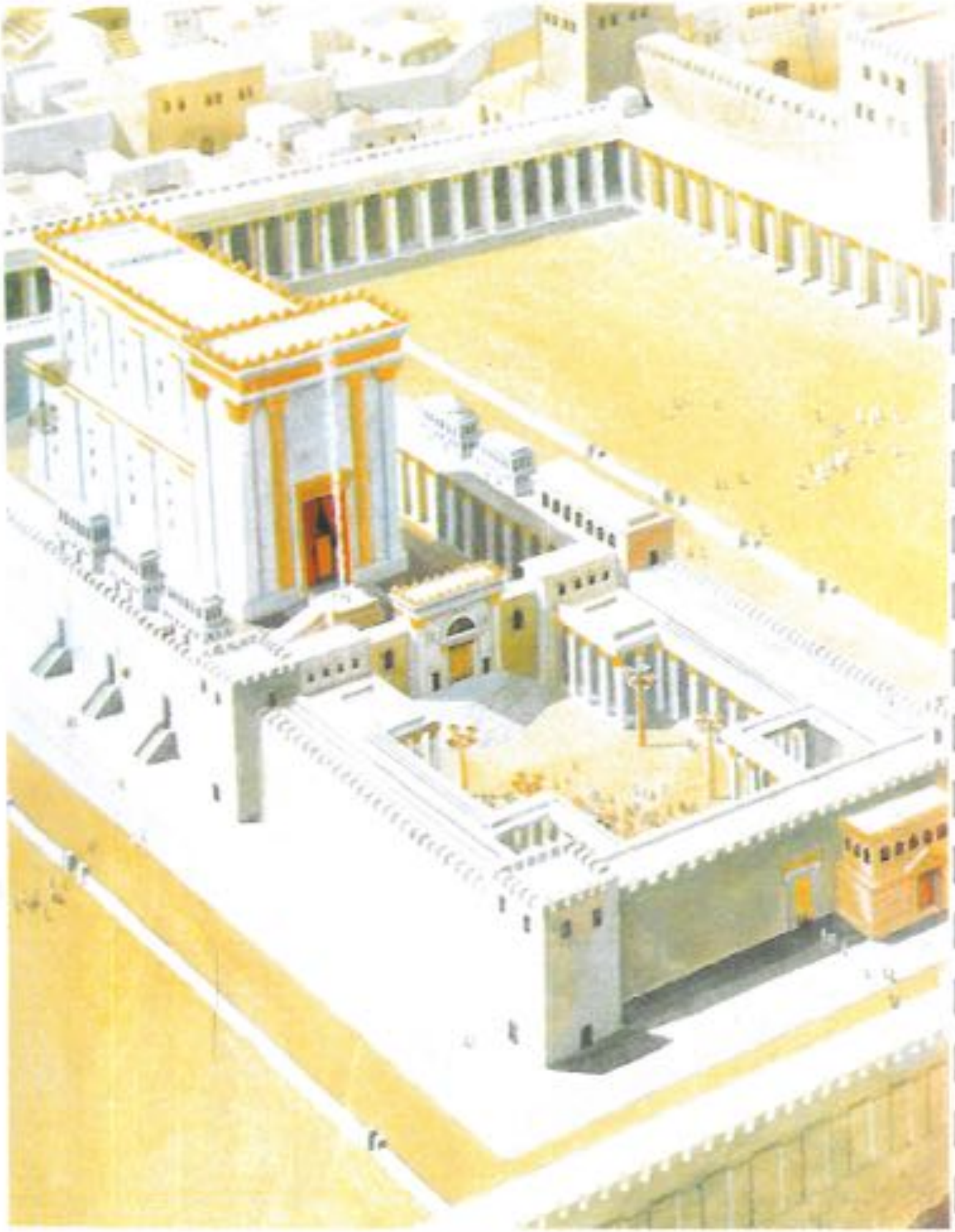
Jesus is Coming!

The Prophetic Hour of God



The Seven Feasts of the LORD
God's Appointed Times

1. The Jewish Calendar
2. Passover
3. Unleavened Bread
4. First Fruits
5. Pentecost
6. Trumpets
7. Atonement
8. Tabernacles
9. Jerusalem
10. The High Priest
11. The Shofar
12. The Jewish Wedding

The Feasts of The Lord

Dear Precious Believer,

We begin this study to restore the spiritual and prophetic reality of the 7 Feasts of the Lord to the Body of Christ. Our God is a God who keeps His covenants and we will discover that all prophecy is fulfilled exactly according to covenant. The Church has largely ignored the Jewish roots of Covenant which God demonstrated within the 7 Feasts of the Lord, which is clearly for the Jews and for the Church! This should be a foundation study for the Body of Christ.

In Leviticus 23, we find that *all Jews were required to be in Jerusalem 3 times a year to keep certain appointed feast dates with God, called here the Feasts of the Lord. The word feast is the Hebrew word* **mo'ed** *and means "an appointment, a fixed time or season, a cycle or year, an a assembly, a set and exact time." Another Hebrew word we need to understand is convocation or* **miqua** *which really means "rehearsals". So in Leviticus 23 when God says, "the* ***feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be a holy convocation," it really means that*** *God promised His covenant people He would meet with them (in a convocation or a rehearsal yearly) at these set appointed times. You must ask, " a rehearsal for what?" By these 7 Feasts of the Lord which the Jews practiced yearly for 1500 years as rehearsals, God programmed a visual picture of the entire redemptive life of His Son, so that when Jesus came, His covenant people would recognize and accept Him as their King.*

Because the Jews missed all the clues of His first Coming and rejected their Messiah, the final fall feasts are designed to prepare His people for His Second Coming!

To understand God's prophetic pattern for the Second Coming of Jesus, the Church can't afford to make the same mistake Israel did by ignoring the obvious clues God gave over and over again in the Word of God. With the Holy Spirit as our teacher, let's learn all we can about God's appointed dates with mankind. We'll start with an overview and then take each Feast as a deeper study in itself. Let's prepare to meet with our God.

The first 3 feasts (known as ***Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First fruits****) occur together in the spring and were completely fulfilled at Jesus' first coming by his death, burial and resurrection. The* ***4th feast is called Pentecost*** *(meaning 50) and happens exactly 50 days later in late May or early June. We read in Acts 2 of the coming of the Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus promised. The final 3 fall feasts occur every year in late September, or early October and are called* ***The Feast of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles****. Prophetically they will be fulfilled by the 2nd Coming of Jesus to rapture the Church, to redeem Israel, and to set up His millennial kingdom on the Earth, just as He promised.*

They are divided into 3 seasons according to the agricultural life of Israel's harvest times. ***Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits*** *are during the barley harvest in the month of Nissan. Next in mid-summer, the* ***Feast of Weeks*** *occurs exactly 50 days later* ***in Sivan*** *by itself. The final 3 fall feasts all happen in* ***Tishrei****, which is late September, or early October. These feast days are called* ***high sabbaths*** *or* **shabbaton** *throughout the Old and New Testament and are the blueprints of God's entire plan to present His Son Jesus as the Messiah to His covenant people, and to redeem both the Jews and the Church.*

Israel's Two Calendars

The Agricultural Calendar / The Sacred Calendar

Our calendar today is called the Gregorian (Roman) calendar because it was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. This solar calendar is based on the earth's orbit around the sun which takes 354 ¼ days (our year). Our days are 24 hours long and end at midnight. Every 4th year we add an extra day and call it a "leap year" to balance the extra quarter of a day. But God did not reckon time with Israel this way at all. For over five thousand years, the Jewish calendar and every other calendar of the world's early civilizations based their days, years, and months on the lunar calendar, (how long it takes the moon to complete an orbit around the earth). God's calendar begins at evening (sundown is about 6:00pm) and lasts 24 hours. In Genesis: 1, God refers to " the evening and the morning" six separate times (vs: 5, 8,13,19,23, and 31).

God commands Israel to keep the feast from evening to evening (Lev. 23:32) and so the Jewish feast days always begin at sundown when the new day starts.

Israel is on a Lunar Calendar!

Since the moon's orbit lasts 29 ½ days and repeats itself 12 times during the year, it is shorter by 11 ¼ days than the solar calendar and so the Jews added a Leap year also by adding an extra "intercalary" month at the end of every 3rd year. This adjustment lets the Jew keep their festivals during the same agricultural seasons, so that Passover always occur in the spring and coincides with the spring rains and harvests times. The lunar calendar starts the *month* with the new moon, when the first sliver of moon appears in the otherwise black night sky. This was so important that priests were appointed to watch and herald the first appearance of the new moon, declaring "It is sanctified!" By an elaborate system of signal fires, the new moon would be "telegraphed" through all the land. The first day of the month (Hebrew – "hodesh" for moon or month) is called Rosh (head) Hodesh (of the month) was considered holy and marked by the blowing of trumpets and special sacrifices in the temple consecrating the new month to the Lord.

Because of the difficulty in accurately sighting the new moon, Rosh Hodesh was usually celebrated the first 2 days of the month. (1 Sam. 20:27). The Word of God tells us that in the Millennial Kingdom, the righteous of the nations will still celebrate the new moon!

"And it will come to pass that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before me," says the Lord." (Isa. 65:23)

The Agricultural Calendar is the Civil Calendar

Israel has 2 different calendars, a civil and a sacred calendar and we must know the difference. The first calendar was the civil calendar based on the agricultural seasons and the rains. It begins with Tishrei (late Sept.-early Oct.) when the early rains softened the ground for the plowing of the fields in October and November. The wheat and barley seed is sown in November and December. The winter rains came in December and January to keep the ground moist and then the latter rains fell in spring time in time for the barley harvest (Passover). Dry season lasted from April and May until Sept. and Oct. (former rains). The barley harvest lasted through the spring and was followed by the wheat harvest in May (Pentecost). Pay close attention to the rains, and seed time and harvest time, because God patterned his prophetic times of harvesting men's souls along with Israel's agricultural cycle.

Jewish Calendar

RELIGIOUS YEAR	CIVIL YEAR	HEBREW MONTH	WESTERN CORRELATION	FARM SEASONS	CLIMATE	SPECIAL DAYS
1	7	Nisan (Abib)	March-April	Barley Harvest	Latter Rains (Malqosh)	15, 21 – [illegible] 14 – Passover First Fruits – [illegible]
2	8	Iyyar (Ziv) bright, shine	April-May	General Harvest		
3	9	Sivan	May-June	Wheat Harvest Vine Tending	DRY SEASON	Pentecost – [illegible]
4	10	Tammuz	June-July	First Grapes		
5	11	Ab	July-August	Grapes, Figs, Olives		9 – Destruction of Temple
6	12	Elul	August-September	Vintage		
7	1	Tishri (Ethanim)	September-October	Ploughing		1 – New Year – [illegible] 10 – Day of Atonement – [illegible] 15-21 – Feast of Tabernacles [illegible]
8	2	Marchesvan (Bul) produce	October-November	Grain Planting	Early Rains (Yoreh)	
9	3	Kislev	November-December			25 – Dedication
10	4	Tebet	December-January	Spring Growth	Rain Season	
11	5	Shebat	January-February	Winter Figs		
12	6	Adar	February-March	Pulling Flax Almonds bloom		13-14 – Purim
		Adar Sheni	Intercalary Month			

The Feasts of the LORD

God's promise to us: "*Blessed - happy, fortunate, to be envied - are the people who know the joyful sound - who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized the feasts; they walk, O LORD, in the light and favor of your countenance.*" Ps. 89:15 (Amplified)

Week of Redemption - God will deal will mankind for a specific time.
"For 1000 years in you sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night" Ps. 90:4

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the LORD a day is like 1000 years, and 1000 years are like a day" 2 Pet.3:8

God's Clock is a Jewish Clock!
"God called the light 'day' and the darkness He called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning, the 1st day." Gen.,1:5

God's Calendar is a Jewish Calendar!
*"And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night' and let them be for **signs**, for **Seasons**, for days and years." Gen 1:14*

Jesus 1st and 2nd Coming are linked to the Feasts, the rains, and the harvest!
"His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, the latter (malquosh – spring) and the former rain (yoreh-fall). Hoshea 6:3

By studying our Jewish Roots and the Feast, **we are not becoming Jews!**
"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in any respect of a holy day or of the Sabbath days, **which are a shadow of things to come;**" Col 2:14-17

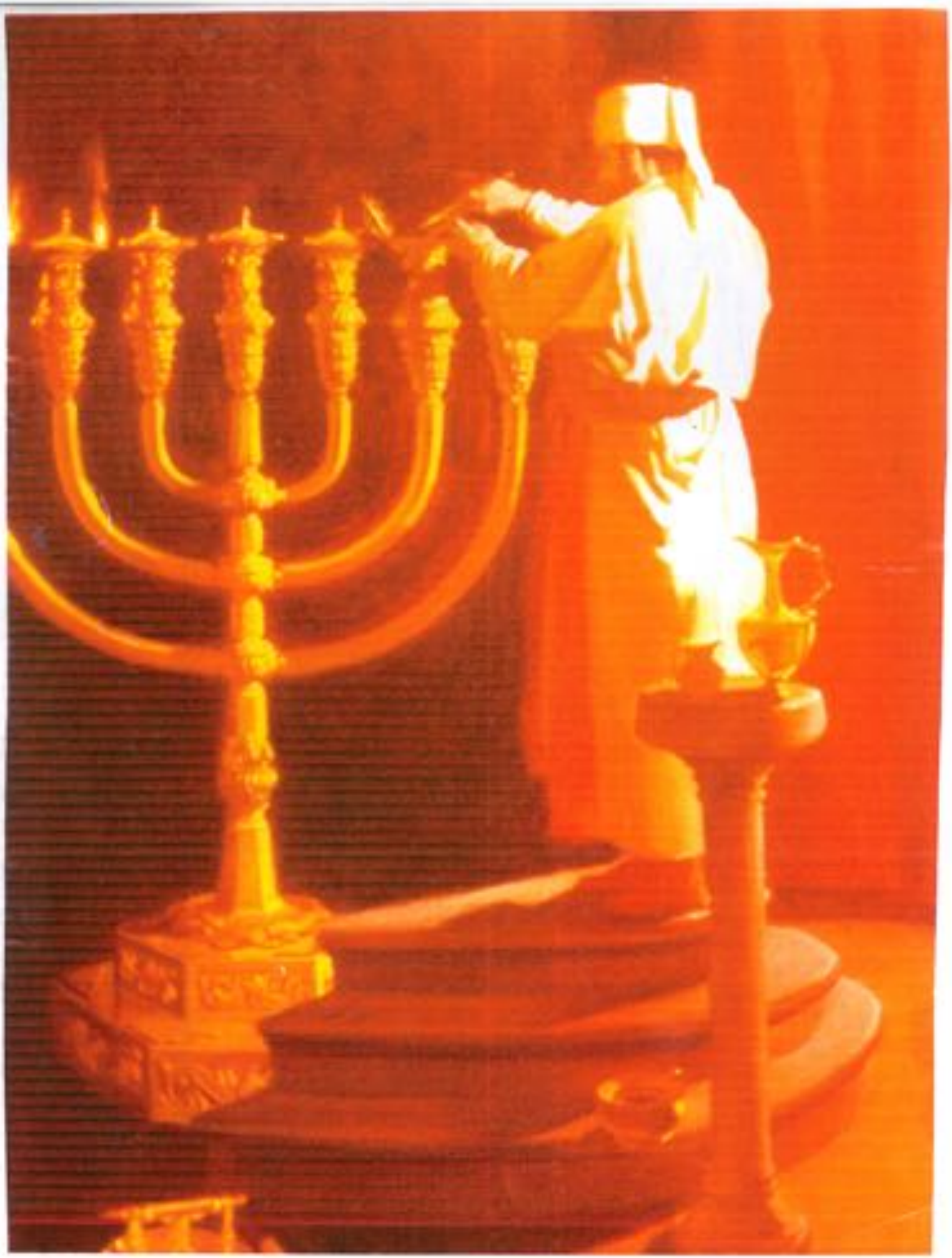
The 7 Feasts of the LORD are:

1. Agricultural - they apply to seedtime and harvest, and the rains
2. Historic - they show how God dealt with his people Israel
3. Prophetic - they are an appointment book for the Messiah!
4. Personal - these truths apply to my life as a Christian!

Jesus Will Come Again Personally to the Earth again "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things**, which God has spoken of by the prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21

1. Israel is a nation once more
2. The Jews are coming back to the land
3. Hebrew language is back
4. Plans for the Temple rebuilding
5. The Priesthood is back
6. Red heifer is back

Christians are Re-Learning Jewish Truths By the Spirit of God All Over the World!



The Golden Menorah Is
A Symbol of the 7 Feasts of the LORD

The Menorah is the 7 branch golden candlestick that God instructed Moses to make and place in the Tabernacle in the wilderness as holy to the LORD.

Ex. 25: 31-40 "You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand and its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cup, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. Six branches shall go out from its sides; 3 branches of the lampstand from its one side and 3 branches from its other side. Three cups shall be shaped like almond blossoms in the 1 branch, a bulb and a flower, and 3 cups shaped like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bulb and a flower- so for 6 branches going out from the lampstand; and in the lampstand 4 cups shaped like almost blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. A bulb shall be under the 1st pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb shall be under the 2nd pair of branches, and a bulb under the 3rd pair of branches coming out of it, for the 6 branches coming out of the lampstand. Their bulbs and their branches shall be on one piece with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. Then you shall make its lamps 7 in number; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. Its snuffers and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made from one talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. See that you make them after the pattern of them for them, *which was shown to you on the mountain.*"

The Menorah is God's pattern of the 7 Feasts of the LORD. Three feasts happen in spring (March or April) and point to Jesus in His first Coming to Earth. The Son of God showed up exactly on the appointed Times:

1. Passover (Nissan 14) — He died as our Passover Lamb!
2. Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15) — He carried our sins outside the camp!
3. First Fruits (after the Sabbath) — He rose from the dead as the first fruits!

The middle branch is really the center shaft of the menorah that feeds the 2 outer branches when the priest pours oil into it. It points to the Holy Spirit in the Church in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:12-13; 20) and to Feast # 4- Pentecost which happens later in the summer.

4. Pentecost (Sivan 6-May or June) The Holy Spirit came when Jesus left!

The last 3 branches of the Menorah point to Jesus' 2nd Coming. Again, He will come exactly on Time to finish God's plan for mankind!

5. Trumpets (Tishrei 1) — The Last Trumpet will blow at the Rapture!
6. Atonement (Tishrei 10) — The Tribulation will end; Jesus will Come to Jerusalem to fight the Battle of Armegeddon!
7. Tabernacles (Tishrei 15-21) — King Jesus will Reign during the Milenium!

Let's Study each Feast to see what the Holy Spirit wants to teach us!

Sacred -Civil - Hebrew Month - Our Calendar - Harvest - SPECIAL Days

1	7	Nisan	Mar-April	Barley	14th Passover-pesach 15,21 Shabbatons * Unleavened Bread (Hag Hamatzah) * First Fruits –day after Sabbath of Hag HaMatzah
2	8	Iyyar	April-May	general	
3	9	Sivan	May-June	wheat harvest	* Pentecost- 50th Day after First Fruits – called counting the omer Shabbaton
4	10	Tammuz	June-July	first grapes	
5	11	Ab	July-Aug	grapes, olives,figs	9th of AV Destruction of 1st Temple Destruction of 2nd Temple
6	12	Elul	Aug- Sept		Whole month blowing of shofar for teshuvah-"repent" before the High Holy Days
7	1	Tishrei	Sept-Oct		1st – Feast of Trumpets * RoshHaShana -shabbaton 10th- Day of Atonement *Yom Kippur –shabbaton 15-21 * Feast of Tabernacles 15,22-23rd are Shabbatons
8	2	Chesvan	Oct-Nov		
9	3	Kislev	Nov-Dec		25th Dedication Hannukah
10	4	Tebet	Dec-Jan		
11	5	Shebat	Jan-Feb		
12	6	Adar	Feb-Mar		13-12 Purim

For our study purposes, everything mentioned in the Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Exodus 12:1 is on the civil calendar and every date after Ex. 12:1 is dated on the sacred calendar.

Leviticus 23 – The Feasts of the LORD

1.The LORD spoke again to Moses, saying,

2. "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The LORD's appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations- My appointed times are these:

3. For 6 days work may be done, but on the 7th day there is a ***Sabbath of complete rest***, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a ***Sabbath*** to the LORD in all your dwellings.

4. These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.

5. In the 1st month **(NISAN)** on the 14th day of Nisan is the LORD's **PASSOVER (Pesach).**

6. Then on the 15th day of the same month (Nisan), there is the **Feast of Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzah)** to the LORD; for 7 days you shall eat unleavened bread (matzah).

7. On the 1st day you shall have a holy convocation **(shabbaton)**; you shall not do any laborious work.

8. But for 7 days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the 7th day (Nisan 22) is a holy convocation (**Shabbaton**); you shall do no laborious work."

9. Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

10. "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, "When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.

11.He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath (Sunday) he shall wave it **(Feast of First Fruits).**

12. Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to the LORD

13. Its grain offering shall then be 2/10ths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to the LORD for a soothing aroma, with its drink offering, ¼ of a hin of wine.

14.Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your GOD, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statue throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

15. You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath (Sunday), from the day brought in the sheaf of the wave offering (**Feast of First Fruits**); there shall be 7 complete sabbaths (called counting the omer).

16. You shall count 50 days (**Pentecost**) to the day after the 7th Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

17. You shall bring in from your dwelling places 2 leaves of bread for a wave offering, made with 2/10ths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD

18. Along with the bread you shall present 7 one year-old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and 2 rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

19.You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and 2 male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offering.

20. The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21. On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation (**Sabbaton**) **Pentecost.** You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout all your generations.

22. When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field not gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the stranger. I am the LORD your GOD.

23.Again the LORD spoke to Moses,

24."Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the 7th month (**Tishrei**) on the 1st of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets (**Rosh HaShanah**), a holy convocation.

25. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD."

26. The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

27. "On exactly the 10th day of this 7th month (**Tishrei 10**) is the Day of Atonement (**Yom Kippur**),

28. You shall not do any laborious work on this same day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your GOD.

29.If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day (Yom Kippur), he shall be cut off from his people.

30. As for any person who does any work on this day, that person I will destroy from among the People.

31.You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statue throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

32. It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls, on the 9th of this month (Tishrei) at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath.

28. Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

29. "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying,' On the 15th of this month (Tishrei) is the **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)** for 7 days to the LORD.

30. On the 1st day is a holy convocation (shabbaton); you shall do no laborious work of any kind.

31. For 7 days (Tishrei 15-21) you shall peesent an offering by fire to the LORD. On the 8th day (Tishrei 22) you shall have a holy convocation (sabbaton); it is an assembly, you shall do no work

32. These are the appointed times of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to offerings by fire to the LORD – burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings each day's matter on its own day –

38 besides those of the Sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD.

39. On exactly the 15th of the month (Tishrei) of the 7th month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for 7 days, with a rest (sabbaton) on the 1st day and the 8th day (Tishrei 15 and Tishrei 22).

40. Now in the 1st day (Tishrei 15th), you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, Palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice Before the LORD your GOD for 7 days (Tishrei 15-21).

41. You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for 7 days in the year. It shall be a Perpetual statue throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the 7th month (Tishrei).

42. You shall live in booths **(sukkot)** for 7 days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths.

43. so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your GOD."

44. So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times

Feasts of the Lord

Spring (Mar-April)	Summer (May-June)	Fall (Sept-Oct)
1. Passover (Pesach) Nisan 14		
2. Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzah) Nisan 15		
3. First Fruits (Bikkurim) Nisan 16-22		
	4. Pentecost (Shavuot – Weeks) Sivan 6	
		5. Feast of Trumpets Rosh Ha Shanah Tishrei 1 Yom Teruah
		6. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) Tishrei 10
		7. Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) Booths Tishrei 15-21

Passover / Pesach Exodus 11

To study Passover, we need to familiarize ourselves with the story of the Jews from Joseph on. Please read thoughtfully Exodus 1-11 so the Holy Spirit can teach us truth.

1 .Now the LORD said to Moses, "One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; After that he will let you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely."

2. "Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man (Hebrew) ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor (Egyptian) for articles of silver and gold."

