

Pentwater Bible Church

*Resurrection Day
April 12, 2020*



Stained Glass of the Paschal Lamb-Jesus, Artist Unknown

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020
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JESUS FULFILLED ALL ASPECTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW

Revelation 5:1

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals (KJV).

God the Father has a “book” in His right hand, which is written on both sides and sealed with seven (7) seals. The right hand signifies honor (1 Kings 2:19) and power (Mark 14:62). This designation of “book” is referring to a scroll. The codex or books of leafs with bindings that we are familiar with did not come into being until early second century.

Revelation 5:2

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof (KJV)?

A strong angel now appears asking a key question regarding the eligibility of one who would open the book and unseal the seals.

Revelation 5:3

And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon (KJV).

Initially there did not appear that anyone was qualified to open this title deed/will/contract in the right hand of God The Father. The three realms identified are:

1. In Heaven
2. On the earth
3. Under the earth

Revelation 5:4

And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon (KJV):

The apostle John starts weeping because there is no one worthy. Worthiness as in Revelation 4:11 implies deity-worthy of our worship. Those falling short of this nature are in the three realms listed above.

1. Heaven-**angelic**
2. On the earth-**human**
3. Under the earth-**demonic**

ONE ASPECT OF THE LAW WHICH CHRIST FULFILLED ARE THE FESTIVALS OF THE LORD

Revelation 5:5

and one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof (KJV).

We know that the designation; The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Gen 49:8-12) He came through the tribe of Judah. We also know that he overcame and is now qualified to carry out the commanding role in initiating the Great Tribulation. How it is that He has overcome? The most important reason is because He took the sins of the world upon Himself at the cross. But there are also a legal reasons that He prevailed and is now *fully qualified*.

But the richness of God's Word is that it often reveals a deeper truth if you know where to look.

The Seven Festivals of the Lord Found in Leviticus 23 and strongly represent both the coming of the Messiah and His Return

1. For Redemption
2. Restoration of man and earth back to God.

THE SHADOW PRINCIPLE

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ¹⁷ Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ (KJV).

Hebrews 10:1-10

¹For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins (KJV).

Verse 1-2 of Hebrews tells us the Mosaic Law offered a mere "shadow", or likeness, of what was to come through the Lord Jesus. Now there is direct access to God because the

old Law was not the final plan, and it was never able to provide a final or perfect cleansing from sin. If sacrifices could have made people perfect, they would not have had to repeat them year after year and there would have been no need for a Redeemer to come. Verses 3-10 state that the endless sacrifices never removed the people's sin in the eyes of God and it left them with their guilt. God never took pleasure in the sacrifices and He would not accept as a worthy sacrifice from the individual who was not truly in a right relationship with Him. Psalm 40:6-8 said that Christ came to offer His body on the cross for us which is the only sacrifice that is completely acceptable to God. The entire Old Testament was written about Him and His coming. Christ fulfilled the entire Law and the prophecies about His coming. This sacrifice of our Lord Jesus was made once for all and ended the Law.

Jesus often pointed to the "beginning" (Genesis), the Law of Moses (first five books) and the prophets (Jeremiah through Malachi) to reveal God's plan for mankind and clues to recognize the Savior. For the Jews of his time, understanding the Old Testament was key to discovering that Jesus is their promised Messiah.

1. The entire Bible is inspired and as such all of it should be studied
2. The Feasts are a shadow of things to come and teach us in Bible typology of our Messiah (Hebrews 10:1).
3. The Feasts are prophetic types and examples foreshadowing significant events in God's plan of redemption for mankind and the earth as well (I Corinthians 10:1-6,11).
4. The Feasts can be thought of as a type of schoolmaster or tutor that leads us to the Messiah (Galatians 3:24).
5. The Feasts do point to the Messiah and God's plan for the world through the Messiah (Psalm 40:6-7; Hebrews 10:7).
6. Jesus (Yeshua) came to fulfill all of the Old Testament (613 Laws) that was written there, Torah, Neveem and Ketuveem as personified by the psalms (Luke 24:26-27, 44-45, John 5:46-47)
7. The feasts represent the pattern of heavenly existence here on earth (Hebrews 8:1-2,5; 9:8-9,23; Exodus 25:8-9,40 26:30, Numbers 8:4; Ezekiel 43:1-6, 10-12).
8. God provides the natural and practices to explain the spiritual (I Corinthians 2:9-13; II Corinthians 4:18).

