the Old Testament that is written in Hebrew?

No one can biblically prove that **“handwriting of ordinances”** is referring to the so-called Ceremonial Law. The word **“Dogmasin,”** that the KJV translated as **“ordinance”** cannot be found in the Greek Torah.

The Greek Word for Torah (law) is **“Nomos.”**  
This word **“Nomos”** appears 197 times in the New Testament.

... Interestingly enough, the word **“Nomos”** does NOT appear even once in the book of Colossians. That means that the word

“Dogmasin” refers to NEITHER the Moral Law nor to a ceremonial Law.

Paul wouldn't just invent random words for the law. If he's talking about a law found in the Torah, he would use the terms for that law as found in the Torah.

Let's look at the word: CHEIROGRAPHON = HANDWRING

STRONG'S LEXICON G5498

## Handwriting = Cheirographon

Lexicon Results for <i>cheirographon</i> (Strong's G5498)	
Greek for G5498	
χειρόγραφον	
Transliteration	Pronunciation
cheirographon	khā-ro'-grā-fon (Key)
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
neuter noun	from a compound of G5495 and G1125
TDNT Reference	Vines
9:435,1309	<a href="#">View Entry</a>
Outline of Biblical Usage	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a handwriting, what one has written by his own hand</li> <li>2) a note of hand or writing in which one acknowledges that money has either been deposited with him or lent to him by another, to be returned at the appointed time</li> </ol>	

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Thayer's Lexicon

## Handwriting = Cheirographon

Authorized Version (KJV) Translation Count — Total: 1
AV — handwriting 1
Thayer's Lexicon (Help)
<p><u>χειρόγραφον, -ον, τό, (χείρ and γράφω), a handwriting; what one has written with his own hand (Polyb. 30, 8, 4; Dion. Hal. 5, 8; al.); spec. a note of hand, or writing in which one acknowledges that money has either been deposited with him or lent to him by another, to be returned at an appointed time (Tob. v. 3; ix. 5; Plut. mor. p. 829 a. de vitand. aere al. 4, 3; Artem. oneir. 3, 40); metaph. applied in Col. ii. 14 [(where R.V. bond)] to the Mosaic law, which shows men to be chargeable with offences for which they must pay the penalty.*</u></p>

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Where did this word come from? **A Receipt Spike!**

Originated from the practice of canceling debts by driving a spike through the certificate of debt, after which it could no longer be held against the debtor.

**Cheirographon** means anything written by hand, but can more specifically apply to a legal document, bond, or note of debt.


**What Paul is saying is, that by His death, Yahusha has justified us — brought us into alignment with His Law, His Torah, His instructions — and wiped out the note of guilt or debt that we owed as a result of our sins.**

There are many Bible translations that have translated "Cheirographon Tois Dogmasin" correctly!

Here are some examples:

"He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."  
*(New Living Translation)*

"Elohim wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law of Moses. He took them away and nailed them to the cross."  
*(Contemporary English Version)*



Here it speaks about charges against us!

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**"Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross." (Today's NIV)**

## **The charge of our legal indebtedness.**

**“Having canceled out the certificate of debt...”** (*New American Standard*) A footnote on one of the Bibles said “the record of all the sins we did.”

How can Paul, in this context, be speaking about the law (Torah) or any part of the Torah as being done away with? We are not forgiven by doing away with the Torah or any part of it. **The abolishing of the Torah doesn’t make us sinless.**

### **WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS CLEARLY!**

To confirm any interpretation of Scripture, it is always best to see if the rest of the Bible confirms or contrasts with the interpretation. What does the rest of the Bible say Yahusha came to do, and about His relationship to the law?

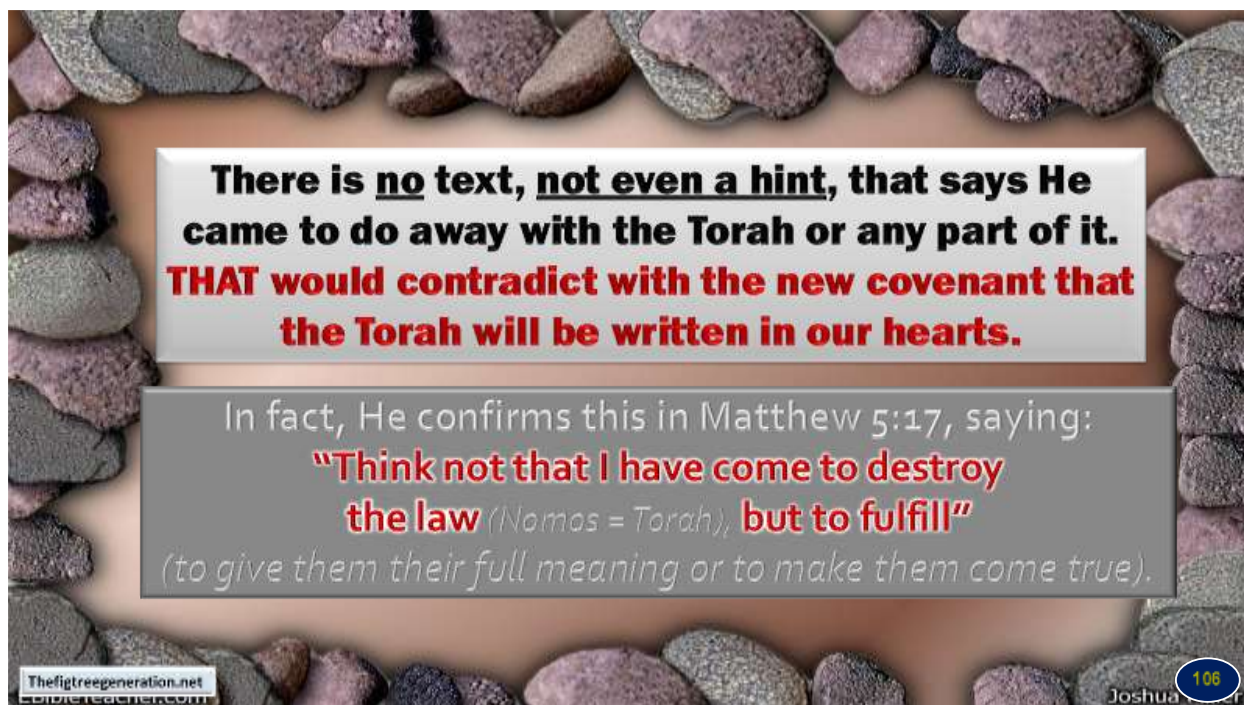
From the lips of John the Baptist in John 1:29, **“Behold the Lamb of Elohim who taketh away the sin of the world.”**(Notice He does NOT “take away” the Law or Torah!)