3 .The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses himself was greatly esteemed in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

4. Moses said, "Thus says the LORD,'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt

5. and all the <u>firstborn</u> in the land of Egypt shall die, from the <u>firstborn</u> of Pharaoh who sits on the throne, even to the <u>firstborn</u> of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the <u>firstborn</u> of the cattle as well.

6. Morever, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been before. And such as there shall never be again.

7. "But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark, whether against man or beast that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'

8. "All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying,' Go out, you and all your people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

9. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that My wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

10. Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; yet the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.

Exodus 12 PASSOVER

1. Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt.
2. "This month (Nisan) will be the beginning of months to you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.
3. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, "On the 10th of this month (NISAN) they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their father's households, a lamb for each household.
4. "Now if the household be too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of person in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb.
5. "Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep from from the goats.
6. "You shall keep it until the 14th day of Nisan, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it between the evenings (3:00pm).
7. "Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the 2 doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
8. They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
9. "Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails.
10. And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.
11. "Now you shall eat it in this manner; with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste – it is the LORD's Passover.
12. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute j udgments - I AM THE LORD

13."The Blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14, .Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate is as a feast to the LORD throughout all your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.

15. Seven days you shall eat ***unleavened bread***, but on the 1st day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the 1st day until the 7th - that person shall be cut off from Israel.

16. On the 1st day you shall have a holy assembly (Nisan 14) and another holy assembly on the 7th day(Nisan 21); no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone shall be prepared by you.

17. You shall also observe the ***Feast of Unleavened Bread***, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance.

18. In the 1st month (Nisan), on the 14th day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened, until the 21st day of the month at evening.

19. 7 days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

20. You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall not eat unleavened bread.

21. Then Moses called for the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb.

22. You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the 2 doorposts; and none of you shall go some outside the door of his house until morning."

23. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on

the lintel, and on the 2 doorposts, the LORD will pass over and not allow **the destroyer** to come into your houses to smite you.

24. And you shall observe this feast as an ordinance for you and your children forever.

25. When you enter the land which the LORD will give to you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite (Passover).

26. And when your children say to you, "What does this feast mean to you?"

27. you shall say, 'It is a ***Passover*** sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes. And the people bowed low and worshipped.

28. Then the sons of Israel went and did so; just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

29. Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

30. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.

31. Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said.

32. "Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also."

33. The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We will all be dead".

34.So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders.

35. Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing.

36. and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

37 .Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 men on foot, aside from any children.

38. A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock.

38. They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40. Now the time that the sons of Israel live in Egypt was 430 years.

41. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

42. "It is a night to be observed for the LORD for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

43. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the ***Passover***: no stranger is to eat of it.

44. but every man's slave purchased with money, after you have circumcised him, may eat of it

45. "A stranger or a hired servant shall not eat of it."

46. "It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside the house, nor are you to break any bone of it."

47. "All the congregation of Israel is to celebrate this."

48. "But is a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it."

49. "The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you."

50. Then all the sons of Israel did so; they did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

51. And on that same day the LORD brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

Pesach Types and Shadows

Dear Precious Students who are hard after truth,

It would be so easy to skip Passover since we are all familiar with the Exodus story. However, this is where it all begins and God rescues His people from His enemy and the bondage they are trapped in. It is not only the story of the Jewish nation; it is our story of when God rescued us from the bondage of sin. The themes here are too important to pass by and the prophetic truths are just waiting for us to discover!

Before we begin, please read Exodus (Shemot) 12:1-30
Leviticus 23:4-8
Numbers (Bamidbar) 28:16-25
Deuteronomy (Devarim) 16:1-8

We could study in the rabbinical style, which looks at the Word 4 different ways.

1. *P'shat* – the simple, literal meaning...what God is saying
2. Remez—a hint or illusion with in the text, implied
3. Drash – Searched out, cross-referenced, meaning
4. Sod – the mystery of God revealed

We will instead study in the "revelation" style through 4 different lenses!

1. Literal – what does it say and what really happened?
2. Spiritual – What is the Spirit of God trying to teach?
3. Personal – I have to look at my life
4. Prophetic – God wants to unveil or reveal the mystery of God to us!

The Halacha – spiritual application will come by studying types and shadows, or themes.

Know that Egypt in Hebrew is **Mitzrayim** and means bondage. It represents the world. Exodus is **Shemot** or the exit of God's people. Pharaoh is a type of satan and as ruler of the world; the Jews were his personal slaves. Moses, a type of Christ, was sent to his people as a Deliverer. When the people applied the blood of a perfect, sinless lamb over their doorposts, they were supernaturally protected from the destroyer and delivered from bondage. Jesus, of course, is the Lamb whose blood protects and delivers us from sin and from satan. The lamb was kept inside the house for 4 days before it was killed as a substitute for the sin of the people. Jesus was examined for 4 days in Jerusalem before the crucifixion. Prophetically the **lamb** was hidden for 4000 years from the creation of man in the Garden as part of God's 7000-year plan to redeem and restore man and the earth. A day is understood to be prophetic of 1000 year, based on IIPeter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4 – all types and shadows to understanding God's patterns and timetables. The Lamb of God and the Passover lamb were to be without spot and were carefully examined before selection as the substitute to die for man's sins. Jesus was examined by:

1. the chief priests and elders – Matt 21:23
2. Pilate –Matt27:1-2; 11-4;17-26
3. Herod – Luke 23:6-12
4. Annas – the high priest– Luke 3:2; John 18:13,24
5. Caiphas – the ruling high priest – John 11:49-53; 18:113-14;19-24,28
6. Judas – Jesus' treasurer – Matt 27:3-10
7. the Centurion – Matt 27:54

The **Passover lamb** had to be the firstborn, a male in its prime, perfect in every way. Jesus was the firstborn of Mary naturally and the firstborn of God spiritually. There is a progression of revelation concerning the lamb.

1. A lamb for a man — Romans 5:8,12 — *Jesus died for me*
2. A lamb for a house — Acts 1:16 — *Jesus died for my family*
3. A lamb for a nation — John 11:49-52 — *Jesus died for the nations and Israel*
4. A lamb for the whole world — John 3:16 — *Jesus died for the world*

The **blood** was applied to the door. Jesus said *"I am the door, no one comes to the Father except by me".*

The lamb was to be killed **between the evenings** Exodus 12:6
Explanation of the Biblical day taken from Eddie Chumney "The 7 Festivals" p.29
*"the Biblical day goes from evening to evening, from sundown to sundown, which is roughly 6:00pm to 6:00pm. The day is divided into 2 12-hour periods. The **evening** runs from 6:00pm to 6:00am. The **morning** runs from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Each 12-hour portion is divided into 2 smaller portions. From 6:00am until noon is the **morning part of the day**. From noon until 6:00 pm is the **evening part of the day**. The phrase **'between the evening'** (Exodus 12:6) refers to halfway between the evenings of the day, which goes from noon until 6:00pm, which would be **3:00pm**. This is also the **9th hour** of the day when Jesus gave up His life... exactly the same. (Matt 27:45-50)*

The lambs were herded into Jerusalem through the western gate of the city on Nisan 10th while Jesus rode into the eastern gate on a donkey, in 30 AD. He will come again through the eastern gate!

After the Pesach lamb was eaten, all of Israel experienced **God's healing power**. Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for our healing.

The Passover lamb must be **killed outside the gates** of the city. (Deuteronomy 16:5) Jesus was crucified outside the gates at Golgotha. (John 19:16-19; Hebrews 13:10-13)

The lamb must be **eaten roasted by fire**.
Believers are told they will be refined by fire. (persecutions, trials)

It must be eaten with **our loins girded** – we must be ready to eagerly obey truth
Shoes must be on our feet – our walk with God matters; we are to take the gospel
A staff must be in our hands – we need to know our authority **in Christ Jesus**
(Gen 38:17-18; Ex 14:16; Judges 6:21; 1 Sam 17:39-40; Mark 6:7-8

Not a **bone of the lamb is to be broken** – Jesus was removed before the Roman could break his legs (John 19:33)

Egypt was spoiled when the Jews left with silver and gold. (Ex. 12:31-36)
Jesus' resurrection spoiled satan when He triumphed over him openly! (Col.2:15)

THE PASSION OF THE PASSOVER

The story of Yeshua's last days in Jerusalem concerning His arrest, death and resurrection are the very foundations of Messianic faith and New Covenant belief. It is called the Passion. All four Gospels devote much of their text to the circumstances and dialogue of the Passion events. However, the chronology of those events is in dispute by various factions, including some believers. The problem comes down to understanding how Yeshua could be in the tomb three days and three nights. Yeshua said that He would fulfill the sign of Jonah, who was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights.

And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah. and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights. JON 1:17

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. MAT 12:40

An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given to, except the sign of Jonah. And He left them, and went away. MAT 16:4

The standard traditional teaching of the church for the Passion week simply doesn't add up to three days and three nights. Therefore, Yeshua did not appear to fulfill His own words.

In its most simple review, many brethren have been told that Yeshua ate a Passover meal on one night, was arrested, tried, and crucified the next day. According to many teachers in the church, that day was Good Friday. Then, Yeshua was buried Friday afternoon, sometime after three o'clock and resurrected at dawn on Sunday morning. On Sunday morning, Mary and the other women saw him first. However, this chronology does not produce three days and three nights as Yeshua said. (Friday, Friday night, Saturday.

The best you can get is three days and two nights, and you are struggling to get two of those days to work. From a Gentile Messianic reckoning, Yeshua died on Friday at about 3:00 pm and was seen Sunday morning at about 6:00 am. This means that He was only dead for a maximum of 39 hours. You can not get three days out of that; it doesn't even total two full days!

However, there is a solution to this Biblical question, but it requires one to see the entire process from a Hebrew point of view and to remember that Yeshua was fulfilling the Passover. Yeshua died on the Passover and was resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits. Yeshua did fulfill the sign of Jonah. Let us examine the Passion of the Passover.

The Story of the Lamb

The Passover is really a story about the Lamb. When Israel left Egypt at the exodus, it was the blood of the lamb on the lintel and doorposts that caused the angel of death to pass over the homes of the Israelites. The redemption of the Messiah is the same for us. We are passed from death to life because of His sacrifice.

And He entered and was passing through Jericho. LUK 19:1

Our story begins with Yeshua going up to Jerusalem for the last time. His journey brought him to Jericho before He was *to go up to Jerusalem*. It is near Jericho and the Jordan that His ministry had begun with John the Baptist's declaration, "Behold the Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world." Remember; John was a Cohen, a priest of Israel, and it requires a priest to proclaim any sacrifice acceptable for service to God. This is also the wilderness region where Yeshua was tempted by the Devil. The great mountain overlooking Jericho is called to this day, the mountain of temptation.

Now, the time had come for Yeshua to go up to Jerusalem to be sacrificed.

And while they were listening to these things, He went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. LUK 19:11

The people, however, had another idea. They wanted Yeshua to go up to become King, to establish God's earthly kingdom in their day. Therefore, it is said that they supposed the kingdom of God to appear immediately. Even the disciples fell into this thinking. Even they did not understand what Yeshua had said would really happen to Him and to them. For Yeshua had said to them even before they came to Jericho on the way to Jerusalem what would happen. They, like the other people, were hoping for a kingly Messiah that would rule from Jerusalem.

And He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." And they understood none of these things, and this saying was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said. LUK 18:31-34

Yeshua's understanding of what was facing Him and the disciples as they went to Jerusalem was demonstrated many times. Not only did He know and advise them that He was to be mistreated and killed, as you will soon see, but He also knew where the colt would be tied for Him to ride into Jerusalem, and the location of the room where He would eat the Passover with His disciples.

The Lamb Enters the House

And after He had said these things, He was going on ahead, ascending to Jerusalem. And it came about that when He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, in which as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it, and bring it here. "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' then shall you speak, 'The Lord has need of it.'" And those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Yeshua, and they threw their garments on the colt, and put Yeshua on it. And as He was going, they were spreading their garments in the road. And as He was now approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" LUK 19:28-38

When Moses came to the children of Israel with the message of salvation and deliverance, he rode on a colt. Yeshua's entrance into Jerusalem was to do the same. This was a prophetic sign to the Hebrew people. One, like Moses, was bringing the hope of redemption (freedom from slavery). This is the work of the Messiah.

Friday Midday, 8 Nisan

Yeshua, therefore, six days before the Passover came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Yeshua had raised from the dead. JOH 12:1

According to Moses the Passover Lamb is to be selected and brought into the house on or before the 10th of Nisan, four days before the Passover. This period of time is to examine the lamb for any spot or blemish, for it is to be slaughtered and eaten at the Feast of Redemption, the Feast of Freedom. Therefore, Yeshua had to arrive in Jerusalem prior to 10 Nisan to satisfy this prophetic requirement as the Lamb of God. Additionally, He was traveling from Jericho, which is more than a Sabbath day journey. He had to arrive in the Jerusalem area prior to Friday evening, the beginning of Sabbath. Therefore, the Scripture records that He arrived six days prior to Passover, which was prior to Sabbath.

And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were selling, [illegible]

Moses instructed us that in preparation for the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread all leaven was to be removed from the house. A search is made of the home to accomplish this. This also was the work of the Messiah. Upon entering His home, He removed the leaven in preparation for the feast. This is why Yeshua cast out those selling (the leaven) upon entering the Temple.

Please take note of something here. The traditional church teaches that Yeshua entered Jerusalem on Sunday. They call it Palm Sunday. It should be Palm Friday, the day prior to Sabbath and six days before Passover.

The Lamb Is Examined

From Friday until Wednesday, Yeshua's routine was limited. He was in the temple each day, teaching and spend His nights on the Mount of Olives. He may have visited His friend Lazarus in Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha, but no specific mention is made. There are many references though to the questions and reception He received from the various groups in the temple area. Yeshua was meeting publicly with all of them. There were the Gentiles who received Him with joy. The sick and the lame were approaching Him and being healed. Next, the Pharisees came asking their questions. He was approached by the Temple council leaders, the elders and chief priests, and the scribes. Finally, He was questioned by the Sadducees. Each of these groups were fulfilling the prophetic requirement to examine the Lamb and see if there was any blemish. Each examination was increasingly more critical. They did not understand that they were fulfilling the prophecies, but it is clear that Yeshua understood and submitted Himself to this process. It was also at this time that Judas decided to meet secretly with the chief priests and officers of the temple.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. And he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the multitude. LUK 22:1-6

The Lamb Is Prepared

Wednesday, 13 Nisan, prior to 3:00 pm

Passover was observed in the home first. Moses had instructed the children of Israel to prepare a lamb, roast it by fire, and to eat it with Matzah (unleavened bread) and bitter herbs. The lamb was to be slain at twilight on the eve of the 14th of Nisan. The period of twilight is from 3:00 pm until sunset, the same time frame that the evening sacrifice was offered in the temple. When Yeshua instructed Peter and John to prepare for the Passover, they acquired the Lamb and took it to the temple on the afternoon of the 13th. Once the Lamb was slain (blood poured out at the altar), it was then taken to a residence to be cooked by fire and served with the other elements. Since they had been sleeping on the Mount of Olives, they needed a place to eat the Passover.

Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." And they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare it?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters. "And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you,' Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' " "And he will show you a large furnished upper room; prepare it there." And they departed and found everything just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover. LUK 22:7-13

One of the most confusing parts of understanding this sequence of events is understanding what Passover is versus the Feast of Unleavened Bread. First, a Hebrew new day begins at sundown or evening time. Passover is the 14th of Nisan (it begins just as the day of the 13th ends and the eve of the 14th begins), while Unleavened Bread is the 15th of Nisan and continues for seven days (LEV 23:5-7). GOD

However, unleavened bread is eaten at both events. Passover is not a Sabbath, but the first day and the seventh day of Unleavened Bread is. They are called High Sabbaths and can occur differently from the weekly Sabbath. The New Testament intermingles the two events together because they were observed one right after the other. Further, there were two lambs for Passover. The first on the eve of the 14th was slain in the temple but taken home to be eaten. The second is the day sacrifice in the temple on Passover day and put on the altar. This ceremony leads up to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Passover day was also called a day of preparation for the High Sabbath (the first day of Unleavened Bread). The Messiah ate the Passover (at the eve of Passover) with His disciples and was slain at the same time the Passover temple sacrifice was offered on the altar.

Wednesday Evening, the eve of the 14th of Nisan, the Passover, after Sundown

And when the hour had come He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." LUK 22:14-16

The seder meal of the Passover is structured around four cups of wine. Two are served before the meal and two are served after the meal. The first two cups are called sanctification and instruction. The last two are called redemption and praise. The cup immediately after dinner, the cup of redemption, was the cup that Yeshua used to inaugurate the New Covenant, the cup He instructed us all to drink as a remembrance of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Matzah is also served at the Passover with three pieces designated as the "Unity." The second piece of this Unity is the broken piece which is wrapped in a linen cloth and used as the "Afikomen" or dessert of the meal. This Afikomen is brought out (resurrected) after the meal and was used by Yeshua as the symbol of His broken body. This bread and the cup of redemption are used in Messianic com-

Bitter herbs (maror) are also served in conjunction with the cup of instruction prior to the meal. This was the cup that Yeshua used to designate who would betray Him and another fulfillment of the prophetic pattern. Just prior to the meal was when Judas departed to get the guard and officers to arrest Yeshua. Judas knew that Yeshua and the disciples would return to the Mount of Olives area to spend the rest of the evening.

Yeshua gave much instruction to His disciples at the Passover dinner. Several chapters of the Gospels address His specific statements and actions. This includes the foot washing, the announcement of betrayal, His impending death and resurrection, Peter's denial, the disciples being scattered, and the last hymn before going to the garden.

Many believers are not aware that Psalm 118 is the traditional hymn sung at the Passover. Yeshua knew that the leaders had rejected Him and would seek His death. Consider these words and what they mean, knowing that Yeshua and His disciples probably sang them together.

The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. PSA 118:22-23

But consider this additional verse and how Yeshua must have felt knew that He was facing His death.

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. PSA 118:24

Wednesday Night, 14 Nisan/ Passover, about Midnight (the watchnight)

Once the hymn was sung, Yeshua led His disciples out to the Garden at the Mount of Olives. He asked His disciples to remain awake and pray. Passover night was a watchnight. Everyone who observed the Passover in Jerusalem would be up and awake. It was traditional to speak of God's redemption until you saw the dawn of the day. This is why everyone was up to arrest and interrogate Yeshua. This is why Yeshua expected His di-

The lamb is taken to slaughter

Thursday Early Morning, about 1:00 am

When Yeshua was betrayed by Judas with a kiss, there was a sudden and passionate struggle stopped by Yeshua. He told Peter to put away his sword, He healed the wounded man, and He explained that what was happening was in accordance with the words of the Prophets. "The Son of Man was to be delivered up to the hands of sinners." This was also the same hour that the Angel of Death went through ancient Egypt at the first Passover.

So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Yeshua and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. JOH 18:12-13

Annas was the Sagan Priest, or the second priest to the High Priest. Even this point, only the elders of the priests would handle the Lamb of God sacrifice. In effect, they unknowingly were preparing the sacrifice for willful and defiant sin. The sacrifice for sin that merited death.

Annas therefore sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. JOH 18:24

Caiaphas was the High Priest who had previously prophesied the death of Yeshua, that He would die for the whole nation of Israel.

But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Yeshua was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they planned

Thursday Morning, 14 Nisan/Passover day, about 7:00 am

And when it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying, "If You are the Messiah, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask a question, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "You, I am." And they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." LUK 22:66-71

Their interrogation had gone on for sometime, and they had finally come down to the crucial issue. Was He the Son of God? Up to this time, Yeshua had fended off the question. He had previously said, "My time is not yet." But now, it was time. The Redeemer had come to the Feast of Redemption. The question was posed by the leaders of the nation. He gave answer. They had already made up their minds before. They had condemned Him before they ever asked. He was now the Lamb being led to the slaughter.

Thursday Morning, 14 Nisan/Passover Day, about 9:00 am

Then the whole body of them arose and brought Him before Pilate. LUK 23:1

You might ask yourself, why the chief priests took Him to Pilate, a Gentile governor of Rome? One of the requirements of Passover is that you can not mix death with the Passover. Since it is the passing of death to life, there is to be no condemnation to death either. However, the chief priests decided to use a Gentile, Pilate for that purpose.

They led Yeshua therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium in order that they might not be defiled, but might eat the

Remember, this was the Passover watchnight. Had the chief priests condemned Him from their proceedings, they would have defiled themselves and urgent the Passover sacrifice they were to officiate over in the temple that day. Therefore, they urged Pilate to condemn Him and put Him to death.

Thursday Morning, 14 Nisan/Passover Day, about 9:30 am

Pilate was not particularly honorable, but he was a Roman governor bound by Roman law. Even condemning a Jew required some justifiable reason according to law. The first thing the chief priests accused Him of was being the king of the Jews. But wait a minute. There already was a king of the Jews, he was Herod. So, Pilate instructed that Yeshua be taken to Herod for trial.

And when he learned that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time. Now Herod was very glad when he saw Yeshua; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. LUK 23:7-8

Herod was no man to be played with. When Yeshua wouldn't even answer any of his questions, Herod dismissed Him back to Pilate.

And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. Now Herod and Pilate became friends with one another that very day; for before they had been at enmity with each other. LUK 23:11-12

Thursday Morning, 14 Nisan/Passover Day, about 11:30 am

And Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. I will therefore punish Him and release Him." LUK 23:13-14

Pilate wanted the entire matter to go away. He didn't have a problem with Yeshua, nor did Herod. It was Pilate's intention to make the whole matter go away. But the chief priests wouldn't let it go.

And he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; I will therefore punish Him and release Him." LUK 23:22

It became clear to Pilate, that the chief priests were going to make future trouble for Pilate. They planned to accuse him of siding with a man (Yeshua) who opposed Caesar as king. The Priests also gathered a mob to protest and demand the crucifixion of Yeshua. Even Pilate's attempts to free a single prisoner in honor of the feast wouldn't appease them. Pilate made a political decision. He washed his hands of the matter and gave the priests what they wanted.

And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand should be granted. LUK 23:24

Thursday Noon, 14 Nisan/Passover Day, (the day of preparation for the first High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread)

Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" JOH 19:14

So he then delivered Him to them to be crucified. JOH 19:16

Yeshua was led away with two others condemned to suffer Roman crucifixion. According to Christian tradition, the Via Dolorosa is the name of the street in Jerusalem where Yeshua was led to His death. Much speculation exists as to which streets were used and exactly where the execution site was. I believe He was led away from the Praetorium to the place of the skull located on the Mount of Olives. Therefore, He most likely left the city by either the Eastern Gate adjoining the temple mount, or the Lion's Gate just to its north.

for the Kingdom of God; this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Yeshua. And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. And it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed after, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. LUK 23:50-55

Actually, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus assisted in removing Yeshua's body and placing Him in the tomb. This is very noteworthy. Although they had disagreed with the proceedings, both of these men were members of the 14 member council that had condemned Yeshua. Moses had instructed that the chief priests were to officiate the ceremonial sacrifices. In accordance with the altar service requirement, only members of the council were authorized to physically come into contact with the Lamb of God sacrifice. Therefore, from start to finish, the chief priests officiated accurately without knowing they were satisfying the Mosaic requirements to sacrifice the Lamb of God. They had properly presented and handled the Lamb of God sacrifice in both place and time.

Thursday Late Afternoon, 14 Nisan/Passover, approximately 6:00 pm

And they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. LUK 23:56

Not only was there a High Sabbath for the Feast of Unleavened Bread about to begin, but the day following was a weekly Sabbath, therefore this rest and waiting period was for two Sabbaths.

Thursday Evening, 15 Nisan, the First High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, about 7:00 pm

The teaching of Yeshua about His resurrection was not understood by the disciples, but the chief priests feared its implications. They also had heard of the resurrection of Lazarus by Yeshua. So, they compelled Pilate to place a Roman guard on the tomb. They feared that disciples would steal His body and then falsely say that He had been resurrected.

Friday, 15 Nisan, the First High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Everyone rested. The disciples were hiding in fear of arrest. Yeshua's body was in the grave.

Sabbath day, 16 Nisan

Everyone is still resting. The disciples are still hiding in fear of arrest. Yeshua's body continues in the grave.

The Lamb is Resurrected

Sunday Morning, 17 Nisan, about 6:00 am (the third day of Unleavened Bread) (The Feast of First Fruits) [The first day after the first weekly Sabbath, after the Passover]

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Yeshua. LUK 24:1-3

The angels greeted them and told the women what had happened.

He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. LUK 24:6-9

What was fascinating about this moment was more than the disciples learning of His resurrection. It was what was happening in the temple. On the Feast of First Fruits, the priests wave green barley sheaves before the Lord thanking Him for the resurrection of life. Why the barley sheaves? They had been seeds that had died, been buried, and because of the waters of "salvation" had now been raised in newness of life. This was happening at the same time the angels were explaining to them what had happened to Yeshua.

for the kingdom of God; this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Yeshua. And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. And it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed after; and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. LUK 23:50-55

Actually, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus assisted in removing Yeshua's body and placing Him in the tomb. This is very noteworthy. Although they had disagreed with the proceedings, both of these men were members of the 14 member council that had condemned Yeshua. Moses had instructed that the chief priests were to officiate the communial sacrifices. In accordance with the altar service requirement, only members of the council were authorized to physically come into contact with the Lamb of God sacrifice. Therefore, from start to finish, the chief priests officiated accurately without knowing they were satisfying the Mosaic requirements to sacrifice the Lamb of God. They had properly prepared and handled the Lamb of God sacrifice in both place and time.

Thursday Late Afternoon, 14 Nisan/Passover, approximately 6:00 pm

And they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. LUK 23:56

Not only was there a High Sabbath for the Feast of Unleavened Bread about to begin, but the day following was a weekly Sabbath, therefore this rest and waiting period was for two Sabbaths.

Thursday Evening, 15 Nisan, the First High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, about 7:00 pm

The teaching of Yeshua about His resurrection was not understood by the disciples, but the chief priests feared its implications. They also had heard of the resurrection of Lazarus by Yeshua. So, they compelled Pilate to post a Roman guard on the tomb. They feared that disciples would steal His body and then falsely say that He had been resurrected.

Friday, 15 Nisan, the First High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Everyone rested. The disciples were hiding in fear of arrest. Yeshua's body was in the grave.

Sabbath day, 16 Nisan

Everyone is still resting. The disciples are still hiding in fear of arrest. Yeshua's body continues in the grave.

The Lamb is Resurrected

Sunday Morning, 17 Nisan, about 6:00 am (the third day of Unleavened Bread) (The Feast of First Fruits) [The first day after the first weekly Sabbath, after the Passover]

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Sunday Morning, 17 Nisan, about 8:00 am (the Feast of First Fruits)

The Gospels record for us how the disciples, particularly John and Peter, came and found the linen cloth. Remember, these are the same men who prepared the lamb for the seder meal earlier. These are the same men who prepared the Afikoman bread and the linen cloth for it. They may have been the same men to retrieve the Afikoman at the seder meal playing the game. The game is played every Passover seder. After the supper, the Afikoman is to be brought back to the table to be eaten as the dessert for the seder. However, the Afikoman is missing and only the linen cloth is found. It is a little "hide and seek" game always played. However, at the tomb of Yeshua, it was more than a game. It was His resurrection. All they found was the linen cloth.

Sunday Morning, 17 Nisan, about Noon (the Feast of First Fruits)

Apparently two of the disciples were traveling to an adjoining city near Jerusalem. Unknown to them, Yeshua walked with them. He explained the reason for the resurrection as prepared by Moses and the Prophets, only revealing Himself to them as He broke and blessed the bread. Remember, this is now the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was not just any normal bread. It was the same bread Yeshua had broken before at the Passover and had taught was about Him.

Sunday Late Afternoon, 17 Nisan, about 6:00 pm (the third day of Unleavened Bread - the third day after Passover) (The Feast of First Fruits)

Finally, Yeshua appeared suddenly in the upper room with the disciples. I can only imagine how the disciples must have felt. They were experiencing fear for their own lives mixed with the joy of seeing Yeshua, further mixed with the awe of resurrection. Their sensations must be been stretched in every direction. That is why the entire story is best described as a Passion.

Counting the days

Yeshua was in the grave on Passover Day 14 Nisan, the night of 15 Nisan, the day of 15 Nisan, the night of 16 Nisan, the day of 16 Nisan, the night of 17 Nisan, and soon on the day of 17 Nisan. Yeshua's words were correct, like Jonah. He was in the grave of the earth for three days and three nights. This is the Passion of the Passover.

The Passion of the Passover

Hezekiah

All the Passovers in the Bible!

If you are remembering how we get truth by finding the pieces to the puzzle and put them in place, we should read everything the Word of God says about **Passover.** Truthfully, if we plan to grow in the **WORD**, we will need to handle it personally! So time to do a little homework. Write everything you can about these accounts!

1. **The First Passover** – *Exodus 12*

2. **The 2nd Passover** – *(Numbers9:1-5) Setting up the Tabernacle in the Wilderness*

3. **The 3rd Passover** – *(Joshua 5:10-11) At the end of the Wilderness 38 years later as they enter the Promised Land*

4. **The 5th Passover** – *(1Chronicles 30; Numbers 9:6-14) under King Hezekiah*

5. **The Great Passover** –*(1Kings 23:21-23; 1Chronicles 35:18-19) under King Josiah*

6. **Passover Restored** *(Ezra 6:19) under Ezra at end of Babylonian Captivity*

7. **Ezekiel's Vision of the Passover** *(Ezekiel 45:21)*

8. **Jesus Christ, the true Passover** *(Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:23; John 19:14*

Passover in Jesus' Day

Here is a first hand account of the Jewish Passover during King Agrippa's reign and when Jesus taught in Jerusalem, taken from The Book of Our Heritage, Vol 2 by Eliyahu Kitov, pg 209.

"When the beginning of the month, which they call Nisan, arrives, couriers and messengers are sent out by order of the king and the judges, to all the area surrounding Jerusalem that whoever possesses sheep and cattle should hurry to bring them to the capital so that there be a sufficient supply for the pilgrims, both for their sacrifices and for their food. If anyone did not obey this order, his money would be confiscated for the use of the Sanctuary. All owners of cattle would hurry to obey and, on the way to Jerusalem they would bring their herds through a river to cleanse them of any dirt. When they reach the mountains around Jerusalem, they are so numerous that the grass can't be seen. It appears to have become completely white because of the many sheep there. The sacrifice is offered on the 14th, so when the 10th of the month comes, everyone goes to but his sacrifice which they call the "Pesach". It is a rule among them that no one asks another to let him go first, even if it were King David r King Shlomo. When I suggested to one of the ***cohanim*** *(priests) that this was not polite, he told me that before the Omnipresent there is no greatness and in His service all are equal.*

"When the 14th of the month arrive they go up a high tower of the ***Beit Hamikdash*** *(temple) which they call* ***Lul****:it has a platform made like our canaparia and blow on 3 silver trumpets. Then they make a proclamation, "O, people of God, hearken!" The time has come to slaughter the* ***Pesach*** *offering to the* ***One who causes His Presence to dwell in this great holy House****. When the people hear this announcement, they put on their festive attire, for from mid-day on, it is a festival for the Jew, since that is the time for the sacrifice."*

"At the entrance to the great courtyard 12 ***Levites*** *stand outside with 12 silver sticks in their hands. Inside stand another 12 with golden sticks. Those outside are to keep the pilgrims in order that they do not harm one another in their great haste, and so they do not enter in confusion and cause quarrels. It once happened on Pesach that an old man and his offering were crushed by the pressure of the crowd. The Levites who stand inside have to keep order among those who are leaving the courtyard when enough people had entered.*

"At the place where the offerings are slaughtered there are several rows of cohanin, some with silver spoons and some with golden spoons in their hands. The cohanin in one row all have silver spoons and those in another row all have golden ones, so that it looks most beautiful. The cohen at the head of each row receives a spoon of blood from the slaughtered animal and passes it to his neighbor until it reaches the altar. The one standing nearest the altar would send back the spoon empty and this would be passed from hand to hand until it reached the other end of the row. This was done is in such a way that each cohen received a full vessel with one hand and an empty one with the other. There was no day in the procedure.

The men were so nimble that is seemed as if the vessels were flying like arrows from the bow of a trained marksman. They used to practice this for 30 days before the required time so that there should be no mistakes and they would know their task perfectly.

At the same time there are 2 high platforms on which stand 2 cohanin with trumpets of silver. These are sounded whenever a new group of pilgrims begins to bring sacrifices so that the Levites who are standing on their platforms should know that they must now sing the ***Hallel with joy and thanksgiving*** *accompanied by all the musical instruments, which they possess. The owner of the offering also says Hallel and if all the offerings have not yet been slaughtered, then Hallel is repeated. After the slaughtering the pilgrims go to the courtyards. Here all of walls have iron teeth and prongs so that the offering can be hung up and skinned. There are also bundles of sticks so that if there is no hook vacant, a man will suspend a stick from his shoulder to that of his friend and skin the lamb on it.*

The parts that are to be offered on the altar are given, and them the owner goes away joyfully, like a victorious warrior returning from battle. For it is considered a great disgrace among the Jews if one does not bring the Pesach offering at the correct time.

When the cohanin are engaged on this task they wear short ***red tunics*** *reaching to the thighs. These are red so that any blood which is spilt does not show. They stand barefoot and their sleeves reach only to the elbow so that they should not be hampered while they work. On their heads they wear a small hat with 3 cubits of cloth would around it into a turban. People have told me that the* ***Cohen HaGadol*** *(High Priest) wears a white turban made of 40 yards of cloth.*

The ovens on which they roasted their sacrifices were at the entrance to their homes, and they told me that this was to demonstrate their faith and also to rejoice even more. They sing joyfully while they eat and their voices can be heard from afar. No one locks their door that night in Jerusalem out of respect for the many strangers passing through the streets."

King Agrippa once wished to know the number of people in Jerusalem for the Passover. He asked one of the cohanin to set aside for him one kidney from each Pesach offering and the number came to 1,200,000. This is double the number of males who came out of Egyptian the Exodus, and this is not the full number for there was not a single Pesach Lamb that was shared be less that 10 people.

The vessels for passing the blood are described in other sources as being wide at the top and pointed at the bottom so they can't be put down. This is to keep the blood in constant motion which would prevent it from congealing and render it unfit to sprinkle on the altar.

Passover for Beginners!
(A Hebrew Help Sheet for Christians!)

Passover starts: As soon as the sun goes down on April 24
Celebrated as a Family, best clothes and china!

Seder: The 15 step order of the meal teaching the Exodus

Haggadah: The Book that you read during the service

Matzah: The unleavened Bread, tastes like saltine cracker minus the salt

Menu: Roasted lamb
Hard-boiled eggs
Parsley
Charoses (Apples, nuts, wine)
Horseradish (Hot enough to make tears come!)
Salt water for dipping
Matzah

Matzah Tosch: A 3-compartment bag to put 3 Matzoh in each section.

Afikomen - the middle matzah, broken in half, wrapped in linen and hidden. It is the only Greek word. It means " I came."

4 Cups of Wine - one for each of God's 4 Promises to Israel

"I Will Bring You Out"	1. Cup of Blessing
"I Will Rescue You From Bondage"	2. Cup of Affliction
"I Will Redeem You"	3. Cup of Redemption
"I Will Take You As My People"	4. Cup of Consummation

Seat for Elijah: The Jews are expecting Elijah to return to announce the Coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5)

Finale: Everyone shouts, "Next year in Jerusalem"
Next year may we all meet with the Messiah in Jerusalem!

Jesus In the Passover Meal!

Matt. 26:17-30

Now on the 1st day of Unleavened Bread (Passover Nissan14) The disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "TheTeacher says, "My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with my disciples." The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the 12 disciples.

As they were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray me." Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" And Jesus answered, "He who dips his hand in the bowl with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man is to go, just as it has bee written, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man had he not been born."

And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" and Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself."

Mark repeats this verse by verse, but we get a little more from LUKE!
Mark 14:12-26

Luke 22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put HIM to death; for they were afraid of the people. And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the 12. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and the officers how he might betray Him to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. So Judas consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the crowd (PASSOVER)

Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover Lamb had to be sacrificed. And Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "go and prepare the PASSOVER for us, so that we may eat it." They said to Jesus, "where do you want us to prepare it?" And He said to them, "When you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters. And you shall say to the owner of the house, "The Master says to you, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the PASSOVER with my disciples? And he will show you a large furnished upper room; prepare it there." And they left and found everything just as He had told them, and they prepared the PASSOVER.

When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And Jesus said to them, "I HAVE ERNESTLY DESIRED TO EAT

Jesus in the Passover Meal!

So we have to ask ourselves, if God is a God of patterns and pictures, and He commanded the people of God to eat a Passover meal in memory forever, then there must be another treasure for us to find in the SEDER (Hebrew- order). The Haggadah (the re-telling) pictures 15 steps in the SEDER.

What really happened in the upper room that night?

The first confusing issue to non-Jews is how Jesus and his disciples could eat the Passover one night and then Jesus himself could be killed as the Pesach the following day. Were there 2 days for killing the lambs?

Passover was observed in the home first, killed by the father of the house at the Temple between 3:00pm and sunset on Nisan 14th. The lamb was then taken home to be eaten by the gathered family. There was a different lamb killed as a day sacrifice in the Temple and put of the altar. Jesus fulfilled all of this as He eat the Passover and then became the national Pesach for Israel.

The Passover to Jews is lengthy and cherished with much careful work going into it. Houses are scrubbed and everything is cleaned. Only the finest chine and crystal and silverware are used. The story of deliverance has songs, prayers, and re-tellings, as well as food to commemorate the Exodus.

The leader sat or reclined at the head of the table, the youngest is seated at his right side and at the left is the guest of honor, or a seat for Elijah.

In the Seder, there are 4 cups of wine to be drunk to remember God's promises of deliverance. 1. *"I will bring you out"*

2. "I will rescue you from bondage"
3. *"I will redeem you"*.
4. *"I will take you as my people"*.

1. The first is the Kiddush (Kaddesh) the cup of sanctification!

The father recites, *"Blessed are Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine. Blessed are You, O Lord Our God, Who has chosen us for Your service from among the nations...Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us in life, who has preserved us, and has enabled us to reach this season."*

During the Feast of Passover (John 15:1) **Jesus** said *"I am the true vine"*.
Isaiah 5:7 tells how God planted a vineyard (Israel); the choice vine was the **Messiah (5:2)**
Luke 22:17 – Jesus as the leader in the Upper Room
recites the Kiddush, *"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks"*.

2. Ur'chatz (washing of the hands) a member of the family brings a pitcher of water, bowl, and a towel. This is for purification needed to handle food. It was probably here that Jesus taught an object lesson that we read in John13:4-5. "*Jesus rose from supper and laid aside his garments, took a towel and girded himself. After that, He poured water into a bowl and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded*".
The object lesson demonstrated his willingness to cleanse them before they handled the food, just as a servant would do.

3. Karpas - (green herbs, parsley)
   Everyone will now dip a piece of parsley into the salt water and eat it. Green means spring time when Passover occurred, and salt water represents the tears of affliction the Israelites shed in slavery. The oldest will sit on the left side and dip the sop. (Judas) and the youngest on the right (John). John 13:26-27 tells us how Jesus, John, and Judas were seated.

4. Yachatz - breaking of the matzah
   The leader now removes the middle matzah from the bag and breaks it in half. Half (afikomen) is carefully placed in a linen napkin and hidden as the children close their eyes. It will be retrieved later in the seder. Luke 22:19

5. The *Maggid* - The 4 questions are asked (Exodus 12:26 "*When your children say this to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'*" Now these questions are asked by the youngest child. "Why is this night different than any other night? On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread, but on this night, only unleavened bread?" On all other nights, we eat all kinds of herbs, but on this night, only bitter herbs? On all other nights, we do not dip even once, but on this night, we dip twice? On all other nights, we eat either sitting down or reclining, but on this night we eat reclining?" There are 12 sections re-telling the whole story from leaving Ur all the way to the giving of the Law at Sinai. A second cup of wine is poured. (cup of wrath or affliction) and each time a plague is recounted, a tiny bit of wine is poured out for the sorrows felt. This is to be personal!

6. Rachtzah - (washing of hands with a blessing)

7. Motzi "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the Bread from the earth."

8. Matzah - the upper matzah and the middle are broken and distributed and everyone must eat it dipped in horseradish and charoset (apple

mixture). This reminds the people of the sweetness of God's deliverance in the middle of bitter bondage. Then each one makes a *Hillel sandwich* by putting horseradish between 2 matzah.

9. Maror (bitter herbs are blessed and eatern) – romaine lettuce, horseradish

10. Korech (matzah and maror are eaten together)

11. Shulcan Orech (the meal is eaten) a festive roast lamb, or today chicken.

12. Tzafun – the Afikomen is found by the children and ransomed, then eaten. The broken piece wrapped in linen when found will bring to the child a valuable gift, called " the promise of the Father". Everyone must eat a piece of the afikomen to conclude the Passover.

13 Barech – Blessing and 3rd Cup of Wine - Cup of Redemption!

It is here that Jesus probably started the New Covenant in His Blood (Luke 22:20 calls it the cup after supper). Or the 3rd cup. After this cup a child is sent to the door in the fervent hopes that Elijah the Prophet will appear as a guest to drink his cup of wine and announce the coming of the Messiah! Mal 4:5 says, "*I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*"

14. Hallel – the 4th Cup of Praise is poured – We call this the cup of consummation. And this is the unfinished meal Jesus talked about in Math 16:29 that He would not drink until He drank it with the disciples in the Kingdom to Come, because His joy would not be full until then. Psalms 115-118 are chanted here – to await the Messiah.

15. Nirtzah – (all is finished!) Final Hymn that ends with "*Next Year in Jerusalem!*

All Seders had to register with the Temple and must have at least 10 people. The passover lamb must come from a 200 mile radius from Jerusalem (Bethlehem!) The people, not the priest, must slay the lamb themselves. Anyone who could not come to Jersalem had to have a substitue, the shankbone of a lamb, called ***zeroah, or arm.*** The Messiah is called the zeroah in Isaiah 53:1. You must eat until you are full of the lamb. *The first Seder was on Nisan 14th and the Second Seder was on 15th*

" Behold the Lamb of GOD"

To make sure His people would recognize and welcome HIS MESSIAH, DOG painted pictures and presented patterns as clues. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO MISS THE LAMB OF GOD"

1. Jesus is born of a virgin ....His Blood comes from HIS FATHER!
2. John is conceived by the purpose of GOD and born just 6 months ahead of Jesus so he could announce the Messiah .....John was born around Passover and belonged to a priestly family. Jesus was born during the Feast of Tabernacles. (Luke Chapter 1; Zechariah ministers during the course of Abijah in the Holy Temple!)
3. The babe in Elizabeth's womb leaps when he recognized the Baby in Mary's womb.!!!
4. John was born to identify the Jesus, "prepare the way for the Messiah." When Jesus is about 30 years of age, John baptized Jesus and cries, "Behold, the LAMB OF GOD who takes away the sin of the world." His ministry was over soon after that!
5. John (from a family of priests) anoints Jesus as a priest at Jordon! Priests begin their ministry at age 30, Jesus Baptised at age 30! Only one priest can anoint another priest for service by a mikvah (baptism-ritual cleaning)

Jerusalem 30 AD

All of Israel is gathered to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem
God has them all there to see His Passover Lamb Pay for their sins!

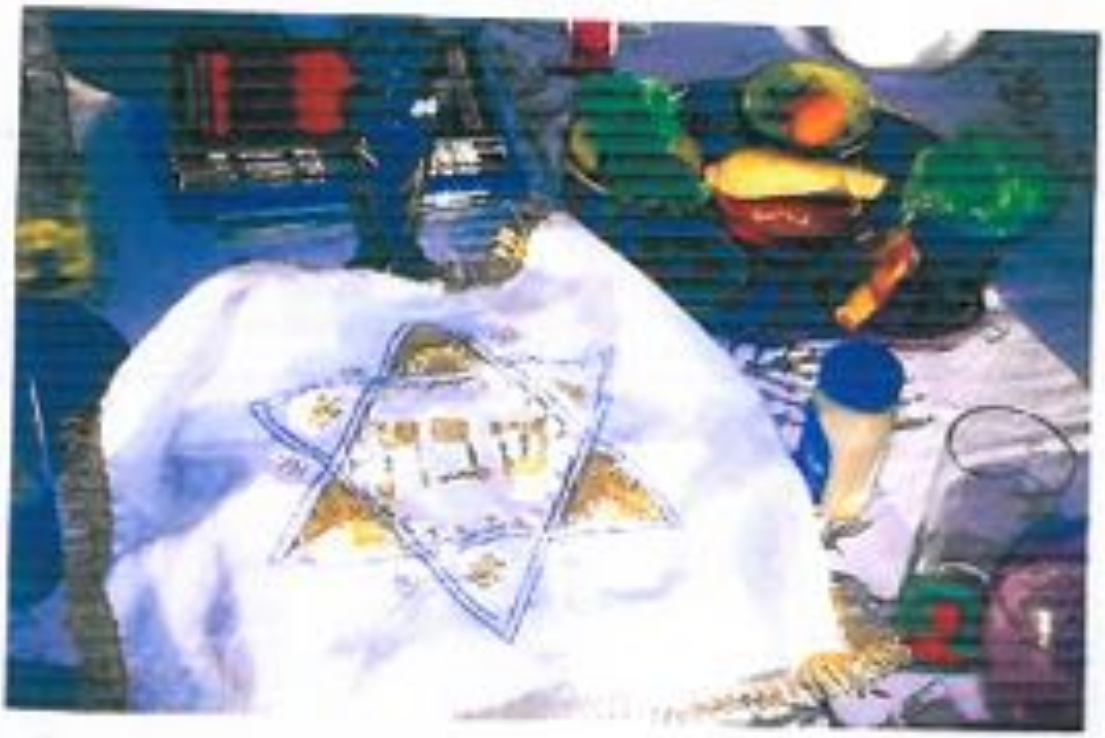
Jesus is brought before Caiphas and the Sanhedrin, MATT. 26:65

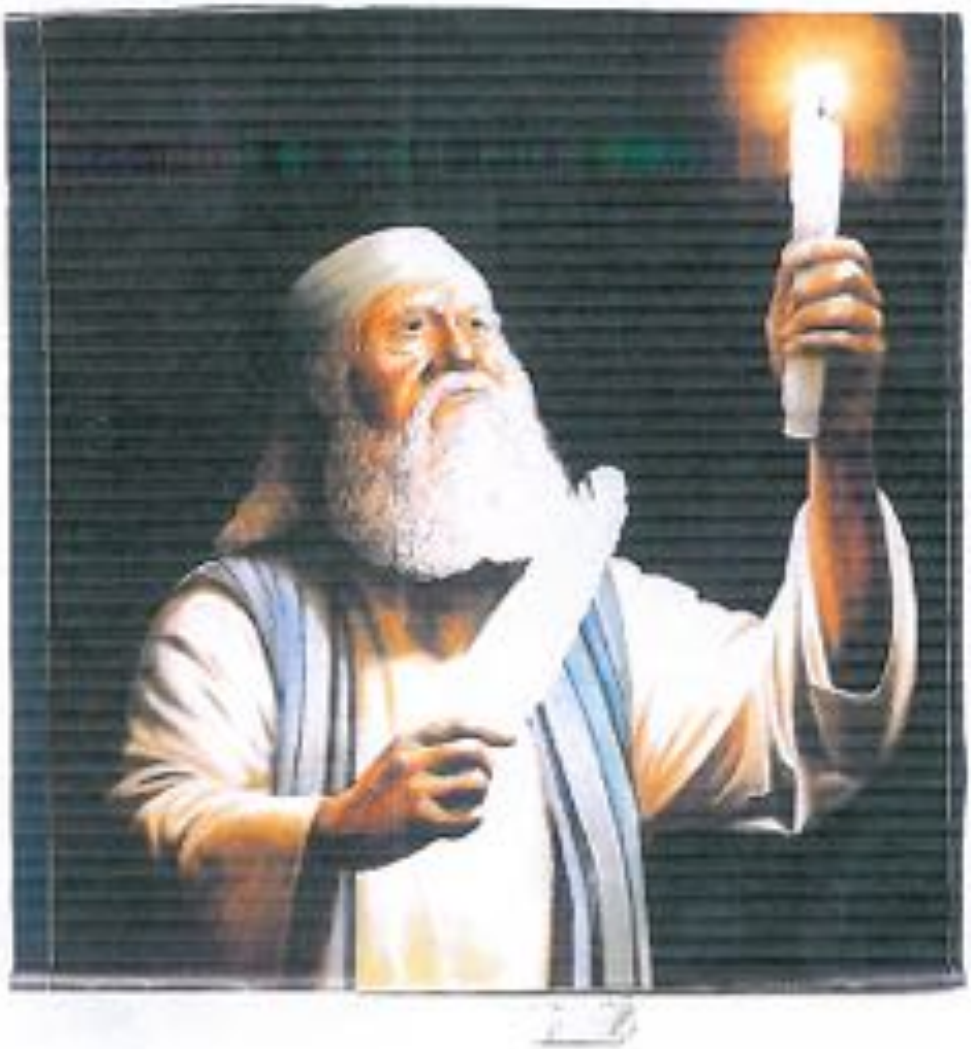
1. The High Priest rent his clothes is rage, and that immediately disqualified him from the priesthood. **** Remember how careful God was to tell us that Jesus was wearing a seamless garment(the garment a priest would wear) and that it was not ripped. He was not disqualified !!