Isaiah 53:10 says that He will be **“an offering for sin.”** **Not an offering to do away with the Torah (law)!**

In Matthew 26:28 Yahusha Himself said that His blood was shed **“for the remission of sins.”** **Not to do away with any part of the Torah!**

*John 1:7 says that **His blood**“ cleanses us from all sin;”*  
*1 John 3:5 says, “he was manifested to take away our sins;”*  
*and Revelation 1:5 says He “washed us from our sins in his own blood.”*





John 1:1-3 tells us that He was the Word of Elohim, and He was with YHVH from the beginning, and through Him all things were made.

### **Why would He come to destroy what He made?**

Remember, Yahusha did not come to abolish the Torah or any part of it, which is righteous and holy, but to blot out the record of transgressing the Torah, which is our sin.

**So, what is the issue in Colossians 2:14 about the handwriting that was against us?**

- ⊙ It speaks here about a **"certificate of indebtedness,"** an **"IOU"** or a "note" where our sins are registered!
- ⊙ The "handwriting of ordinances" is **a record of our sins** (not the Torah of YHVH).
- ⊙ It is our indebtedness due to the transgression of His Torah.
- ⊙ It is a death certificate that is nailed to the cross!

◎ OUR “death” certificate, that is!

**To repeat it again...**

The certificate of indebtedness, the list of our committed sins, which required our death were nailed to the tree.

**Col 2:14 in no way nails any Law to the tree.**

**In order NOT to be misunderstood:**

The sacrifices and oblations ended at the stake!

That is a fact! Col 2:14 cannot be used as a proof text to do away with the weekly Sabbath nor the yearly appointed times.

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Why not? **Because Colossians 2:14 speaks about a certificate of indebtedness, an “IOU” (*I owe you*), a list of our sins – not a list about Moral and/or Ceremonial laws.**

**One cannot call the yearly divine appointments a “death certificate” or a “certificate of indebtedness,” that ended at Calvary. The yearly appointed feasts point to a “shadow of things to come in the future.” “They are a compacted prophecy of the plan of salvation!”**

**This is brought out in Colossians 2:17,**

- ◎ “Which are (*not were*) a shadow **of things to come**, but the body *is* of Messiah.”
- ◎ The word “are” is in the present tense and a promise of a future fulfillment, which is still ahead.

**Why** is Paul using present tense thirty (30) years after the crucifixion, **IF** the feasts, New Months, the Sabbath and the food laws were already fulfilled?

**Because the Greek text is written in the present tense!**

What about the second half of Colossians 2:17? “**But the body is of Messiah.**” Does this sentence make sense? What does that mean? What is Paul trying to say?

**WHAT IS THE BODY OF MESSIAH? “And He (Yahusha) is the head of the body, the church (the assembly, the congregation)” (Col 1:18)**

**“For His [Messiah] body's sake, which is the church” (the assembly, the congregation in Col 1:24).**

The Body of Messiah is His assembly of believers that follow His instructions!

*The last part of Colossians 2:17 relates to verse 16, where it states: “Let no man therefore judge you...[in these matters] **but the body of Messiah** [judges] [which is the assembly].”*

**In other words, Paul is telling the Colossians that no one should be judging them on these matters if they aren't part of His assembly and part of His people.**



**Paul (*in Colossians 2*) is not focusing on the Torah. But rather, he is focusing on Yahuah's forgiveness and the completeness in Yahusha.**

Paul did NOT do away with any laws, because he says in Acts 25:8, **“Neither against the law of the Jews (G3551 = Greek Nomos – Hebrew Torah), neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended anything at all.”**

**We have been forgiven of our sins and trespasses, let no man therefore judge you **but** the body of Messiah, which is the true assembly according to the righteous standard, which is the Word of Yahuah.**

If you get a speeding ticket and someone pays your fine ... does that abolish the speed limit law, or your debt for the ticket? Only your DEBT is being abolished!

Only the ticket was paid for and taken care of, but the law is still in force. **Try to speed again and you will find out, that the law is still in force.**

Colossians 2:15, **“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”**

**Who are those principalities and powers that try to judge Yahuwah's people?**

These terms refer to earthly rulers (see *Luke 12:11* & *Titus 3:1*) as well as to the powers of darkness, but Yahusha triumphed over all of them, specifically over Satan and his angels.

In other literature the “powers” are explained, **...to be the false Jewish leaders to destroy faith in Yahusha, and the “principalities” were the Roman civil magistrates such as governors, etc.**

At any rate, the principalities and powers are the enemies. Therefore, the words of Paul, **“Let no man, regardless of his position as a principality or power, judge you in regard to your religious beliefs.”**

**I REST MY CASE! SHALOM!**