2. Jesus quotes Psalm 22.... My God, My God, Why have you forsaken Me?
   Read Psalm 22 It prophesies everything that will happen to Jesus!
2. Jesus lays his life down at 3:00 on Passover as the Lamb of God
3. He cries "It is finished"
4. The Mishnah teaches that the High Priest cries "It is finished" as soon as he slays the Passover Lamb and applies the blood for Israel's sin!

Revelation 5:6 - The Lamb of GOD slain Rev.13:9 the False Lamb Comes!
Ministry of Christ 3 ½ years ministry of false Christ 3 ½ years

Modern Day Passover






THE BREAD

Unleavened Bread – Sanctification!

Exodus 12:8, 15-20,31-39; Leviticus 23:6-8
Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Numbers 28:17-25

A study of Unleavened Bread will bring new, fresh truth to our hearts and since this is the second progressive step in our Christian walk after our salvation (Passover), we are now ready to "clean house" with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Literal meaning – *On the evening after the Passover (the following day) starts Hag HaMatzah. The mother will have already completed a thorough house cleaning, all the rooms, sheets, cupboards, windows, all clean for the next 7 days, no leaven can be found in the house. Any food article with leaven in it has been carefully removed (beans, rice, yeast, or anything that puffs up) and now she will hide small traces of leaven throughout the house. The father with the children in tow, armed with a wooden spoon, a feather and a candle, will now search for the leaven. What types and shadows of truth is God painting here? Each room is carefully examined and when the leaven is found by candle's light, the father uses the feather to sweep the leaven into the wooden spoon. Throughout the house the procession goes, and then the father takes the leaven outside and throws it into a fire to be burned up. Try your hand at figuring God's types and shadows.*

The candle	*The leaven*	*The 7 Day Feast!*
The feather	*Burned in the fire*	
The wooden Spoon	*Outside the house*	

Unleavened Bread always designates consecration, sanctification setting apart the holy! A mini topical study will show how God uses unleavened bread to **separate**.

1. *Consecration of the priests to office and ministry. (Lev. 8:2,26; Ex 29:2,23)*
2. *Vow of Nazarite (Numbers 6:1-12)*
3. *Food set apart for Priests, especially meal offering and peace offering (Lev2:4-5; 6:14-18; 7:11-13)*
4. *All Feasts of the Lord* ***except Pentecost!***
5. *Angel of the Lord calls Gideon (Judges 6:22-24)*
6. *Masada falls on Nisan 15th 73 AD, after 2 ½ years Roman siege. Josephus 8:1; 9:9*
7. *Leaving Egypt (Exodus 12:17, 31-34)*
8. *Forever part of Passover meal to set Israel apart from the world.*

Leaven in the Word ***(hametz)*** *means being puffed up or sour. Jesus was thorough in warning His disciples about putting away the leaven spiritually in their lives.*

A. *The leaven of Herod (Mark 8:15; 6:14-28) – spirit of worldliness, Herod respected John, believed he was a prophet, yet was controlled by his sensual appetite, and would not repent of his sin with Herodias when John exposed it publicly. He murdered John to cover his sin.*

B. *The leaven of the Sadducees – (Matt 16:6-12) Spirit of false doctrine*
The Sadducees taught against the resurrection, angels, the supernatural, & the Holy Spirit.

C. *The leaven of the Pharisees – (Matt 16:6-12;Luke 12:1) "The religious spirit. Pharisees do not walk out their talk. They are hypocrites, externally clean and inwardly rotten. They press down the people with burdens they cannot bear.*

D. *The leaven of Corinth – (I Cor. 5:1-13) Spirit of pride. This church had all the gifts operating, but out of order because they were so puffed up in pride. Also the account of adultery in the camp was corrupting the whole and Paul urged them to "put away" the brother in sin in a lesson on proper church discipline.*

E. The leaven of Galatia (Galatians 5:9) Spirit of legalism. This body of believers had been freed by the Spirit and was now confused by false teachers demanding they come under the law for their salvation.

The Matza ***Jesus in the Crucifixion is the Matzah!***

Isaiah 53:4-6

Unleavened, 39 Stripes *Striped (39 Lashes)*
made from crushed seed (One seed that died so many could live)
eaten in remembrance (Last Supper) *Baked with Fire (persecuted)*
Pierced *Broken* *provided healing for Israel*

Unleavened Bread ***Jesus is the Unleavened Bread!***

Abraham presents 3 unleavened cakes to the Lord. Gen 18
The Table of Shewbread had 12 cakes in the Tabernacle of Moses (Num 4:7, Lev. 24:5-9
A golden Pot of Manna placed in the Ark of the Covenant (Heb 9:4)
Abraham received bread and wine from Melchisedek (Gen 14:18, Heb 7.1-12)
The Angel of the Lord accepted Gideon's sacrifice of unleavened cakes (Judges 6:19-21)
All the Feasts of the Lord demand unleavened bread, except Pentecost!

The Manna ***Jesus is the Manna!***

Heavenly bread given by God supernaturally (Ex 16)
Provided health in the wilderness
Ceased as soon as they celebrated Passover in the Promised Land

Jesus was born in the House of Bread – Bethlehem!

Jesus said, " I am the Bread"
" This is my body, broken for you, the bread of the new 'covenant".

The year of Jesus Christ's death, Nisan 15th fell on a Thursday night and Friday day. Thus there were 2 Sabbaths back-to-back. The Jewish Feast day of Hag HaMatzah was the High Sabbath Thursday night to Friday day, followed by the weekly Sabbath from Friday 6:00pm to Sat 6:00pm. This is proved in the Word only by Matt 28:1 where the word Sabbath in translated in the Greek as shabbaton, meaning the Feast Day HagHaMatzah' followed by Mark 15:42 which clearly teaches that "it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath. Also Matt 26: 62 and John 19:31

*****Jesus is the Afikomen

During the Passover Seder, the middle matzah is broken, wrapped in linen, and hidden until the last of the Seder. Then the child who finds it, may ask for the "promise of the Father" (he asks for a special gift in reward for finding the afikomen). Jesus, the middle part of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost was also broken, wrapped in linen and hidden. Whoever finds the Son can freely ask for the Promise of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit who gives gifts unto men! The Jews practice this every Passover with the Afikomen means "I have come!"

Unleavened Bread – John Chapter 6 – "The Bread of Life"

1.After this Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee (also Sea of Tiberias). 2. And a huge crowd kept following Him wherever He went, because they saw His miracles as He healed the sick. 3.Then Jesus went up into the hills and sat down with his disciples around him. 4. It was nearly time for the annual **Passover celebration.** 5. Jesus soon saw a crowd of people climbing the hill, looking for Him. Turning to Philip, He said, "Philip, where can we buy **bread** to feed all these people?" 6. He was testing Philip, for He already know what He would do. 7. Philip replied, "It would take a small fortune to feed them." 8. Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 9."There's a small boy with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. But what good is that to this huge crowd?" 10. "Tell everyone to sit down", ordered Jesus. So all of them – the men alone numbered 5000 – sat down on the grassy slopes. 11. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed them out to the people. Afterwards, He did the same with the fish. And they all ate until they were full. 12. "Now gather the leftovers," Jesus told his disciples, "so that nothing is wasted." 13.There were only 5 barley loves to start with, but 12 baskets were filled with the pieces of bread the people did not eat. 14. When all the people saw this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, He is the prophet we have been expecting!" 15. Jesus saw that they were ready to take Him by force and make Him king, so He went higher into the hills alone.

John 6: 16-21 Jesus walks on the water!

22. The next morning, back across the lake, crowds began gathering on the shore, waiting to see Jesus. For they knew that He and His disciples had come over together and that the disciples had gone off in their boat, leaving Jesus behind. 23. Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the **bread** and the people had eaten. 24. When the crowd saw that Jesus wasn't there nor his disciples, they got into boats and came across to Capernaum to look for Him. 25. When they arrived and found Him, they asked, "Teacher, how did you get here?"

26. Jesus replied," The truth is, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you saw the miraculous sign. 27. But you shouldn't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Speed your energy seeking the eternal life that I, the Son of Man, can give you. For God the Father has sent me for that very purpose." 28. They replied, "What does God want us to do?"

29. Jesus told them, "this is what God wants you to do: Believe in the One that He sent!"

30. They replied, " You must show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What will you do for us? 31. After all, our ancestors ate ***manna*** while journeying through the wilderness. As the Scriptures say, "Moses gave them ***bread from heaven*** to eat.

32. Jesus said, "I assure you, Moses didn't give them ***bread from heaven.*** My Father did. And now He offers you the ***true bread from heaven.*** 33. ***The true bread of God*** is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34. "Sir, give us that ***bread*** every day of our lives."

35. Jesus replied, " ***I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again, those who believe in Me will never thirst.*** 36. But you haven't believed in Me even though you have seen me. However, those that the Father has given Me will come to Me, and I will never reject them. 38. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent Me, not to do what I want. 39. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those He has given me, but that I should raise them to eternal life at the last day. 40. For it is My Father's will that all who see His son and believe in Him should have eternal life; that I should raise them at the last day.

41.Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, " I am the bread from heaven." 42. They said," Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his mother and father. How can He say, "I came down from heaven?" 43. But Jesus replied, "Don't complain about what I said. 44. For people can't come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them to Me, and at the last day I will raise them from the dead. 45. As it is written in the Scriptures, 'they will all be taught by God." Everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to Me. (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen the Father.) 47. I assure you, anyone who believes in Me already has eternal life. 48. ***Yes, I am the bread of Life!*** 49 Your ancestors at ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. 50. However, the ***bread from heaven*** gives eternal life to everyone who eats it. 51. ***I am the Living Bread that came down out of heaven.*** Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. This ***bread is my flesh*** offered so the world may live.

52. Then the people began arguing with each other about what He meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked. 53. So Jesus said again, " I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you cannot have eternal life, and I will raise them at the last day. For my flesh is the true food, And my blood is the true drink. 56. All who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me, and I in them. 57. I live by the power of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, those who

partake of me will live because of me. 58. *I am the true bread from heaven.* Anyone who eats this **bread** will live forever and not die, as did your ancestors, even though they ate the **manna.**

59. Jesus said these things while He was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

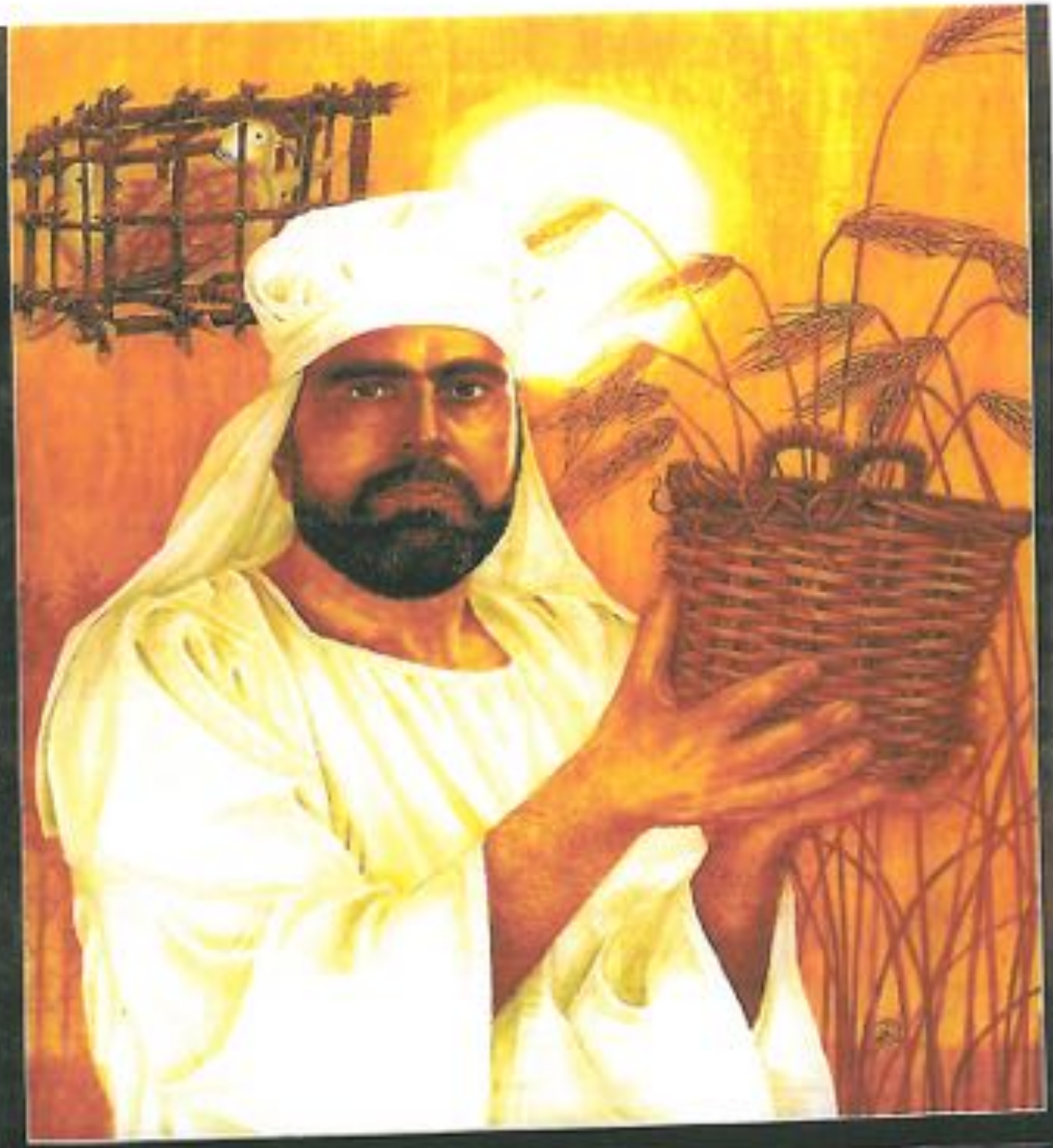
Jesus was made sin for us!!

He fulfilled Unleavened Bread by taking the sin outside the camp.

2 Cor. 5:21 *"He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

1 John 3:5 *" You know that he appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin."*

Romans 6:6 *"Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin, for he who has died is freed from sin. Now f we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin* ***once for all****; but the live that He lives, He lives to God. Ever so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Therefore* ***do not let sin reign*** *in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slave for obedience, you are slaves of the one to whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience, result in righteousness?*



בכורים

"Ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest, And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD" (Lev. 23:10-11).

The New Testament Firstfruits!

If our God paints pictures of His truth for us; the firstfruits festival being a **pledge** of the resurrection of the true believers to come, then what does the Word teach in the New Covenant about firstfruits?

Matt. 27:52-53 –(after Jesus died on the cross) *"The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection appeared they entered the Holy City and appeared to many."*

1. Jesus Himself was the first to be resurrected and seen by many.
2. Other dead saints were resurrected at the same time and same by many.

1 Cor.15:20-23 *"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, and the first fruits and them who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His Coming."*

1 Cor.15:51-57 *"Behold, I will tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we all will be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come the saying that is written, "**Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting?"** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"*

James 1:18 – *"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the Word of truth, so that we would be a kind of **first fruits** among His creatures."*

Romans 8:22-23 *"For we know that the whole of creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only think but we ourselves also, having the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly awaiting for our **adoption as sons**, the redemption of our body."*

1 Corinthians 16:15 *"Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the **first fruits of Achaia,** and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints."*

Revelation 14:4 *"These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as **first fruits to God and to the Lamb."***

Matt 13:36-43 *"He left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field. And He said, "the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and so the enemy who sowed them is the devil.,, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Firstfruits – Spiritual Principles

1. **First Fruits of the crops** "When you give God the best (first), He will take care of the rest" – By sanctifying the firstborn of men and animals, God demonstrated the spiritual principal of accepting a **pledge** to ensure a protected, mature harvest.

2. **Firstfruits of the womb** All Jewish males (except the Levites) were to be redeemed (5 silver shekels) when they were presented to the priest at the age of one month (Numbers 18:16). This ceremony is called the Pidyon Haben. God used this principle to verify Jesus as the Messiah by two very reliable witnesses when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus the babe to the temple. We read in Luke 2:30 that Simeon took Jesus the babe and pronounced he could now die, "*For my eyes have seen Your Salvation (Jehoshua)*
   Old Anna was the 2nd witness to the Redeemer that day to verify the Messiah.
   Num 3:13 – "*Because all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck all the Firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to myself all the firstborn in Israel.*"\
   *The sin of **ABORTION** is greatly magnified because usually it is the **death of the Firstborn!***

3. **Spiritually firstborn** is really what we happens when we are born again. No matter what birth order we are: first, middle or last, we are in our natural family; we become the firstborn of God's family when Jesus saves us! We are now to be **set apart** for Him. *"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruit." James 1:18*

4. **Firstfruits of the spirit** –(Rom.8: 23) the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the pledge or promise or seal that our bodies will be redeemed from the curse of sin and glorified at resurrection. It is God's pledge that we can live every day by the power of the Holy Spirit directing our lives instead of our flesh.

5. **144,000 in Revelation** (Chap.7 and 14) are Jewish men who will be sealed and protected during the Tribulation. They are called firstfruits to God, because they represent the guarantee of the future Jewish Harvest during the Tribulation. This is the promise that God will resurrect the Jewish faithful during the Tribulation.

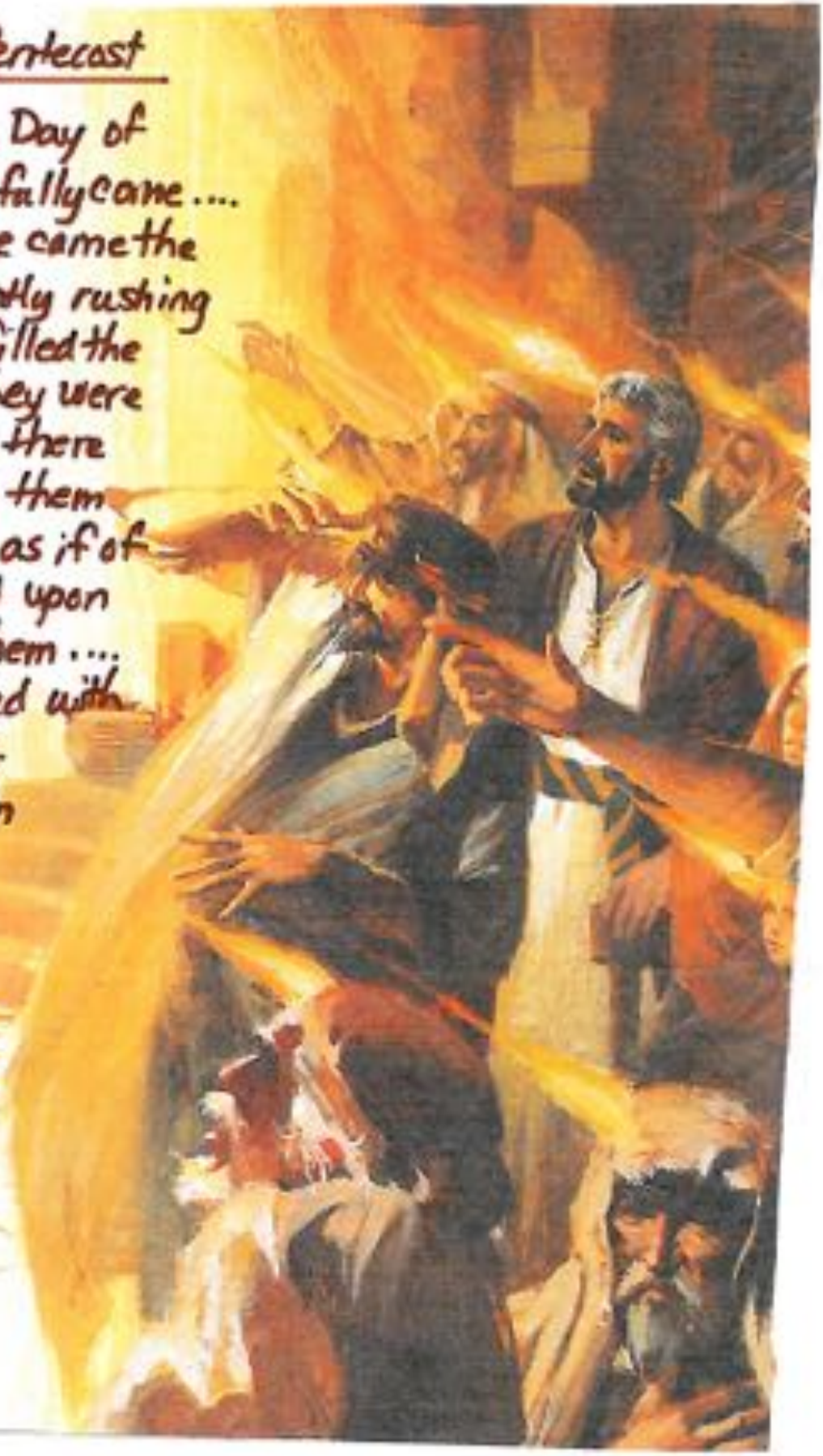
6. **Jesus rose as the firstfruits** (1 Corinthian 15:20) *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

7. **Tithing represents giving our firstfruits** we being our tithes into the storehouse as a pledge to GOD that we trust HIM to provide for us. This is His promise to take care of us **if we honor HIM with our firstfruits!** Malachi 3:10-11
   "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there maybe food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, " if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing for you until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

The Day of Pentecost

"And when the Day of Pentecost was fully came.... Suddenly there came the sound of mightly rushing wind and it filled the house where they were sitting.... and there appeared unto them cloven tongues as if of fire and it sat upon each one of them.... they were filled with the Holy Ghost and they began to speak in other tongues."

Acts 2:1-4



The Feast of Pentecost - *Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)*

Ex. 19 and 20, Ex. 23:16-17, Ex. 32:22 32: 22, Lev. 23:15-21 Deut.16:9-12
Acts 2 Heb.8:1 Col.16:8; 2 Cor. 3

The first pilgrim journey to Jerusalem in the first month, Nisan, is over - Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First
Fruits are behind us. All return to their homes and await the 4th appointment with God, the Feast of Weeks, which will be exactly 50 days after First fruits. We are learning that God is exactly on time! We will learn much from understanding the different names for celebrating this Feast!

Shavuot - Hebrew for the Feast of Weeks (always a Sunday - Lev. 23:15-21)
"You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath (the day after the weekly Sabbath), from the day you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering (First Fruits) there shall be **7 complete Sabbaths**. You shall count **50 (7 Sabbaths +1 day = 50)** days to the day after the Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall brings in from your dwelling places 2 loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of 2/10 of an ephah (2 omers); they shall be of fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits (of the wheat harvest) to the LORD. Along with the bread, you shall present 7 one-year old (firstborn) male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and 2 rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD. You shall offer 1 male goat for a sin offering and 2 male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offering. The priest shall then wave them with the bread (wheat, leavened) of the first fruits for a wave offering with 2 lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest. On this same day (**Shavuot**) you shall make a proclamation as well, you are to have a **holy convocation**. You shall do no laborious work; it is to be perpetual statue in all your dwelling places throughout all your generations!
Ex. 34:22- "You shall celebrate **the Feast of Weeks**, that is the first fruits of the wheat harvest."
~. 16:9-12 "You shall count 7 weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count 7 weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain (wheat). Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your GOD with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the LORD GOD blesses you. And you shall rejoice before the LORD your GOD, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst, in the place where the LORD your GOD chooses to establish His name. You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes."

Feast of Harvest - Ex. 23:16 "
"Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field;

Pentecost – Old and New!

God drew pictures and patterns for us so we could understand truths and apply them to our lives, to grow and mature in His ways! In the Old Testament, God initiates the spiritual principle, in the New Testament He builds that same picture, then Jesus comes to fulfill the pattern, but it is up to us to **apply spiritual truths to our own lives!** Let's compare the old and the new testament truths of Shavuot!

Old Covenant	**New Covenant**
The 50th Day –Ex. 19 on Mt. Sinai	The 50th Day – Acts 2
God write 10 Commandments on Stone Tablets	Holy Spirit writes love commandments on our hearts (Mt.22:34-40)
Written by Finger of God	Written by Holy Spirit (Luke 11:20)
3000 die	3000 born again (Acts 2:41)
The Law kills	The Spirit gives Life (2 Cor. 3:6)
Glory on the face of Moses	Glory of Jesus is better
Moses' face veiled	Unveiled face so we can be changed Into same glory
Glory to be done away	Glory that remains
Supernatural signs- trumpet Thunder, clouds, fire, voice	Supernatural signs – wind, fire, tongues
God's voice is seen as fire	Flames upon heads of disciples
Mt. Sinai	Mt. Zion (Heb. 12:22-24)
Israel birthed	Church Birthed
Law introduced	Holy Spirit introduced!
2 leavened Breads	Jew and Gentile -
Wave offering - **temoofaw** Firstfruits of wheat	Shake under Spirit's power – Firstfruits of Church

Acts 1:7-8 " It is not for you to know the <u>times or the seasons (moedim)</u> __which the Father has put in His own power, but you shall receive <u>power</u> __After that the Holy Spirit is come upon you."

Acts 1:4-5 Then Jesus "commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but <u>wait for the promise of the Father</u>__for John truly baptized With water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days."

Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven of a mighty rushing wind, and it willed all the house (the temple) where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like fire, and it sat upon each of them. And <u>they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues."</u>

Sivan 6 is Pentecost - the word Sivan means "appointed times"

Sivan 6 in OT birthed Judaism Sivan 6 in NT birthed the church

Prophecy and Pentecost!

Dear student of the Word who hungers for deeper revelation from God,

Do you remember that the 7 Feast of the LORD are the blueprints for Jesus' entire work of redemption, which means the 1st and 2nd Coming? Let's look at the pattern of Exodus 19 and see what God reveals!

Exodus	Rapture, 2nd Coming
God showed up on 3rd Day	The 3rd Day (Hosea 6:1-3)
Israel gathered in one accord	Church gathered to meet the LORD
God came down in the clouds	Jesus coming in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11)
Sound of trumpet (first trump)	Sound of trumpet (last) 1 Thess.4:17
God came in fire	Jesus comes in fire (2 Thess. 1:7-10)
Voice of God heard	Voice of archangel (1 Thess.4:17)
God descends from Heaven	Jesus Descends from Heaven
God calls Moses up	Church is called up in Rapture
Moses went up to meet God	We go up to meet Jesus in the air

The Jewish Wedding

The Book of Ruth is read aloud during Pentecost. A gentile bride marries the Jewish kinsman redeemer and restores the inheritance to the Jewish mother-in-law. Ruth meets Boaz during the barley harvest (First Fruits) and is married during Pentecost, the wheat harvest... These 2 together are called the corn harvests, and are prophetic of the Jewish and gentile believers gathered in before the Tribulation. The fall feast point to the final harvest of the Ingathering, when all the fruit will be stored in the barn!!

God married Israel under the cloud of Mt. Sinai - The wedding canopy- the **chuppah**
The legal marriage contract read aloud is the 10 Commandments! **The ketubah**
The bride says, "I do" Israel said they would keep all the commandments!
God calls Israel His wife (Hosea) Jesus calls the Church His Bride!

There is always a waiting period between the betrothal (Passover - salvation) and the formal consummation of the wedding!

Jesus starts His ministry at a wedding and ends His ministry at a wedding, the <u>Marriage Supper of the Lamb!</u>

Now with the truth that you have, re-examine all the marriage parables of Jesus. They were always part of His teaching on the Day of the LORD - the end times!

This will be the 2nd harvest of firstfruits, the first one was the sheaf of the barley harvest in Nisan during Passover and now we are at the wheat harvest. Don't be confused by the firstfruits, always determine the time by the crop! There will be 3 harvest times, one at each time the Israelites journey to meet God in Jerusalem.

Day of First Fruits – Num. 28:26 "Also on the Day of First fruits, when you present a new grain offering (wheat) to the LORD in your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a **holy convocation**; you shall do no laborious work. You shall offer a burnt offering for a soothing aroma to the LORD: 2 young bulls, 1 ram, 7 male firstborn lambs, and their grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil; 3/10 of an ephah for each bull, 2/10 of an ephah for the 1 ram, and 1/10 for each of the 7 lambs, also 1 male goat to make atonement for you. Besides the continual burnt offerings and its grain offering, you shall present them with their drink offerings. They shall be without defect.

Why is 50 important to God?

In our study we have found that God's number have great meaning.
The number 50 means liberation, freedom, and deliverance –*here are just a few!!*

1. Pentecost is 50 days after Feast of barley first fruits (Lev.25:10)
2. Ark was 50 cubits wide and 6x50 cubits long – it delivered Noah and his family and the animals to safety. (Gen 6:15)
3. Priests retire from service at age 50 (Num 4:23)
4. Obadiah hid 100 prophets in groups of 50 in caves to save their lives from Jezebel. (1 Kings 18:4,13)
5. 50 prophets see Elijah taken up in the chariot. (2Kngs 2:7)
6. 50 shekels is the value to redeem an adult male (Lev.27:1-5,16)
7. Men sat in groups of 50's for the feeding of the 5000. (Luke 9:14)
8. The Wilderness Tabernacle had 50 taches of gold, 50 of brass, and 50 curtain loops (Ex.36:12, 13,17; 38:12-13)
9. Moses gave 1 out of 50 of the spoils of Midian and gave it to the Levites. (Num 32:47)
10. 50 shekels is paid to the father if a man rapes a virgin of Israel (Dt. 22:29)
11. God spared 50 men when a righteous captain asked Elijah (2 Kings 1:13)
12. Haman's gallows that he was hung on was 50 cubits high! (Esther5:14)
13. The Temple measurements of 50 cubits! (Ezek. 40:15,21,25,29,33,36,)

The Jewish rabbis insisted that Pentecost was the atzeret (finish) to Passover. They counted the days from First Fruits by "counting the omer" outloud all the way until the 50th day – SHAVUOT. It was done publicly, ie. "this is the 3rd day, 2nd week of the omer" and no one was taken by surprise when PENTECOST was fully come! In Acts 2, we find that after Jesus was seen alive by many for 40 days, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. There were expecting a visitation, the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised to come and they were not taken by surprise by PENTECOST.....they heard the omer being counted and they all HAD to be in Jerusalem for the appointed time – Shavuot!

1. Teshuvah – REPENT! This follows the 30 days of Elul where all Israel repents and gets ready for the trumpet pronouncing God's final judgment. Tishrei 1-10 completes the 40 days given by GOD to make a decision before a holy God executes punishment.

2. Rosh Ha Shanah – literally means "the head of the year " and is the Jewish New Year. Tishrei was the first month of the Jewish civil calendar and starts the agricultural cycle. It is thus believed to be the Birthday of Creation"

3. Yom Teruah – The Day of the Awakening Blast/ Feast of Trumpets

4. Feast of the New Moon – This is the only feast celebrated of the first day of the month as a High Sabbath. Every month, a council of elders sent eyewitnesses to watch for the first sliver of the new moon, by which the new month officially begins. As soon as the new moon was sighted, a delegation would "telegraph" the news to the Temple and the High Priest would exclaim, "It is sanctified." Because of the time need for the new moon to be verified throughout the land and in case of clouds, 2 days were actually celebrated as "one long day".

5. The Day No Man Knows the Hour - Because it is celebrated for 2 days!

6. Yom Ha Din - The Day of Judgment, when the heavenly court is seated and God opens the books in Heaven. Sentence is passed on mankind, but there is still room for some negotiations. The book is sealed on Yom Kippur in just 10 days and the sentence is carried out.

7. Ha Melech – Coronation of the King. The Messiah takes His throne! (Rev.5;Dan 7:9-14)

8. Yom Ha Zikkaron – The Day of Remembrance. The Bible says there is a Book of Remembrance for every time someone thinks of, yearns for the Messiah Jesus!

9. Chevlai shel Mashiach – " The birthpangs of the Messiah," the time of Jacob's Trouble (Isa. 13:6-8; Isa.66:7,8; Jer.30:6-7; Matt.24:8 sorrows here is translated birthpangs. Also Daniel's 70th Week (the Tribulation)

10. The Opening of the Gates

11. Kiddushin, Nesu'in – the Wedding Ceremony

12. The Last Trump- only on this day will be heard the last trump

13. Yom Hadeseh – the "hidden day" which will be hidden from satan!

The Final Fall Feasts Rosh Ha Shanah
The Blowing of the Trumpets

We are already excited by what we have learned of the Feasts of the Lord so far. Easily we can see that in **Jesus First Coming**, He absolutely and totally fulfilled the 3 Spring Feasts.

1. Jesus fulfilled the Pesach by becoming our Passover Lamb. His blood remitted our sins!
2. Jesus died at 3:00pm and was buried in the grave before 6:00 on Nisan 14 so as a faithful Jew, he could fulfil all the requirements for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He carried our sins outside the camp Himself! He is the Afikomen, the broken, pierced, and hidden matzah in the Seder. He is the Bread from heaven!
3. On the 3rd Day, He rose from the dead to become the First Fruits of the Resurrection on the exact Feast of First Fruits. (the first Sunday after the Sabbath, the tomb was empty!)
4. Exactly 50 days later the Feast of Pentecost was observed in Jerusalem. Exactly on time, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon men, just as Jesus had promised in the Book of John that He would send Another after He had gone to the Father. All of Jerusalem watched as these ignorant Galileans and other followers were filled with baptism **by fire**, which transformed ordinary men into powerful, bold witnesses who fearlessly talked about Jesus and demonstrated supernatural gifts.

3 long, hot and dry summer months pass
and we arrive at TESHUVAH! (the whole 6th month of Elul)

For the entire month of Elul, the nation of Israel is called into national repentance to prepare for the Feast of the Blowing of Trumpets. **Rosh HaShanah** the first of 3 Fall Feasts, is lumped together along Atonement and Tabernacles in Tishrei, the 7th and the holiest month of the year in Israel. Every day, the Shofar is blown to remind people as the Voice of God saying, "**Wake Up! Repent! Get Ready!**" During 30 days of Elul, the people were careful to repent of any sin towards God and towards any person. The Rabbis' taught that on the Feast Day itself, Tishrei 1, God would sit down in the Heavenly Court and the Books would be opened. (Dan 7, Rev 20) **God would judge mankind on Rosh HaShanah. However, the sentence was postponed until the final outcome 10 days later (Tishrei 10) on Yom Kippur. On Yom Kippur, every man's fate was sealed and executed.** The Jews believed that on Rosh Ha Shanah, there would clearly be 3 groups of people. The tzaddakim, the wholly righteous, would be welcomed into heaven on that Day, Tishrei 1. Satan's hands would be bound on that one day alone out of the whole year and the **gates of heaven will open to receive the righteous.** The righteous would have their names **El cielo abrirá para recibir el justo.** El justo tendría sus nombres inscribed the Book of Life. Another group was the **raizen**, the wholly wicked who will never repent; their names and deeds will be inscribed in the book of the wicked. The largest group of people will be in yet another book, the **undecided**. The 10 days between Rosh Ha Shanah (Tishrei 1) and Yom Kippur (Tishrei 10) have a very interesting name: **The Days of Awe.** The message is clearly this: Listen to the shofar, the voice of God, who warns all to wake up, to repent and to turn to God **before Rosh HaShanah or you will find yourself in the Days of Dreaded AWE!**

(The Days of Awe clearly describe the Tribulation!)

The Fall Feasts All Happen in the 7th Month of Tishrei
The 3 Fall Feasts are Lumped together As
The Feast of Tabernacles

Quick Reference to the Fall Feasts Using A Jewish Calendar

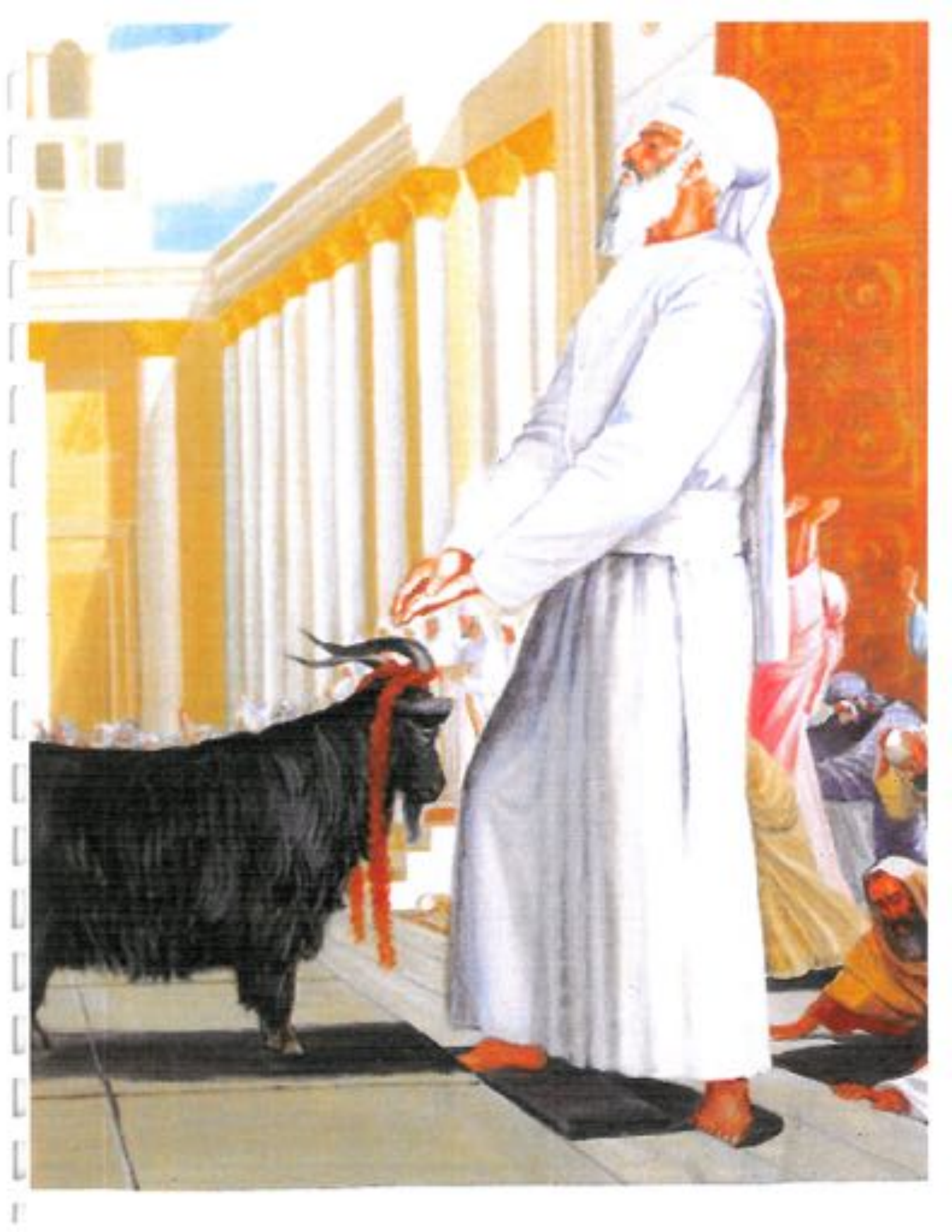
Elul 1-30	Time of Repentance	Teshuvah
Tishrei 1-10	completion of 40 days of	Teshuvah
Tishrei 1,2	Feast of Blowing of the Trumpets	
	**One Long Day	
	The Day of Awakening	
	The Day of Judgment	Yom Ha Din
	The Day of Remembrance	Yom Ha Zikkaron
	The Coronation of the King	HaMelech
	The Day of Remembrance	Yom Ha Zikkaron
	Birthpangs of the Messiah	Chevlai Shel Mashiach
	The Hidden Day	Yom HaKeseh
	New Year's Day	Rosh Ha Shanah
Tishrei 10	Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur
Tishrei 15-21	Feast of Booths	Sukkot
	7th Day of Feast	Hoshana Rabbah
Tishrei 22	* * 8th Day (One Long Day)	Shemini Atzeret
Tishrei 23	8th Day continued	Simchat Torah

Mentions of Rosh Ha Shanah in the Bible

I Samuel 20:5,22 King Saul is angry because David is absent for the 2-Day New Moon Festival.

Psalm 89:15– *"Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are the people who know the joyful sound of the shofar (who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessing symbolized by the feasts); they walk, O LORD, in the light and favor of Your countenance."*

I Corin. 15:52 *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."*



The Garments of the Priests

The priests in the Temple could always be distinguished by their dress. There were 4 main garments for the thousands of ordinary priests known as the Levites. They performed the duties of worship, preparing the sacrifices, and caring for the temple and its furniture. The Levites wore white, seamless, ankle-length robes which were bound at the waist by a long girdle. Under this they wore white linen pants. On their heads were white linen hats.

However, the High Priest of Israel wore the spectacularly beautiful garments known as "the golden vestments of the bride-groom", which easily set him apart as the holiest priest conducting the Temple services. He was the one who would hear from God for all of Israel. In addition to the regular priestly garments, he wore an intricately All owoven blue robe fringed with golden bells and pomegranates. On top of the blue robe, The Cohen HaGadol wore the ephod, a vest embroidered with purple, blue, scarlet and gold threads, which was fastened at the shoulders with 2 onyx stones. Six tribes of Israel were inscribed on each onyx stone. In addition to the ephod, the High Priest wore "the breastplate of judgment," a gold purse inset with 12 semi-precious stones set 3 to a row for 4 rows, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The High Priest was commanded by God to carry the names of the sons of Israel over his heart when he officiated in the Temple. The Urim and Thummim were placed inside the golden purse and were used by God to give direction to Israel's kings. On his head, the High Priest wore a blue headdress with a gold nameplate, saying "Holy to the Lord". All of the priests were barefoot in the Temple!

Only on one day of the year did the High Priest not wear the golden vestments...on Yom Kippur when he stepped behind the veil into the Holy of Holies to meet GOD face-to-face!

Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement!

Tishrei 10

Yom Kippur means the "day of the covering" (kaphar=to cover). It is called the Day of Atonement, the holiest day when God provided a way for the sins of Israel to be covered from His sight by a blood sacrifice. Leviticus 17:11 says:

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your soul; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

In the Old Covenant which God cut with Israel, He revealed His plan on the top of Mt. Sinai to Moses by outlining their part of covenant: building a temple with beautiful furniture, consecrating a holy priesthood with special garments and duties, and overseeing a system of blood sacrifices along with offerings that would provide a covering for all of Israel's sins for the past year. He commanded a sacred calendar of Feasts which started with Nisan and built in intensity and holiness until Tishrei the 7th month, the holiest month of the year. He outlines The Day of Atonement is 3 separate places:

For the high priest: Leviticus 16
For the people of God: Leviticus 23:26-32
For the sacrifices (Numbers 29:7-11)

Yom Kippur today

After the 40 days of Teshuvah (30 days of Elul plus the first 10days of Tishrei), the people of God have had ample time to <u>awake, to repent, to turn back to God!</u> At 6:00pm on Tishrei 9th, the holiest, most solemn day of the Year has arrived in which God executes judgment on His people. Today in Israel no work will be done, anyone who performs any work on this one day would be executed! The whole 24-hour day will be spent fasting (afflicting one's soul) and standing in the temple in solemn awe - forgiveness to one's enemies, remission of debts, all must take place today to be in right standing and forgiven by the Lord. Because there is no temple, high priest, and no altar for blood sacrifices in Jerusalem, God's method of atoning for the national sin of Israel has been substituted with repentance, fasting, good works (mitzvot) and afflicting of one's soul before the Lord . (In some orthodox circles, Jew sacrifice a chicken as a substitute for their sins (kaparot) to fulfill the blood requirements. Man-made religion never satisfies a holy God. They read **Jonah** in the synagogue to focus on repentance and return to God. However, the ancient rabbis read Isa.53:4-6

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

On this day, the prayers are clearly a cry for the Messiah of Israel. Isaiah prophesied that Israel would be born in a day (Isa. 66:8; Romans 11:26) and if Yom Kippur is a picture of <u>the day of the Lord</u> when Jesus the Messiah comes to earth to defeat his enemies and establish His throne, then Israel will look on Him who they pierced and mourn as a mother who has lost her firstborn child (Zech 12:10). *Jesus will fulfill Yom Kippur by returning to the earth as Israel's Messiah!*

The Two Goats

Yom Kippur is distinctly different because of the vast number of blood sacrifices offered on this day. The first is a bull, which must be slain between the altar, and the Temple porch after the High Priest has laid his hands on it signifying the substitution for his own sin. The blood was saved into a bowl. Before all this, 2 goats would have been selected for this day and brought to the Temple. A wooden box, called the caliph, containing 2 wooden lots overlaid with gold and marked for Adonai (for the Lord) or for Azazel (for Hell) was raised overhead. The priest chose one lot in his right hand for the destiny of the goat on his right and the other lot in his left hand for the goat on the left.

The Red Cord

Then the Cohen HaGadol moved to the Court of the Priests to slaughter the goat for Adonai. Rabbinic teaching says that the lot marked for Adonai always came up in the High Priest's right hand and the goat would be marked by tying a red cord around the goat's neck. This goat would be sacrificially killed and his blood poured out as a substitute for the nation of Israel; hence the red around his neck. The lot for Azazel always supernaturally came up in the priests left and a red rope tied around his horns would mark this goat. The Priest laid then his hands on the goat on the left, the scapegoat, and confessed all the sins of the nation over it The scapegoat was then led through the Eastern gate into the wilderness by the Cohen who removed the red sash and divided it into 2 parts. One was attached to the cliff and the other around the horns. Eventually it was pushed over the cliffs to its death. Israel could take no chance that the sin might come back into the camp! The amazing record of the Temple says that when the azazel died, the rope around his horns would supernaturally turn from red to white! This news would be quickly transmitted back to the Temple and the people would rejoice greatly, knowing that God had accepted the sacrifice for their sins! "Come let us reason together says the Lord, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are crimson, they shall be like wool." Isa 1:18 Another interesting picture is that when Jesus was dying of the cross, the Roman soldier thrust a spear into his side, and out poured blood (red) which then turned to water (white)

After washing hands and feet, the High Priest removes the white linen garment and puts back on the golden vestments of the bridegroom. He completes the rest of the daily sacrifices. One more time he dons the white linen and returns for the last time into the Holy, Holy to remove the censer and ladle he had left there. Those linen garments will never be used again.

Jesus and Barabbas

A fascinating parallel can be found in Jerusalem around 30AD when Pilate was examining Jesus at the Passover Feast. Two men stood before the crowd that day, men of like age, in the prime of life, very similar in many ways. One was Jesus Ben Joseph, on trial because of the Jews hatred and Barabbas, a local rebel on trial for murder. Bar Abbas means son of the Father in Greek and his first name was Jehoshuah - Jesus! Now our Jesus, the true Son of the Father, was standing next to the false son of the Father, Barabbas -both about the same age, both with almost the same name -the 2 goats! Barabbas, a sinner, was chosen to be released as a fulfillment of the azazel and Jesus, who was without sin, was chosen as the adonai to die for the sins of Israel! Isn't our God an awesome teacher, who rehearses His lessons over and over, even though Israel has not yet understood the parallel? Israel had been rehearsing this picture of the 2 goats offered at Yom Kippur for 1500 years by the time that Jesus appeared in Jerusalem to fulfill his part as the sacrifice for the sins of the nation, the goat for Adonis.

Feast of Tabernacles


SUKKOT

The Feast of Tabernacles
Sukkot
Tishrei 15-21, 22, and 23

God's Calendar has now come to the end; the joyous celebration of the Festival of Tabernacles is finally here. The full rehearsal God has prepared for His precious people Israel is coming to a close. After the 40 days of repenting for Teshuvah, the people are free to enjoy God's goodness and joy. Their hearts are clear, the harvests are all gathered safely into storage and The Feast of Booths is here. This is the most joyous celebration in all Israel and all Jews are required to travel to Jerusalem to celebrate together in a gigantic street party by sleeping and partying outside for a whole week. Don't believe it? Let's read Lev. 23:33-44:

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "*Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, "on the 15th on this month (Tishrei) is the Feast of Booths for 7 days to the LORD. On the first day is a holy convocation (High Sabbath); you shall do no work of any kind. For 7 days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the 8th day you shall have a holy convocation and persent an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly . You shall do no laborious work. These are the appointed times of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the LORD, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each day's matter on its own day – besides those of the Sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD, on exactly the 15th day of the 7th month (Tishrei), when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for 7 days with a Sabbath on the 1st of Tishrei and a Sabbath on the 8th day (Tishrei 22). Now on the 1st day (Tishrei 15th) you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice in the LORD for 7 days. Youshall thus celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for 7 days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statue throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the 7th month. You shall live in booths for 7 days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your GOD."*

<u>Deut. 16:13-16</u> "You shall celebrate the **Feast of Booths** 7 days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; and you shall rejoice with your sons and your daughters and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the LORD your GOD in the place which the lord chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and at the Feast of Weeks. At these 3 feasts: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and at the **Feast of Booths**, they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. "

There is no time more joyful in Israel than Tabernacles! (Truly a picture of Jesus reigning on Earth during the Milenial kingdom!)
The Feast of Tabernacles in Sept-Oct. is probably the time of Jesus' Birth!

Tabernacles – God's Promises to Dwell With Us

Let's take the truths of **Tabernacles** one at a time so the Holy Spirit can teach us some deeper truths. Tabernacles is celebrated for 7 days in Jerusalem by everyone building an booth outside under the stars which the family will move into and camp out during the joyous festival. John 1:14 "And the WORD became flesh and **tabernacled** among us." The Feast of Tabernacles clearly is all about introducing Jesus as the Messiah!

1 Each morning, a **special water libation ceremony** takes place at the temple as a petition for the coming rains. The high priest carries a gold pitcher down to the Pool of Siloam along with a happy parade of worshippers. He dips water into the pitcher while everyone sings, "therefore with joy we will draw water from **the wells of salvation**." (Isa. 12:3) It is so funny if we understand that salvation is actually the Hebrew word for Yeshua- Jesus. The Jews were singing about drawing water from Jesus everytime they celebrated the water pouring ceremony. Remember Jesus telling the Samaritan woman at the well that he was **the living water?**

2. Another group of priests also leaves the temple to the Valley of Motzo to cut 25' long **branches of willows**. They form a parade march 25' apart and wave the willows from right to left in unison as they approach the Temple Mount. The sound they make sounds like a mighty rushing wind as it approaches the Temple. The mighty rushing wind produced by beating the willow branches is God painting a picture yearly of the coming mighty wind of the HOLY SPIRIT!

3 Back at the temple, a third group of priests is preparing the **blood sacrifices** to be poured out on the altar for Tabernacles. At no other time in the year were 70 bulls sacrificed to represent the 70 nations of the world and the 70 members of the Sanhedrin. Along with this were 14 lambs daily along with the grain and oil offerings. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sin. The blood will be poured out along with the water from the golden pitcher at the same time by the temple priests. (The water and the blood were poured out together from Jesus side at his crucifixion!.)

4. **The Temple Lighting Ceremony** took place each night in the huge outer court of the Temple. Four gigantic golden menorah 75' high each with 4 bowls were filled with gallons of oil and lit by young priests on ladders for a party like no other in the world. The wicks were made from the priests discarded linen garments. When the 4 menorahs were fully lit, the Temple Mount was illuminated like a brilliant spotlight in the midst of complete darkness all around. "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*" (John 1:5) Clearly a picture of the Shekinah Glory of the LORD in the midst of the people, the Temple Lighting Ceremony was called "the light of the world", just as Jesus is called **the light of the world** (John1:9). Even the most dignified elders could be found singing and performing elaborate torch dances, somersaults, and flips to the sound of flutes, trumpets, harps, and every other instrument as the people joyously celebrate every night of the week during Tabernacles.

5. **The Hoshana-Rabbah Ceremony** – the 7th and final day of the Feast of Booths reached a dramatic climax. On the other 6 days, the silver trumpets gave 3 blasts. On this day, the trumpet gave *3 sets of seven blasts*. On the other 6 days, the priests waving the willow branches made one circle around the altar, but on this day they circled the altar 7 times. All of the people waved palm branches and sang Hosanna (Ps 118:25) In the temple the water of salvation from the well was poured upon the altar along with the blood from the animals just as the mighty rushing wind of beating the willow branches circled the altar 7 times. Clearly the Messiah would come now to Jerusalem.

Jesus At the Last Great Day of the Feast

About 30 AD, on the last great day of the Feast of Tabernacles while all of Israel is intent on the drama within the temple at the water pouring ceremony, a vibrant youn voice rings out from the crowd, interrupting the service. It is Jesus who cries out with a loud voice, " *If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow* ***living water.***" (John 7:38-39). The people were electrified, amazed, indignant, and appalled. He was interrupting the High Priest and the great ceremony itself. Who gave him that right or authority? He was also declaring in no uncertain terms that He, Jesus, was the living water, and the Messiah of Israel! Pandemonium broke among the crowds and the religious leadership was infuriated even to the point of wanting to kill Jesus for his claims.

"Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid their hands on Him."
John 7:44

They began to argue among themselves about his ancestry, saying,
"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"" John 7:42

His birth in Bethlehem as a descendant of David was not known to them, in fact, they thought he was an illegitimate son, whose mother married a mere carpenter of Nazareth. Because of the uproar, the chief temple priests called an emergency meeting. The 2 ruling groups opposed each other in every religious matter, but on the matter of Jesus claiming to be the Messiah, the Sadducees and the Pharisees were in complete agreement as to his blasphemy. They questioned the Temple security force to find out why they had not arrested Jesus. They had a perfect opportunity to lay hands on him, yet the Temple guards could only say in dazed awe,

"No man ever spoke like this man!" John 7:46

They were verbally rebuked and sent away by the angry officers of the Temple.
How sad it is to see how God so carefully painted a beautiful picture of the Messiah and rehearsed it for His people in their temple services for 1500 years. Yet when the real Messiah came and stood in their midst, the religious Jews were blinded by the hardness of their hearts to the truth in front of them. They went through the elaborate rituals inside the Temple, while the TRUTH and the LIFE stood outside the Temple, crying out to them with outstretched arms.

Jesus Born During Sukkot

Everything in Jesus life centers on the appointed festivals of the Lord and his birth does also. We have accepted Christmas as the birthdate of Jesus because of long-standing pagan traditions on Dec. 25, the winter pagan celebration of the sun-god, Tammuz. We can prove Jesus birth by studying a little-known clue about the birth of John the Baptist, who was conceived right after his priestly father's ministry in the Temple during the course of Abijah, which gives us an exact date and shows that John was born at Passover (March-early April). John was exactly 6 months older that Jesus and so His birth would have occurred around Sept/Oct, which is Tabernacles. Remember that Bethlehem was so crowded that they were forced to lodge in a temporary dwelling place and that the babe was laid in a manger? This word manger is another name for the food crib placed outside in the temporary booths erected for week of Tabernacles, when Jerusalem was so crowded with visiting pilgrims that even closeby Bethlehem would have been full. During Tabernacles there are 2 high Sabbaths, the first and the 8th day. God planned this festival to highlight the birth of His Son as the Light of the World on the first Sabbath and His circumcision on the 8th day as a sign of God's covenant with Israel.

Biblical Date's for Jesus Conception and Birth

I. The Conception of John the Baptist - Luke 1:5-25

When the angelGabriel appeared to Zacharias as he was ministering in the Temple, it was during the course of Abia. This order of priests ministered in the Temple the 8th week of the Hebrew year according to 1 Chronicles 24: 10 (and according to the Talmud). The 8th week splits the last week of the 2nd Hebrew month Iyar and the 1st week of the 3rd Hebrew month of Sivan.. This is the anchor point for discovering the exact time of Jesus' birth! The angel promised Zachariah that his prayer had been answered, and when he went home to his wife Elizabeth she conceived immedi-ately. This puts the conception of John very near the time of Shavuot, the Feast of Pentecost, in the 2nd week of the 3rd Hebrew month of Sivan.

II. The Conception of Jesus - Luke 1:26-55

Then, at the close of the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth, saying "she who was called barren is 6 months pregnant." This would be the last of 9th Hebrew month (Kislev) at the time of Chanukah. There are 27 weeks between the end of course of Abiyah and the start of Chanukah (Dedication), which is celebrated 8 days, from Kislev 25 to Tevet 2.

Mary accepts the word of the angel concerning the conception of Messiah in her, and she immediately rushes from Nazarethto the home of Elizabeth and Zachariah in the Judean mountains close to Jerusalem, about a 3 days journey from Nazereth. . Mary was probably going there to celebrate Chanukah and to help Elizabeth with her pregnarcy, as well as to talk to Elizabeth about the angel's strange visit. .

As soon as Mary greeted Elizabeth, her older relative replies to Mary, calling her "the mother of my L-RD". This demonstrates that Mary was already pregnant with Jesus. Remember that John while in his mother's womb recognized Jesus's conception because of the Holy Spirit in John. So Jesus was conceived at Chanukah (December 25), which celebrates the Festival of Lights!

Jesus is the Light of the World!

The apostate Roman church of medieval times combined the pagan winter solstice in late December with the 25th of Kislev (Chanukah) to create Christmas (Christ's Mass) on Dec- ember 25. Supposedly, this was to celebrate Christ's birth but also changed God's calendar to a pagan celebration!

Jesus is shown celebrating Hannuhak(John 10:22,23) Here He declares "I and My Father are One" [John 10:30], testifying about His conception.

III. The Birth of Luke:56-80

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for 3 months until the birth of John. Since a full pregnancy term is 41 weeks, and 27 weeks makes up the first 6 months (2 trimesters), which is exactly the time from the course of Abiyah to Chanukah, leaving 14 weeks to accomplish the last trimester and bring the pregnancy to full term. There are exactly 14 weeks from Chanukah to Passover (Nissan 14-22). John the Baptist was born at Passover. He was circumcised on the eighth day, which would be the last day of Passover. Gabriel declared that John would "go forth" in the strength and power of Elijah [Luke 1:17]. Jewish rabbis teach that Elijah will come again at Passover (this is still a tradition of Judaism today).

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Messiah ben Joseph / Messiah ben Judah

While we are studying Jewish Roots to understand more of our Jesus, it is important to know what the ancient rabbis taught and what the Jews understand about their Messiah.They studied the Tanach, the Old Testament, especially the prophecies concerning the Messiah and they discovered 2 different themes, one of a suffering servant who would die (Messiah ben Joseph) and one about a victorious royal king who would reign (Messiah ben David.) The Jews are still waiting for their Messiah. We who are called Christians know that the scriptures pointed not to 2 different Messiahs who would come once, but to the One who would come twice, once as a lowly servant and then later as the King of Kings to rule in Jerusalem on the throne of David.

In our study of the Feasts of the Lord, we will discover God promised and foretold even when Jesus would come the first time and the second time!

Hosea 6:3 says " ***His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter(malqosh) and the former (yoreh) rain into the earth."*** Since the feasts were agricultural as well as prophetic, we have much to learn about the latter rain (which occurred during the spring feasts around Passover) and the former rain which occurs during the fall feasts. (God was surely pointing out to us that Jesus would come the first time and fulfil the spring feasts and would come again the second time to fulfill the fall feasts.

The 7 Feasts look forward and also backward!

1. The Jews had an appointment to be at a specific place at a specific time!
2. God had a specific appointment to perform certain events through Jesus at these times!

Who changed the calendars, the laws, and the times?

Daniel 7:25 says this about the False Messiah and the plan of Satan in the last days,

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High and shall wear down the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time, times, and the dividing of time (the last half of Trib)."

1. The Roman Church forbid all Jewish festival and changed the church feast days to pagan holidays.....Samhein, Beltain, Lupercalia,etc.
2. Pope Gregory changed the calendar from the lunar (Jewish calendar]to the solar calendar. (Passover and Easter are rarely the same date)
3. The Roman Church changed worship in the early church from the Sabbath to Sunday.

The Jewish Day

We already found that God planned the day to start at sundown (6:00pm) to the following sundown.

The day	**6:00am**	to		**6:00 pm**
The morning of the day	**6:00am**	to **noon**		
The evening of the day		**noon**		**6:00pm**
(Ex. 12:6) Between the evening(of the day)			**3:00pm**	

**The 3rd hour (9:00am) and the 9th hour (3:00pm) were the morning and evening sacrifices. Jesus was put on the cross at 9:00 am and He died at 3:00pm as the Passover lambs were slain "between the evenings"

The Ancient Jewish Wedding

Dear Precious Student of the Word,
In our studies so far, we have discovered that studying Jewish patterns and customs of Jesus' day will help us uncover end times truth about Jesus' Second Coming and the patterns that God has hidden in the Bible! Jesus' ministry of miracles starts at a wedding in Cana and ends at another wedding event we know as the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in the Book of Revelation. Think of all the parables that He taught about weddings, the 10 virgins, the bridegroom, the invited guests who wouldn't come, the feast prepared, and lots more! The funny thing we never realized is that Jesus was always teaching about prophecy and the last days when he taught about weddings! Since we believe that Jesus is coming back to take a bride and we want to be in that group, we need to find out all we can about the wedding customs Jesus would have been referring to!

1. **The Father picks the bride** - In all Eastern lands, the bride is picked for the son. Remember that the bride will leave her family and house and become part of groom's family. She will live in the Father's house, probably in built- on addition and it is important that she fit in! Sometimes the marriages would be arranged at birth between 2 favorable families and they would never see each other until the wedding day. Occasionally, the bride or groom was consulted beforehand!
Adam is first bridegroom (Gen. 3). God makes Eve just for Adam. (Remember that Adam was God's son, just like Jesus is the Son of God). God put Adam to sleep (symbolic of death and Jesus' crucifixion) and piercing his side, removed a rib, causing blood to flow. (Jesus was pierced in the side, causing blood to flow). From the rib of Adam, God formed Eve, the bride. From the death of Jesus, God formed the church, who will be the bride of Christ!

Abraham picks for Isaac. Naomi picks for Ruth.
Esau won't listen to his parents and takes the wrong wife.
Samson won't listen to his parents and takes the wrong wife!

2. **A marriage broker or helper is called upon.** The Father would determine the terms and the bride price He was prepared to offer; the Helper would be sent to negotiate with the parents and the bride-to-be! He would take gifts, the contract wine and to present the offer! **Abraham sends Eliezer** (Gen 24) for Isaac's bride riding 10 camels with gifts and a proposal. Rebecca agreed to marry a man she had never seen! Having not seen Jesus but assured of His covenant of love, we agree by faith to accept Him! *Call Him The Holy Spirit!*

3. **A Jewish Marriage is a legal contract separated in time by 2 different ceremonies!** The first part (which we would call the betrothal), **"the kiddush in or erasing,"** is completed with negotiating the marriage terms and paying a bride price, **the mohair,** signing a legal document, (the kasbah), giving gifts as a pledge, and drinking a covenant cup of wine to seal the deal! The couple will then separate for at least a year while the Son prepares a wedding chamber for the Bride at His Father's House. The Bride anoints her body with sweet smelling perfumes and prepares for her future, thinking only of when her beloved will come for her! Usually after midnight, and at a time when only He knows, the Father says "Son, go get your bride!" He is dressed like a king, and at the sound of the trumpet, a shout is heard, "The Bridegroom comes!" He starts eagerly for her home, and she rushes to meet him. (The bride is actually kidnapped!) They joyously parade through the streets to the father's home and the actually wedding (the Nesu'in) is performed with 2 witnesses, one witness leads the groom and one leads the bride. (Remember John is called the friend of the bridegroom in the Bible? Immediately they will enter the specially prepared bridal chamber, the chider to consummate the marriage while the guests celebrate for a whole week.

4. **The Wedding Feast is celebrated after the honeymooner's return to their guests!**
Can you discern any Bible Truths about the Rapture of the Church?

5. The Blood on the sheets during the consummation seals the marriage covenant!
Just like the Blood of Jesus on the cross sealed our salvation covenant!

6. The Ketubah, the marriage contract is a legal covenant document that must be signed and witnessed. It states the bride price, the promises of the groom to love and to honor her, to provide all necessities for and to protect her, and to be faithful to her forever. The bride and the groom must speak out loud their intent, by saying "I do."

The day you get saved, and ask Jesus to be Lord of your life, is the day you sign the Ketubah and become betrothed! The 10 commandments in the Old Covenant were Israel's ketubah. The Bible is our wedding ketubah stating that we have a New and better covenant through the blood of Jesus.

7. The Bride Price is Precious
Since the bride will leave her household, and all the duties she would perform now must be assigned to someone else, a bride price is decide upon to pray for her. According to the wealth of the groom's family, the Father will offer the best He has for His son's bride. 1 Peter 1: 18-19 tells the best that God offered for us was the very lifeblood of His Son.
"Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but ***with the precious blood of Christ*** *"*
1 Cor. 6:20 *"For you are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

The bride will usually wear the coins of the bride price in her veil. Whenever there is a divorce in Israel, the bride is granted only her garments, so the brideprice is very important to her. Remember the parable of the woman who had 10 coins and lost one and how she rejoiced when she found it?

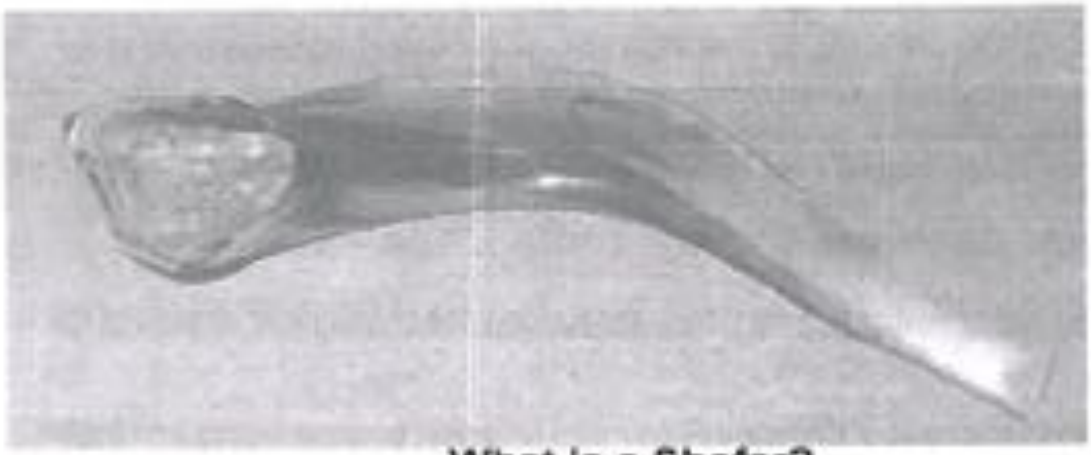
6. Gifts are given and the Cup is shared
The betrothal is sealed with the giving of gifts and drinking a covenant cup of wine together. The gift today would be the engagement ring, but the gifts given to the new believers who accepted Jesus would have been far more precious that diamonds, **righteousness,** eternal life, **grace, faith, forgiveness, hope,** joy. Add to these, the gifts the Holy Spirit brings, **wisdom, miracles, healing, knowledge, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, as well as helps, and administration.** (1 Cor.12: 8-11,28)
The cup is the cup of the covenant. Jer. 31:31-33 tells of God's covenant with Israel. But Jesus spoke of the cup He longed to drink with us in Luke 22:20. Every time you take communion you are remembering the betrothal cup that marries you to Jesus and pledges His return to take you as His bride!

The Mikvah - after the betrothal, the bride had a mikvah, a purification ceremony by water immersion, symbolizing a separation (sanctification) into a new life. **Baptism** is a symbol of the change from your former life and your eagerness to enter your new life!

Jesus' ministry starts at the wedding feast in Cana and ends at His Wedding Feast!

The Bride and Groom live happily together forever just as you and I will live happily together with Our LORD for eternity!

Hallelujah to the Lamb of God!



What is a Shofar?

A Shofar is Ram's horn used to proclaim Jewish ceremonial events., It is hollowed out and blown on one end similar to a trumpet. There are ram's horns and the longer Yemenite shofar.

According to the Talmud, a Shofar that is legal for ceremonial events must be at least 3 handbreadths long.
There are small Shofars that people sometimes use which are not really Shofars by Talmudic definition. To be accurate so you can use the generic term "Keren", which means "horn" in hebrew.

Where is the Shofar in the Bible?

The Shofar goes back far into biblical history. It is believed that the Shofar commemorates the Ram caught in the thicket by its horn (Hebrew: Keren).

The word "Shofar" can be found in Josh. 6 in numerous places and in Judges 7. The horn used by the Levites is referred to as "The Silver Trumpets." (Hebrew word is Chotzotzerah.-plural: Chotzotzerot) were made of brass and silver overlaid on a mandrel and hammered into shape.

The Shofar Calls- The Shofar has 4 basic calls that are uniquely different:

1. **Tekiah** – A single medium blast with low to high pitch transition. Hard short push on the low and the high pitch sometimes ending with a short pushing higher pitch burst.
2. **Shevarim** – 3 blasts each low-to-high pitch like triplets
3. **Teruah** - A rapid single second pitch bursting in staccato fashion. There should be 9 such bursts
4. **Tekiah G'dollah** – Similar to Tekiah, on the high note is sustained for the longest possible breath and ended with a short pushing higher pitch burst. This is the last trump of the 100 trumpets blown on Rosh Ha Shanah. There is no other sound like it in the world! This is probably the trumpet that announces the Rapture!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHOFAR (TRUMPET)

The shofar was not primarily a musical instrument. Its purpose had more to do with the making of an announcement - a proclamation of what was to follow. Two types of shofars were used: the small one is the ram's horn, while the larger Yemenite shofar comes from an African antelope called the Kudu.

The shofar was sounded:

1. As an instrument of proclamation, announcing the presence or coming of the Lord.

"And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice." (Exodus 19: 19 NKJV)

2. To praise God.

"With trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the Lord, the King." (Psalm 98:6 NKJV)

3. As an early warning siren.

"When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord you God, and you will be saved from your enemies." (Numbers 10:9 NKJV)

4. To assemble the people.

"Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him."

5. To assemble the troops.

"Therefore, whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." (Nehemiah 4:20 NKJV)

6. To call God's people to worship Him.

"So it shall be in that day that the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem." (Isaiah 26: 13 NKJV)

7. At the swearing of an oath to God

"Then they took an oath before the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and ram's horns (shofars)" 2 Chronicles 15:14

8. In the midst of battle

" Then the LORD will be see over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning. The LORD God shall blow the trumpet, and go with whirlwinds from the south." Zechariah 9:14

9. To announce the beginning of the feast days

"Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the 59th year, and proclaim liberty throughout your land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his own possession, and each of you shall return to his family."
(Leviticus 25:9-10 NKJV)

NOTE: One of the Hebrew words for "trumpet" is also the word for "jubilee." The "Year of Jubilee" began with the sounding of the trumpet. 1998 marks the beginning of Israel's first 50 year "Jubilee" since becoming a nation in 1948. Prophetic note: There are 120 Jubilees in a 6000-year span. God is keeping a Book of Jubilees for Himself!!

10. At the return of Jesus, the Messiah

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LOOD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the LORD.
Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 - Thessalonians 4:16)

There are 4 distinct sound of the trumpet. Each one carries a different message and are blown at different times. Jesus will come at the LAST TRUMP. Do you know the sound of the shofar?

Golgotha

When did Jesus Really Die?

Where Was He Crucified?

How Was He Crucified?

When Was Jesus Born?

This is the best Study I can find using Hebrew idioms, dates, and Scripture accurately! Taken from the ministry of Lars Enarrson of The Watchman International based in Jersualem!

You can find these articles at online at:
www.watchman.org/en/articles/golgatha1.php

Part 1

> "Knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a faultless and pure lamb, the blood of Messiah, who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of times for your sake." (1 Pet 1:18-20)

In this series we will study about Golgotha – the greatest event in human history. We specifically want to see what the Scriptures have to say concerning when, where and how Yeshua died for the sins of mankind.

Let us first look at the important passage in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, concerning the Good News.:

> "Now I declare to you, brothers, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold firmly the word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Messiah died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day **according to the Scriptures**, and that he appeared to Kefa, then to the twelve."

Here we see first of all that the foundation of the powerful gospel by which we are saved is not based on mysterious or complicated theological doctrines. The gospel is rather based on very simple and factual, historical events: Yeshua died for our sins, was buried, was raised again on the third day and then appeared to his disciples. Whereas this message requires faith to embrace, it is at the same time so simple that any child can understand it.

Secondly, we see that the foundation of the gospel is not just that Yeshua died for our sins and was raised on the third day, but that he did so "**according to the Scriptures.**" The Messiah did not just die at any time, in any place or in any way, but **he did it exactly as it was written about him in the Holy Scriptures**. This is very important!
Hebrews 10:1 and also Colossians 2:17 tell us that the Law is a shadow of the reality found in Messiah. The shadow and the object will always agree. We can see in the shadow found in the Torah what was fulfilled when Messiah died and rose again. After his resurrection Yeshua told the two disciples on the way to Emmaus,

> "He said to them, 'Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in **all that the prophets have spoken**! Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?' **Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.** ... He said to them, 'This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that **all things which are written in the Torah of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled**." (Luke 24:25-27,44)

That the Messiah died according to the Scriptures, is the key to answer all the questions of when, where and how it happened, because it took place in exact fulfillment of everything that was written about him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. The Holy Scriptures are the written Word and Yeshua is the Living Word. Both of them agree perfectly.

When Messiah Died

Let us first look at the question of **when** Yeshua died. The Feasts of the LORD given through Moses in Leviticus 23 reveal the Father's detailed plan of salvation for mankind through the Messiah, from his death on Golgotha during Passover, to his enthronement in Jerusalem during Tabernacles. Let us look at what is written about the first two Feasts: The Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread:

> "These are the set feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed season. **In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening, is the LORD's Passover. On the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the LORD.** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. In the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no regular work." (Lev 23:4-7)

The LORD's Passover is the first of the Feasts. It is celebrated in memory of the exodus out of Egypt through the power of the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorposts of the Israelites in Egypt. We read about the first Passover in Exodus.

> *"The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 'This month shall be to you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the* ***tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb,*** *according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too little for a lamb, then he and his neighbor next to his house shall take one according to the number of the souls; according to what everyone can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish,* ***a male a year old.*** *You shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening."* (Ex 12:1-6)

John 1:29 says, *"The next day, he saw Yeshua coming to him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* Yeshua is the Lamb of God. He came the first time as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. In Exodus 12:3 we read, *"On the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb."* The Passover lambs had to be selected and received into their homes on the tenth day in the first month.

We read that in John 12:1-2, *"Then six days before the Passover, Yeshua came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. So they made him a supper there. Martha served; but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him."*

Yeshua arrived on the sixth day before Passover. A supper was traditionally served in the evening after sunset. This would have been the evening of the fifth day, before Passover. In verse 12 and 13 we read, *"On the next day a great multitude that come to the feast, When they heard that Yeshua was coming to Jerusalem, they took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet him, and cried out, 'Hoshia'na! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"*

The next day referred to here, would then have been four days before Passover. This meant that it was the tenth day of the first month. Exactly on the tenth day in the first month when the people were commanded to select their Passover lamb, Yeshua was greeted by the crowds as the Messiah when he rode in to Jerusalem and then entered the Temple. Yeshua was chosen and brought into "the house" on the tenth day of the first month.

In Exodus 12:5 we further read, *"Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old."* The Passover lambs had to be inspected to make sure they were without defect. For four days Yeshua was teaching in the Temple and the people and the leaders of Israel questioned him. *"Every day Yeshua was teaching in the temple; and every night he would go out and spend the night on the mountain that is called Olivet. All the people came early in the morning to him in the temple to hear him."* (Lk 21:37-38)

We read that in the end they found no fault with Yeshua. *"No one was able to answer him a word, neither did any man dare ask him any more questions from that day forth."* (Mt 22:46)

The Passover Sacrifice Golgotha Part 1 Page 2

The Passover lambs were to be slaughtered at twilight (in between the two evenings) on the 14th of the first month and then eaten in the Passover meal. In the second Temple period there were two different customs of interpretation. Some slaughtered the lambs at twilight just before the 14th day began so that they could eat the Passover on the 14th. It seems like the Essenes and possibly also the Sadducees did this. The Pharisees, however, always slaughtered the lambs at twilight on the 14th and ate the Passover at night on the 15th when the Feast of Unleavened Bread began. This different customs had also partially developed because it was difficult for all the pilgrims to slaughter their lambs on the same day.

This was ordained by heaven so that Yeshua could eat the Passover with his disciples the first night, and then fulfill the Feast the next day when the Passover lambs were slaughtered in the Temple according to the commandment in the Torah. In this way both the accounts recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke and the one written in John's Gospel are accurate.

The last meal Yeshua ate with the disciples truly was a Passover meal. We read in Luke 22:7-8,14-15 where it says, *"The day of unleavened bread came, on which the Passover must be sacrificed. He sent Peter and Yochanan, saying, 'Go and* ***prepare the Passover*** *for us, that we may eat.' ...When the hour had come, he sat down with the twelve emissaries. He said to them,* ***'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.'***"

The next morning after Yeshua had been arrested and tried before the Sanhedrin during the night, we read in John 18:28, *"They led Yeshua therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. It was early, and* ***they themselves didn't enter into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.***"

John's Gospel was written quite some time after Matthew, Mark and Luke (see also John 21:22-24). After the destruction of the Temple it was the customs of the Pharisees that prevailed among the Jewish people to always eat the Passover at the end of the 14th when the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th, just like it is today. This is probably why John's Gospel is the only one of the four Gospels that does not refer to "the last supper" as a Passover meal, but mentions instead about the next day that the Jews wanted to be ceremonially clean to eat the Passover.

"Yeshua was crucified at 9 in the morning on Nisan 14at the time of the morning sacrifice and in the ninth hour, at three in the afternoon, he died as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: *"It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. Yeshua, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' Having said this, he breathed his last."* (Lk 23:44-46)

This was the exact time that the Pharisees slaughtered the Passover lambs in the Temple, in accordance with the instructions through Moses about the Feast of Passover. Truly Yeshua died for our sins as the Lamb of God, exactly as foretold "according to the Scriptures!"

What Day of the Week Was It?

Traditionally the crucifixion is always celebrated on a Friday. There are a number of reasons why this is not "according to the Scriptures." One of the most obvious reasons is the statement by Yeshua himself in Matt 12:39-40, *"But he answered them, 'An*

evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

We know that Yeshua rose again on the first day of the week (Sunday). Whereas "three days and three nights" does not necessarily mean exactly 72 hours, it certainly rules out a Friday crucifixion. If Yeshua only had said three days it could have been possible, with Friday representing the first day, the Sabbath the next day and Sunday the third. But it is impossible to fit "three days and three nights" between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Also, we saw in John 12:1 that it is written, "Then six days before the Passover, Yeshua came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, who had been dead, whom he raised from the dead." If Yeshua was crucified on a Friday, six days before would have been a Shabbat. This strongly speaks against a Friday crucifixion since Yeshua would not have traveled with his disciples on a Shabbat and arrived in Bethany during that day (see also Lk 23:56).

Some people believe that "three days and three nights" means 72 hours and suggest a Wednesday crucifixion. We read, however, about the first day of the week when the resurrection took place that the disciples on the road to Emmaus said to Yeshua:

> "...*the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we were hoping that it was he who would redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.*" (Lk 24:20-21).

If the first day of the week was the third day after the crucifixion, it definitely rules out a Wednesday crucifixion. Also, if Yeshua was crucified on a Wednesday, it means that Nisan 10 would have been on a Shabbat according the Scriptural pattern when the Passover lamb was to be selected. Yeshua would definitely not have been riding into Jerusalem on a Sabbath.

What is left is a Thursday crucifixion. This actually fits perfectly with all the data available in the Gospels as well as the pattern in the Hebrew Scriptures. We read in John 19:31, "*Therefore the Judeans, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*"

The "day of Preparation" refers to the day before the Sabbath, which usually is the sixth day of the week (Friday). However, we see here that the crucifixion did not take place on the day before the weekly Sabbath, but before "a special Sabbath". The 15th of Nisan, the day following Passover, was a special Sabbath as it was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "**On the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.**" (Lev 23:5-7) This was the "special Sabbath" that John 19:31 talks about.

With a Thursday crucifixion the special Sabbath was on a Friday and immediately after that followed the regular Sabbath. There were in other words two Sabbaths in a row. We read in Matthew 28:1, "*Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Mirjam Magdalene and the other Mirjam came to see the tomb.*" In the Greek text it literally says, "In the end of the **Sabbaths**, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week." The word "Sabbaths" is here in the plural. This refers to both the special Sabbath and the regular weekly Sabbath. Both Sabbaths were connected together that year and when both of them were over, the women went to look at the tomb.

The only day then when Yeshua could have died for our sins "according to the Scriptures", is the fifth day of the week, i. e. on a Thursday.

Golgotha Part 1 Page 3

When We Are Supposed to Celebrate Yeshua's Death for Us?

It was about the Passover meal that Yeshua said, "Do **this** in memory of me!" From history we know that the first generations of believers in Messiah always did this on the date of the Biblical Passover. Polycrates of Asia Minor, who was bishop in Ephesus in the second century, wrote about the Passover celebration, "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. ...All these always observed **the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the gospel**, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith. ...For seven of my relatives were bishops, and I am the eighth. And my relatives always observed **the day when the people** (i.e. the Jews) **threw away the leaven**."

Passover always falls on a different day of the week every year. And this is the way it was observed together with the Jewish people. In the second century the Bishop in Rome began to change the custom in order to instead always celebrate the resurrection on a Sunday. But when he tried to force the assemblies in Asia Minor to do the same, the bishops there stubbornly refused. Hence the letter by Polycrates to Bishop Victor in Rome from which we have quoted above. The famous church father Irenaeus also wrote to Victor and reminded him of an earlier failed attempt by Bishop Anicetus to stop the celebration of Passover in Asia Minor, "For neither could Anicetus persuade Polycarp not to observe it [Passover], because **he had always observed it with John the disciple of our Lord, and the rest of the apostles, with whom he associated.**"

Obviously the apostles never taught the disciples about Good Friday or Resurrection Sunday. No matter if Passover fell on the first, or the third or the fourth day of the week that was the day they celebrated Messiah's death to save the world.

It was not until the first Church Council at Nicea in 325, that Constantine ordered all the churches to observe the resurrection on the same date and to set that date in such a way that it could never coincide with the Biblical Passover on the 14th of Nisan. Eventually the new date became known in English as Easter, a name that has nothing whatsoever to do with the Bible, but is taken from the pagan goddess Eostre. She was a fertility goddess celebrated with eggs and rabbits around the same time in the Anglo Saxon world. It is time to return to the Apostolic practice again.

The main reason behind Constantine's demand of a non biblical date for the Celebration of Passover, was the humiliation of being dependant on the Jewish people for the correct date. Constantine wrote

to all the bishops. "It is indeed in the highest degree preposterous, that they [the Jews] should superciliously vaunt themselves, that truly without their instruction, we cannot properly observe this rite."[1] Paul wrote in Rom 3:1-4,

> *"Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Because first of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God. For what if some were without faith? Will their lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? May it never be!"*

And in Rom 11:17-20,

> *"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them, and became partaker with them of the root and of the richness of the olive tree, don't boast over the branches. But if you boast, it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.' True; by their unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by your faith. Don't be conceited, but fear."*

Constantine, who is one of the clearest examples of an antichrist, did not have any fear or not only boasting, but also completely rejecting the Jewish people. In pure hatred for God's chosen people he, like the bishops in Rome before him, did not hesitate to change the apostolic custom that Polycarp and Polycrates so clearly had expressed, "All these observed the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith. ...[they] always observed the day when the people (i.e. the Jews) threw away the leaven."

Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the Passover, *"For indeed Messiah, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore let us keep the feast."* Friends, let us follow the rule of apostolic faith and celebrate Passover with the Jewish people according to the Biblical calendar!

In Part 2 of this series we will look at the subject: Where did Yeshua die? Where was Golgotha? It is truly a fascinating study.

Read: Golgotha – When, Where, and How, Part 2

"Prepare the Way for the LORD"

[1] All Scripture quotations in this article are taken from the Hebrew Names Version of the Bible (HNV) See: [illegible]
[2] Calvary is derived from the Latin translation of the Hebrew name Golgotha.
[3] The Scriptural days always begin in the evening: "and there was evening and there was morning the first day..." Gen 1:5
[4] The expressions "Passover" and the "Feast of Unleavened Bread" were basically used interchangeably during the Second Temple period.
[5] According to Matthew 28:1 it seems to have been just at the end of the Sabbath. This is when the Jewish people celebrate Havdalah, the ending of the Sabbath. One of the Psalms that is quoted in the Havdalah liturgy is Psalm 118, which so clearly describes the resurrection of the Messiah. It is truly amazing.
[6] This is actually a description of the time for Havdalah, the ending of the Sabbath.
[7] Eusebius, Church History, Book V, Chapter 24
[8] Daniel Gruber, *The Church and the Jews – The Biblical Relationship*, Serenity Books – Hagerstown, MD, USA 1997, Pg. 32
[9] Daniel Gruber, *The Church and the Jews – The Biblical Relationship*, Serenity Books – Hagerstown, MD, USA 1997, Pg. 34

Part 2

> *"...knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a faultless and pure lamb, the blood of Messiah; who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of times for your sake."* (1 Pet 1:18-20)

In [Part 1] in this series we looked at the question of when Yeshua died. We will now take a look at the next question: Where did Yeshua die?

There are today two main opinions among Christians of where in Jerusalem (or to be exact outside of Biblical Jerusalem) Yeshua died and rose again. The first and most popular opinion is that it happened at the location of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The second more recent option is what is called today Gordon's Golgotha or the Garden Tomb.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is built on the ruins of a temple to the fertility goddess Venus. Some remains of the temple are actually still visible today. The Venus temple was built by Emperor Hadrian in the second century, right after the destruction of Jerusalem in 135 CE. The well know historian Josephus describes in his book War of the Jews that there was a famous tomb in this area which belonged to one of the Maccabee heroes John Hyrcanus. Hadrian hated the Jewish people and most likely built the shrine to Venus on top of this tomb, in order to desecrate this powerful symbol of Jewish freedom and discourage further uprisings. In the fourth century, Constantine's mother Helena chose this spot as the place for Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

If we remember that Yeshua died and was raised again "according to the Scriptures", it is very easy to prove with absolute certainty that neither the Church of the Holy Sepulcher nor Gordon's Golgotha is the authentic site.

Paul wrote in Romans 3:1-2, *"Then what advantage does the Jew have? Or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Because first of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God."* The Swiss theologian Karl Barth wrote "The Bible ... is a Jewish book. It cannot be read and understood and expounded unless we are prepared to become Jews with the Jews."[1] The reason for the many errors that have crept into Christianity is because Christian theologians throughout history have refused to be humble and learn from the Jewish people about their Scriptures.

Beit HaDeshen – Place of the Ashes

In answering the question of when Yeshua died, we naturally looked at what had been prophesied about the Messiah in The Feasts of the LORD, which is God's calendar revealing his appointed times and seasons for the Son. We discovered that neither Good Friday nor Easter Sunday is part of God's calendar. It is written in Daniel 7:25 that it is the "anti messiah" who will change God's set times and laws.

In answering the question of where Yeshua died, we will look at what has been prophesied about the Messiah through the sacrifices prescribed in the Law of Moses. Yeshua died as the ultimate sacrifice fulfilling perfectly all the sacrifices.

From the Torah we know that every sacrifice offered in the Tabernacle and in the Temple were always offered "before the LORD." The expression "before the LORD" means in biblical language always a place east of the Holy of Holies, never west, north or south. This fact alone rules out both the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Gordon's Golgotha as possible places for the death of Yeshua, as these places are located west and north respectively of the Holy of Holies.[2] These places then can never meet the requirement that Yeshua died for our sins "according to the Scriptures", in fulfillment of everything written about him. He certainly died "before the LORD", not behind him.

Let us first look at what is written about this in Hebrews 13:10-12.

> "We have an altar from which those who serve the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. **Therefore Yeshua also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered outside of the gate.**"

This passage gives us a very clear reference to where Yeshua died. It is specifically referring to the sin offering, which in Hebrew is called the chatat.[] Every sin offering, where the blood was carried into the Holy of Holies, was always burnt outside of the camp, in "a clean place" as it is written in Leviticus 4:12, "even the whole bull shall he carry forth outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on wood with fire. **Where the ashes are poured out** it shall be burned."

The "clean place" where "the ashes are poured out", was a designated area for this specific purpose called Beit HaDeshen, which simply means "Place of the Ashes." Notice that the author of the Book of Hebrews refers to this place where the sin offering was burnt, as the place of Yeshua's death!

In Heb 9:13-14, the author also compared Yeshua's death with the sacrifice of the Red Heifer.

> "For if the blood of goats and bulls, and **the ashes of a heifer** sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify to the cleanness of the flesh: how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Both the Red Heifer and the flesh of the sin offerings, whose blood was carried into the Holy of Holies, were burnt in the same place. We read in Numbers 19:1-5 about this place.

> "The LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 'This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without spot, in which is no blemish, and which was never yoked. You shall give her to Eleazar the priest, and he shall bring her forth outside of the camp, and one shall kill her before his face; and Eleazar **the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle her blood toward the front of the Tent of Meeting seven times.** One shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn."

We have already stated that the expression "before the LORD", meant east of the Tabernacle or Temple. Here we also see that the priest was to sprinkle the blood of the Red Heifer toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. This meant that he had to stand east of the Tabernacle or Temple, as the entrance always was in the east. This is also where the flesh of the sin offerings, which could not be eaten, was burnt to ashes at the place called Beit HaDeshen. It was a designated clean area east of the Tabernacle/Temple.

The Temple was located in the east section of Jerusalem. If Yeshua died "before the LORD", and outside of the camp and the city, it means with absolute certainty that Yeshua shed his blood for the sin of mankind on the Mount of Olives! This is also where Bet haDeshen was located. No other place could fulfill what was written about him. Remember that Yeshua died for our sins "**according to the Scriptures**"! No more proof is actually needed to let us know where Yeshua died, and yet the Bible has a lot more information to give us, that point to the same place.

What Was Golgotha? Part 2 Page 2

Everyone knows that Yeshua was crucified in a place called Golgotha.[] But what was this place? Most English translations render this as "the Place of the Scull." Mark 15:22 says, "They brought him to **the place called Golgotha**, which is, being interpreted, 'The place of a skull.'" The place was called Golgotha. It was in other words a known place. What kind of place was it? Basically all encyclopedias state that Golgotha was called the Place of the Skull[] because it was a place for executions and burials. The Hebrew Scriptures give us, however, a completely different picture.

Golgotha comes from the Hebrew word gulgoleth. It is found in for instance Numbers 1:2 which says, "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names, every male, one by one." A more literal translation from the Hebrew of this verse is, "Lift up the sum [Hebr. rosh meaning "head"] of all the company of the sons of Israel by their families, by the house of their fathers, in the number of names – every male by their polls [Hebr. gulgoleth]."

We see that the words for "sum" and "polls" are basically synonymous words. "Lift up the sum of all the company" and "every male by their polls" are two different ways to say the same thing. The Hebrew word used for "sum" is rosh, which literally means "head." Gulgoleth is OT:1538 in Strong's Concordance and is translated in the King James Bible as "head, every man, poll, or skull." We see that "skull" is not the primary meaning of the word gulgoleth, but "head." The only places in the Bible where gulgoleth sometimes is translated as skull is in Judges 9:53 and 2 Kings 9:35. But normally the word means "head, every person, or number." "The place of the skull" is therefore not the correct translation of Golgotha.

To take a census of the people, or to count the people, is expressed in the Hebrew as "lifting up the head" of each person, because it is a great honor to be counted among God's people. You count each person "by their head," gulgoleth. Golgotha was simply the place where the people of Israel were counted!

The way that the people were counted in the Bible and also in the second Temple period was by the so-called Temple tax. It is

temple tax?" (NIV). We read about this tax in Exodus 30:11-16.

> *"The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'When you take a census of the children of Israel, according to those who are numbered among them, then each man shall give a ransom for his soul to the LORD, when you number them; that there be no plague among them when you number them. They shall give this, everyone who passes over to those who are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary; (the shekel is twenty gerahs:) half a shekel for an offering to the LORD. **Everyone who passes over to those who are numbered**, from twenty years old and upward, **shall give the offering to the LORD**. The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when they give the offering of the LORD, to make atonement for your souls. You shall take the atonement money from the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the Tent of Meeting; that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for your souls."*

Friends, Yeshua paid this price for all of mankind to make atonement for our souls, so that we could be counted among God's people! He did it at Golgotha, the "polling station", where the Temple tax was collected. Glory to God! Truly Moses wrote about him, (see 2 Ch 24:6) and everything written about him must be fulfilled. In the end no one will be counted among his people, who has not come to Golgotha and accepted the price that was paid there by the Messiah!

The place where a census was held was always before the LORD, and outside of the camp (see Num 31:13,19,48-49). It is very interesting that Ezekiel describes the place where the sin offering was to be burnt "outside of the camp," the **Beit haDeshen**, as "the numbering place"! *"You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and it shall be burnt in **the appointed place** of the house, outside of the sanctuary."* (Ez 43:21). The Hebrew word for the appointed place here in this verse is *mipkad*, which means: "**a designated spot**, specifically, **a census**."[1]

We see here that the sin offering altar outside of the camp, was also the numbering place! This is the area where the Temple tax was collected and the people were numbered. It was Golgotha. "The place of a head," the place for counting, literally lifting up the heads of Israel! This is where Yeshua died. The place was located east of the Temple on the Mount of Olives.

The Curtain that Was Torn Part 2 Page 3

There is more evidence pointing to Mount of Olives as the place where Yeshua died. We also read about his death in Matthew 27:50-54.

> *"Yeshua cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit. Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection, they entered into the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him watching Yeshua, when they saw the earthquake, and the things that were done, feared exceedingly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"*

And also in Luke 23:44-47.

> *"It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. Yeshua, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous man.'"*

Five things happened according to Matthew when Yeshua died:

1. He cried in a loud voice
2. The veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom
3. There was an earth quake and the rocks were split
4. Tombs were opened and after the resurrection righteous people came out of their graves
5. The centurion saw what happened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

Luke mentions point 1, 2 and 5 and also that the sun was darkened (which Matthew mentioned earlier in verse 45), but he does not mention point 3 and 4. If we compare the two passages we can deduct that the earth quake and the opening of the graves were not the main things that caused the centurion to believe since Luke does not even mention them. The darkening of the sun was neither the main reason that the centurion believed that Yeshua was the Son of God since Matthew mentions it earlier and not in connection with the statement faith made by the centurion.

What is left is the combination of the first two points: 1. Yeshua cried in a loud voice and 2. The veil in the Temple split open. The first one he did not see, he heard it. Matthew 27:54 says, *"Now the centurion, and those who were with him watching Yeshua, **when they saw the earthquake, and the things that were done**, feared exceedingly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"* And Luke 23:47 says, *"**When the centurion saw what was done**, he glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous man.'"*

The bottom line is that the centurion must have seen something happening in the Temple, when the veil was torn from top to bottom. This was totally impossible from any other place than from the Mount of Olives, certainly not from the place of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher or Gordon's Golgotha which both are located behind the Temple.

The Jewish scholar Alfred Edersheim wrote about the veil that it was 60 feet (about 20 meters) high and 30 feet (about 10 meters) wide. This means that the veil was as high as a six story building! It was as thick as the palm of a hand and consisted of 72 squares. Edersheim wrote that the veil was so heavy that, "in the exaggerated language of the time, it needed 300 priests to manipulate each [square]."7 The veil was in other words an enormous item in size and weight.

The Gospel of the Nazareans states that the large stone lintel above the doors to the Holy Place in the Temple split in two when the earth quake took place and the curtain was rent.8 This might have been part of the reason that the veil was torn. We need to remember that the Temple was considered to be one of the most beautiful and impressive buildings in the world and it was the largest place of worship in the known world at that time. The stone lintel above the doors weighed about 300 tons! When it came crashing down in the earth quake it must have been an incredibly spectacular sight from the Mount of Olives, just after Yeshua cried out in a loud voice.

It was not possible to see any of this from the place of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher or from Gordon's Golgotha, but only from the Mount of Olives. Remember also that the High Priest had to take of the blood of the red heifer with his finger and sprinkle it towards the doors of the Temple. This means that the doors had to be visible from the place where Yeshua died. Only if he died on the Mount of Olives was this possible.

In Part 3 of this series about Golgotha we will continue to look at the subject of where Yeshua died. There is more evidence both from the Scriptures, but also from Church history pointing with great certainty to the Mount of Olives as the place of Golgotha.

Read: Golgotha – When, Where, and How, Part 3

Part 2 Page 4

"Prepare the Way for the LORD"

1 Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, et al. (Edinburgh: T & T. Clark, 1958), ½ 511

2 http://www.jerpoint/Messiah/golgotha.htm

3 The sin offering is in Hebrew called chatat, which simply means the "sin." Yeshua did not become sin for us. He became a sin offering for us. In the NIV Bible there is a note in the margin in 2 Cor 5:21 which says, "Or be a sin offering."

4 In Aramaic gulgalta

5 The Latin Vulgate Bible translated Golgotha into Calvaria from the Latin word for skull. The English word Calvary is derived from this Latin translation.

6 OT:4662 miphqad (mif-kawd'); from OT:6485; an appointment, i.e. mandate, concretely, a designated spot; specifically, a **census**." (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.) Strong's

7 Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. p. 894

8 According to some scholars this lintel also held up another veil in front of the doors to the Temple.

Part 3

"Now I declare to you, brothers, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold firmly the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that ***Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures****, that he was buried, that* ***he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures****, and that he appeared to Kefa, then to the twelve."* (1 Cor 15:1-5)

The foundation of the gospel is that the Messiah died for our sins "according to the Scriptures." We will now continue to look at the question: Where did Yeshua die?

In Part 2 in this series about Golgotha we mentioned that neither one of the traditional sites in Jerusalem: The Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Gordon's Golgotha, fit the description "according to the Scriptures." We gave three reasons that the place of the crucifixion instead took place on the Mount of Olives.

1. John 1:29 Yeshua was the fulfillment of the sacrifices ordained in the Torah. Every sacrifice was always performed "before the LORD", in order to be accepted. "Before the Lord", means east of the Holy of Holies.
2. Hebrews 9:13-14, 13:10-12 and Numbers 19:4 Beit haDeshen, the place where the sin offerings and the red heifer were burnt to ashes, was on the Mount of Olives. They certainly did not carry these animals through Jerusalem to a place west or north of the city, behind the LORD. The shadow and the object must line up. Hebrews 10:1 says, "For the Torah, having a shadow of the good to come..."
3. Numbers 1:2 and Exodus 38:26 Golgotha comes from the Hebrew word *gulgoleth*, which means "the numbering place," the place where "the head" of every Israeli was counted through the temple tax. According to Ez 43:21 this place (the *mipkad*) was next to Beit haDeshen on the Mount of Olives. The people were always counted before the LORD.
4. Matthew 27:50-54 and Luke 23:45-47 Only from the Mount of Olives could you see what happened in the Temple, when

[illegible]
21 we also see that he died "near the city."

> *"Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. There was written, 'YESHUA OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.' Therefore many of the Judeans read this title, for* ***the place where Yeshua was crucified was near the city****; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek."*

In the Greek text it actually does not say in this passage that Yeshua was crucified "near the city" but "near the place of the city." What does "the place of the city" mean? In John 11:47-48 we see that "the place" is another word used about the Temple. *"The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, What are we doing? For this man does many signs. If we leave him alone like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both* ***our place*** *and our nation."* The NIV translation has a note in the margin after the word "place," which says, "Or temple." We also see that the same expression is used about the Temple in Acts 6:13-14. *"This man never stops speaking blasphemous words against* ***this holy place*** *and the Torah. For we have heard him say that this Yeshua of Nazareth will destroy* ***this place****, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us."*

The Temple was located in the eastern part of ancient Jerusalem, where the Temple Mount is today. If Yeshua was crucified outside of the city, but near the Temple, it means that he must have died east of the city on the Mount of Olives. Only on the Mount of Olives can you be outside of Jerusalem, but near the Temple. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Gordon's Golgotha are near the city but away from "the place of the city." The entire city lies between those places and where "the place of the city," i.e. e. the Temple stood.

Let's look at one more Scripture that talks about Yeshua's burial place. In John 19:41-42 we read that the place of Yeshua's crucifixion and burial was in the same area, *"Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb in which no man had ever yet been laid. Then because of the Judeans' Preparation Day (for the tomb was near at hand) they laid Yeshua there."*

Isaiah 53:9 says, *"They made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death."* When Yeshua died he ended up with the rich. Joseph of Arimathaea, who buried Yeshua in his own grave, was a rich man. *"When evening had come,* ***a rich man from Arimathaea****, named Joseph, who himself was also Yeshua's disciple came. This man went to Pilate, and asked for Yeshua's body. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given up. Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock."* (Mt 27:57-60)

In Mark 15:43 we read that Joseph of Arimathaea was not only was rich man, but he was also a member of the Sanhedrin. *"Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member who also himself was looking for the Kingdom of God, came. He boldly went in to Pilate, and asked for Yeshua's body."*

Everyone who is familiar with Jewish faith knows that a righteous Jew with wealth most likely would have purchased a grave for himself on the Mount of Olives. There is no doubt to this day, that the number one spot to be buried if you have enough money, is the Mount of Olives, as can still be seen today in Jerusalem. In Jewish faith this means that you are "first in line" at the resurrection when the Messiah sets his feet on the Mount of Olives.

It says in Matthew 27:60 that Joseph's tomb was a new tomb. From historical sources we know that around the time of Yeshua's ministry many new graves were cut out in the rocks at the southern end of the Mount of Olives. This is probably the background to his words in Matthew 23:27, where you most likely could see these beautiful new white painted tombs from where he was speaking in the Temple. *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitened tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."* The white paint served two purposes: to mark them out so that people would not accidentally become unclean through contact with the dead, but also to make them beautiful in order to impress.

Even if this is not an absolute proof, it at least makes the Mount of Olives the most natural option as the place for Yeshua's death and burial, since it was prophesied about the Messiah that he would be buried with the rich and Joseph of Arimathaea was both a righteous and wealthy Jew. The most natural choice for him as a member of the Sanhedrin to cut out a new grave for himself would have been on the Mount of Olives.

The Place for Roman Crucifixions

Besides information from the Scriptures, we also have valuable historical information concerning the Roman way of crucifying criminals. Nicholas Kokkinos has in a book called "The Enigma of Jesus the Galilean" documented from Roman and Greek sources that the Romans were primarily guided by three principles when they selected the place for crucifying a criminal:

1. The site of the crime
2. The place of the arrest
3. An area of high ground and/or crossroads

The main reasoning behind these choices was that they wanted to make the crucifixion as public as possible in order to create fear and respect, thereby deterring people from committing the same offense against the state. The Romans therefore also placed a sign above the criminal to announce what he had done as we read in John 19:19-20.

> *"Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. There was written, 'YESHUA OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.' Therefore many of the Judeans read this title, for the place where Yeshua was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek."*

What would the place of the crime be for this offense? It is very easy to find. We read in Luke 19:37-38, *"As he was now getting near, **at the descent of the Mount of Olives**, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen, saying, '**Blessed is the King** who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!"* Mount of Olives was the place of the "crime". It was here that he accepted the praises of the crowds heralding him as king.

The chief priests and officers had told Pilate, *"If you release this man, you aren't Caesar's friend! Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar!"* (Jn 19:12) If Pilate had to choose a place outside of the city, known for Yeshua's crime of being a king, he would naturally choose the Mount of Olives. Nowhere in the Gospels do we read about any activity of Yeshua outside of Jerusalem, except east of the city, on the Mount of Olives. And it was specifically here that he was heralded as king.

If the place of the offense was not a suitable location for the crucifixion, the place of the arrest was the next choice determining where the Roman authorities would crucify the criminal. Where was Yeshua arrested? In the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives! *"When they had sung the Hallel, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ... Then Yeshua came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I go there and pray.'"* (Mt 26:30,36)

Thirdly, the Romans would select a high place that was visible to as many as possible, preferably near a thoroughfare. No place would be better suited than the Mount of Olives. This certainly was a high place and it was at the most common route for all the pilgrims coming into the city for the great Feast, just as we read in John 19:20, *"Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek."* (NIV) We also read in Matthew 27:39 that people passed by the place, *"Those who passed by blasphemed him, wagging their heads."*

Finally, we will look at a fourth possible scenario, which also points to the Mount of Olives. We read in John chapter 19

> *"When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, saying, 'Crucify! Crucify!' Pilate said to them, '**Take him yourselves, and crucify him**, for I find no basis for a charge against him.' The Judeans answered him, 'We have a law, and **by our law he ought to die**, because he made himself the Son of God.' ... They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' **The chief priests** answered, 'We have no king but Caesar!' So then he delivered him to them to be crucified. So **they took Yeshua and led him away**."* (Jn 19:6-7,15-16)

According to this information, Pilate told the chief priest and their officials to crucify Yeshua. Since Pilate knew that Yeshua was extremely popular among the crowds, he naturally looked for a way to avoid being responsible for Yeshua's death. It says that Pilate handed him over to the chief priest and their officials to be crucified and **they** took him and led him away. If they were given the opportunity to select the place for his crucifixion, there is only one place where they could have taken Yeshua and that is east of the Temple outside of the city on the Mount of Olives. If Yeshua had committed the crime of blasphemy he had to be put to death "before the LORD" to remove the guilt from the Land. We read in Num 25:4,

> *"The LORD said to Moses, 'Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and **expose them** in broad daylight **before the LORD**, **so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel**."* (NIV)

The Mount of Olives in Early Christian Tradition

Part 3 Page 3

Finally, is there any evidence from Christian writings and tradition that Mount of Olives is the place where Yeshua died? Yes, there actually is. Even though Constantine in 326, through his mother Helena, officially established the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as the place of Yeshua's death and resurrection, we have historical records pointing to the Mount of Olives as the place.

Eusebius, the most famous historian of the Early Church, mentions in his early writings only two places that Christian Pilgrims visited in the Holy Land before the time of Constantine. It was Bethlehem and Mount of Olives.[] This is what Eusebius wrote about the Mount of Olives.

"Believers in Christ congregate from all parts of the world, not as of old time because of the glory of Jerusalem, but... that they may worship at the Mount of Olives opposite the city, whither the glory of the Lord migrated when it left the former city."[]

Not one word is said about any place west of the Temple Mount where eventually the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built. Christians from all parts of the world rather came to the Mount of Olives according to Eusebius.

Eusebius later wrote in another book, after Constantine had become Emperor, that the discovery by Helena of "the true Golgotha" was "contrary to expectation."[] We need to remember that Eusebius, who lived most of his life in Caesarea, was very familiar with the history of the Holy Land. The reason for the surprise was that no Christian pilgrim had ever visited that place before 326. According to Eusebius they had instead visited a special cave on the Mount of Olives and worshiped there. Dr. John Wilkinson also mentions this cave in his book *The Jerusalem Jesus Knew – An Archaeological Guide to the Gospels*:

This is why Eusebius wrote that the "discovery" by Queen Helena was "contrary to expectation." Eusebius was Constantine's private chaplain and any stronger wording than that would probably have made him a head shorter. Before Constantine became Emperor, Eusebius wrote that the Ecclesia of God "was founded on the Mount of Olives"[1] and that this was where its spiritual headquarters were established after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE. He called Mount of Olives the New Mount Zion.

There is also some interesting information from a Christian pilgrim, known as the Bordeaux Pilgrim, who came to Jerusalem in the year 333, during the time when the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was being built. This man mentions in his itinerary that he visited a little hillock on top of the Mount of Olives. To the surprise of scholars he claimed that the transfiguration of Jesus took place there. This was of course a pure mistake. But the most likely reason for his mistake is interesting. In Latin, the word for transfiguration is *transfigurare*, while one of the words in Latin for crucifixion is *transfigere*. The dear pilgrim probably confused these two words as they sound very much like each other.[5] This is a strong indication that it was the *transfigere* (the crucifixion) and not the *transfigurare* (the transfiguration) which took place on the Mount of Olives. It might also be that the local Christian population had begun to confuse these things after Queen Helena visited Jerusalem and Emperor Constantine started to build the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

There is also a quote from another Christian pilgrim called Brother Felix Fabri, who visited Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives in 1484. Mount of Olives is known in Jewish tradition as the Mountain of Light. Fabri wrote in his diary that one of the reasons for this name of the mountain was because this is where the great fire was lit by the priests for burning the Red Heifer sacrifice.[6] As we have stated earlier, this was the place where, according to the Book of Hebrews, Yeshua died.

Conclusion

Next week we will look at how Yeshua died. So far we have seen that Christian tradition has departed from the Scriptures and confused both when and where Yeshua died for our sins. Holy Week, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday, The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Via Dolorosa, and so on are all human traditions contradicting the Scriptures and the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

These false traditions obscure the Father's true testimony of the Son. It is time for the truth to be restored from the Scriptures about the Messiah, in order for the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world to be revealed to Israel.

> *"Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way of the people! Cast up, cast up the highway! Gather out the stones! Lift up a banner for the peoples. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, 'Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your salvation comes.'"* (Isa 62:10-11)

In Part 4 in this series about Golgotha we will see what the Scriptures say about **how** Yeshua died for the sins of the world.

Read Golgotha – When, Where, and How, Part 4

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"Prepare the Way for the LORD"

1. This was written in the year 303 before Queen Helena "discovered" the place of Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. Eusebius, Demonstratio Evangelica, Bk VI, Ch. 18
3. Eusebius Life of Constantine, 3.26
4. Ibid.
5. Ernest L. Martin, Secrets of Golgotha, Associates for Scriptural Knowledge, Portland, OR, 1996
6. Palestine Pilgrim Texts, Vol VII, pp. 495-499.

Part 4

> *"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. Paul, as was his custom, went in to them, and for three Sabbath days* ***reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again*** *from the dead, and* ***saying, 'This Yeshua****, whom I proclaim to you,* ***is the Messiah****."* (Acts 17:1-3)

> *"Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus.* ***He was mighty in the Scriptures****. ...he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly* ***showing by the Scriptures*** *that Yeshua was the Messiah."* (Acts 18:24,28)

We have already stated that the foundation of the gospel is that the Messiah died for our sins "according to the Scriptures." So far we have seen that Christian tradition has left the Scriptural pattern, and confused both when and where Yeshua died for our sins. Holy Week, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday, The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Via Dolorosa, are all human traditions and inventions, changing the Scriptures and the faith once for all delivered to the saints. As we have seen both from the Scriptures and from the early history of the believers in the Messiah, the apostles neither taught nor practiced any of these Christian traditions. They were very careful to not depart from the Scriptures.

Our Calling to Pray For Restoration

Our calling in the Elijah Prayer Army is to pray for the salvation of Israel. We are called to prepare the way for the Messiah in the power and spirit of Elijah, so that the Lamb of God can be revealed to Israel. The Christian traditions unfortunately obscure the Father's true testimony of the Son found in the Scriptures so that the Jewish people cannot recognize him. We must pray for the truth about the Messiah to be restored from the Scriptures, in order for the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world to be revealed to Israel. The Bible commands us,

> *"Go through, go through the gates!* ***Prepare the way of the people!*** *Cast up, cast up the highway!* ***Gather out the stones****! Lift up a banner for the peoples. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, "****Say to the daughter of Zion****,* ***'Behold, your salvation comes****."* (Isa 62:10-11)

This last sentence can also be translated: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes!'" (NIV) It is important that the true savior is revealed and presented to Israel. Paul explained to the Jews in Thessalonica from their own **Scriptures**, the Hebrew Bible, that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead and said to them, " This **Yeshua**, whom I proclaim to you, is the Messiah." We read in Luke 3:2-6,

> *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled. Every mountain and hill will be brought low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.* ***All flesh will see God's salvation****."*

The Hebrew name Yeshua, which in English is transliterated via Greek and Latin to Jesus, means "God's salvation." The purpose for John the Baptist's ministry as well as for the promised restoration of the truth in the end times is that the true Savior, Yeshua, "God's salvation," will be revealed to all mankind, and primarily to Israel. *"For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Messiah, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes;* ***for the Jew first****, and also for the Greek."* (Rom 1:16) In order to do this we need to remove the stones of human traditions that have obscured God's salvation Yeshua.

In 2000 we wrote our first Haggadah (Order of the Pesach Meal). One evening past midnight when Lars had just finished the final editing and was ready to go to bed, he heard a voice behind him saying: "Thank you for helping me restore my true identity!" It touched him deeply.

Time Magazine recently published a very interesting article called "Future Revolutions: 10 Ideas That Are Changing The World." Number ten on this list of ideas that is revolutionizing the world today is called "The Unfolding Jesus." According to Time Magazine, seminary professors, theologians and pastors today agree that, " **if you get the [Jewish] context wrong, you will certainly get Jesus wrong** ."

One theologian assists in the Time Magazine article that he understands the idea is revolutionary, but he "finds this particular genie so logically powerful that he has no wish to rebottle it. Once in, he says, 'you're in deep. You're hooked. Cause you can't ever read it [the Bible] the same way again.'"

There is an amazing power in the truth. Even if it has been buried for 1800 years, it still has the power to resurface. Time Magazine basically confirms the prophecy that Yeshua spoke two thousand years ago, "Eliyah indeed comes first, and will restore all things." (Mt 17:11) The coming of the Messiah is at the door and we must continue to pray for this restoration of the faith.

When we see the Savior revealed in the prophetic Scriptures in the Tenach (OT) our hearts begin to burn inside of us, just like we read about the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

> *He said to them, 'Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in* ***all that the prophets have spoken****! Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?' Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets,* ***he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself*** *. ... They said one to another,* ***"Weren't our hearts burning within us, while he spoke to us*** *along the way, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?"* (Lk 24:25-27,32)

How Did Yeshua Die? Part 4 Page 2

Let's now look at the final question in our series, namely **how** Yeshua died for the sins of the world. We know of course that Yeshua died by being crucified. But the question is: how was he crucified?

Traditionally Christians have pictured Yeshua dying on a two beamed cross and this cross has become the number one symbol of the Christian faith. But is this really what the Scriptures teach about the instrument that Jesus died on? Let us look at Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, which is probably the most respected dictionary of its kind in English, what they say about the word cross.

> CROSS, CRUCIFY stauros NT:4716 denotes, primarily, "an upright pale or stake." On such malefactors were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb stauroo, "to fasten to a stake or pale," are originally to be **distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed "cross."** The shape of the latter had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as **the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau**, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt . By the middle of the 3 rd cent. A.D. the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system pagans were received into the churches apart from regeneration by faith, and were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence **the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the "cross" of Christ.**

The traditional Christian cross is in other words not a Christian symbol from the beginning. It was borrowed from paganism. The Greek word "stauros" denotes primarily, **but not exclusively**, "the upright pale or stake" upon which the criminals were hanged. It can also refer to just the crossbeam, in Latin called the "patibulum", that the arms or hands were nailed to and which the criminals usually were forced to carry to the execution. And, it can also refer to **the entire execution devise** consisting of both the crossbeam and the upright pale.

Here is, however, a very important thing to note. The device that the crossbeam, the patibulum, was fastened to, did not have to be a dead pale or stake. It was in fact very common for criminals in the Roman Empire to be crucified by being hanged in regular trees. The Church Father Tertullian wrote in his book Apology about the Roman proconsul of Africa who punished the priests of Saturn because they had sacrificed children to Saturn in their temple. He wrote that the Proconsul "exposed to public gaze the priests suspended on the sacred trees overshadowing their temple—so many crosses on which the punishment which justice craved overtook their crimes." Note that he called the living trees where the priests were hanged "crosses."

We know from John 19:41 that Yeshua was crucified in a garden, which means that there were trees available in which he could be hanged. We also know that his crucifixion was very rushed. Pilate tried to let him go free until the very last minute and the Passover celebration was quickly approaching. When the final sentence to death came there was not much time to dig foundations for three heavy crosses. A suitable tree was the most convenient choice.

The Apostles Spoke Repeatedly About the Cross as a Tree

There are many indications, both from the Scriptures as well as early Christian writings and traditions, that Yeshua was crucified in a regular tree. First of all, we see in several places in the Apostolic Writings (NT) that the cross is also called a tree.

> *"The God of our fathers raised up Yeshua, whom you killed,* ***hanging him on a tree*** *."* (Acts 5:30)
>
> *"We are witnesses of everything he did both in the countryside of Judea, and in Jerusalem ; whom they also killed,* ***hanging him on a tree*** *."* (Acts 10:39)
>
> *"When they had fulfilled all things that were written about him, they* ***took him down from the tree*** *, and laid him*

in a tomb." (Acts 13:29)

"who his own self bore our sins in his body **on the tree** *, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness."* (1 Pet 2:24)

We also have the clear prophecy from the Torah quoted by Paul in Galatians 3:13, *"Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'"* This prophecy in the Book of Deuteronomy says nothing about a cross. It talks about a tree and uses the basic normal word for a living tree just as in Gen 1:11, *"Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and* **trees** *on the land that bear fruit with seed in it according to their various kinds.' And it was so."* (NIV)

The Greek word used in all the quoted verses above for "tree" is *xulon*, which is used in the Septuagint Bible to translate *eves* , the most common word in Hebrew for a living tree . *Xulon* is also used about the tree of life in Rev 2:7, 22:2,14. This is what the famous Kittel Theological Dictionary writes.

"Early Christian art indicates a close relationship between the tree of life and the cross. ...In the tomb paintings of the 2nd century it is thus depicted for the first time as the symbol of victory over death. It then recurs again and again. The idea that the living trunk of the cross bears twigs and leaves is a common motif in Christian antiquity." []

Just as Vine's Greek Dictionary says, the traditional Christian cross did not become a Christian symbol until in the middle of the 3 rd century. It was primarily after Constantine that the symbol of the cross became popular among Christian . Before Constantine the cross of Yeshua figured frequently in Christian art as a living tree with branches and fruit. Christ Church , located just inside the walls of the Old City in Jerusalem , is the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East . It was originally founded to serve as an outreach to the Jewish people. There is no cross in the building. On the communion table, the cross is substituted with a picture of the tree of life.

Melito of Sardis wrote, "Just as from a tree came sin, so also from a tree came salvation" [] and Ignatius of Antioch wrote about believers as "branches of the cross" bearing fruit. [] Both Melito and Ignatius pictured the cross as a regular living tree.

Yeshua and the Robbers Hung on the Same Cross Part 4 Page 3

We finally want to look at the passage in John 19:31-33, which proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Yeshua must have been crucified in a regular tree. Verse 31 is translated in the NIV Bible.

> *"Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down."*

This is a very "logical" translation. But there is just one problem. The Greek text does not say "crosses" in this verse. It says "cross" in singular. It literally says, *" the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath."* This means that the three bodies were hanging on one cross! This is basically only possible if the cross was a regular tree. A traditional Christian two beamed cross is definitely excluded! Possibly two criminals could be hanged "back to back" on the same pole, but not three.

But if the cross was a regular tree it explains what is written in the two following verses.

> *"Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Yeshua, and saw that he was already dead, they didn't break his legs."*

We know from all the gospels that Yeshua was crucified in the middle with one robber one on his left side and one on his right side. But notice what it says here. Even though Yeshua was crucified in the middle, the soldiers came to him last. This seems a little strange according to the traditional picture of the crucifixion with three Roman crosses next to each other, but if they were all crucified in the same tree it makes perfect sense.

The cross that Yeshua carried to Golgotha was the patibulum, the crossbeam. The entire devise of both the crossbeam and a suitable pole of timber would weighed at least 200 pounds. This was impossible for any victim that had been flogged to carry. The crossbeam was heavy enough.

When Yeshua came to Golgotha on the Mount of Olives , they hung him on the crossbeam in one of the trees there by the altar where the sin offerings were burnt to ashes. There he died for the sins of the world on the evening of the Jewish Passover night when the Passover lambs were slaughtered in the Temple . He died for our sins exactly according to the Scriptures.

> *"For indeed Messiah, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place. Therefore let us keep the feast."* (1 Cor 5:7-8)

> *"He is 'the stone which was regarded as worthless by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.' There is salvation in none other; for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:11-12)