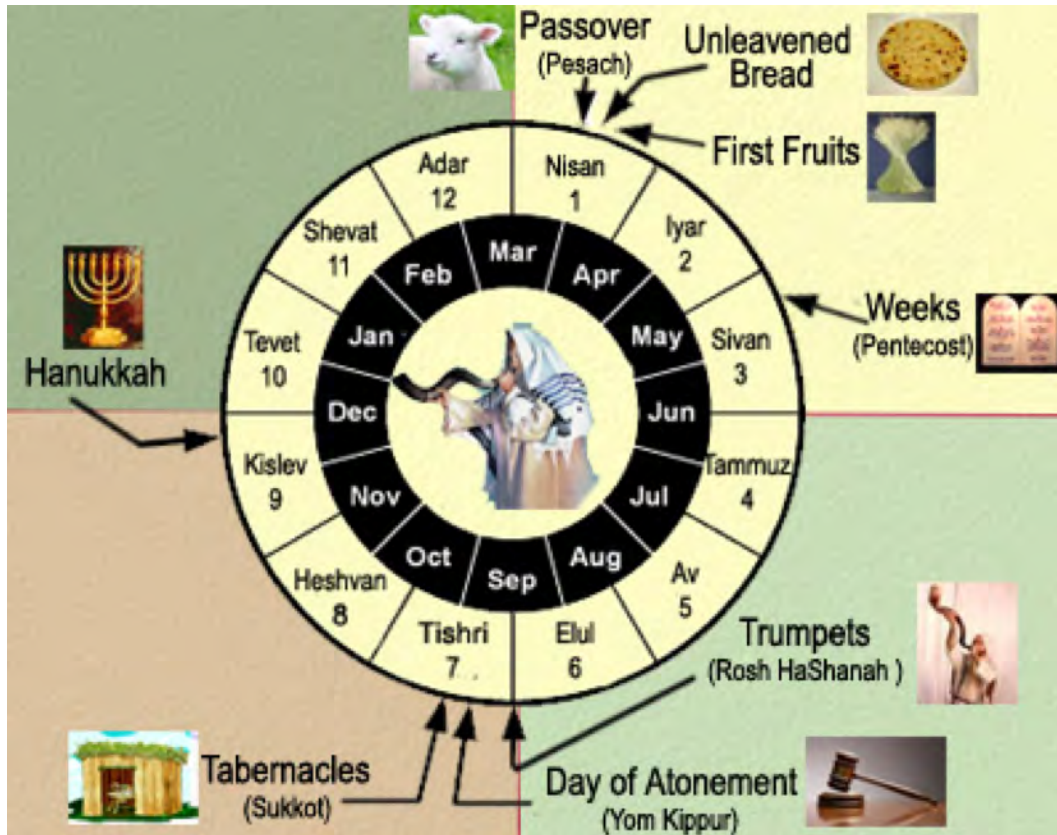
THE APPOINTED TIME

When God gave the feasts, he said that they were an "appointed time" or a "set season." The Hebrew word for appointed is "*moed*". What this tells us is that God has set an exact time or an appointed time to fulfill the destiny of this earth in terms of its redemption and that of the heavenlies as well as the people in it.

There are a total of seven feasts.

1. Passover represents Israel's deliverance out of Egyptian bondage
2. Unleavened bread represents the going out of Egypt
3. First fruits represents crossing the Red Sea

4. Pentecost represents the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai
5. Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the shofar to celebrate the Jewish New Year
6. Atonement on the Day of Atonement the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year to request cleansing of the people's sin
7. Tabernacles represents the entering the Promised Land with Great Rejoicing



THE EXODUS AND PASSOVER

Genesis 15:13-14

¹³ And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; ¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance (KJV).

Abraham's grandson Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel, went from the land of Canaan to live in Egypt due to the famine in Canaan (Genesis 32:28). He and his family totaling seventy souls went to Egypt in approximately 1844 B.C. They would stay in Egypt for four hundred years. By the time God was ready to have them leave and start the journey back to Canaan, they had grown to a population numbering more than two million people (Exodus 12:37; Numbers 1: 46; 26: 51). Moses, their leader, petitioned Pharaoh to let them go and he refused. The Lord God sent ten plagues in succession into Egypt to force Pharaoh

to release them. The first nine had no effect upon Pharaoh but the tenth finally caused him to release the Hebrews. They fled the country along with many riches given by the Egyptians to send them off (Exodus 12:35-36). The prophecy that God gave Abraham was unfolding exactly as it was given. It is the last plague “The Death of the Firstborn” that begins our discussion of the Passover.

THE PASSOVER

Exodus 11:4-7

⁴ And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: ⁵ And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. ⁶ And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. ⁷ But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel (KJV)

God promised Moses that He would not harm any of the Israelites, but in order for them to be protected they had to follow a very specific process during the tenth plague in which all the first-born of animals and people would be put to death. If the Jews followed the Lord’s instruction explicitly they would delivered from the death that all the first-born would experience:

Exodus 12:21-28

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. ²² And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. ²⁴ And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever. ²⁵ And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. ²⁶ And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? ²⁷ That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. ²⁸ And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they (KJV)

The story continues explaining that the Children of Israel were “saved” from the death of the destroyer when he would “pass over” their homes. They were told to “*observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.*” Further they were told “*when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.*”

This ritual is rich with meaning for Christians, and shows that the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, is the central figure in this ancient Jewish feast. Christianity is actually a continuation and fulfillment of God's plan for mankind. He elected the Nation Israel who would bring forth the Messiah. When Christ appeared and started His ministry the Jewish population flocked to Him. All the early Church believers were Jewish. Most of the Jewish leaders rejected Him not wanting to accept who He because they feared losing the benefits of the profitable charade that they imposed on the people. They persuaded most of the people not to follow Him claiming their superiority as official leaders of the Jewish community (Acts 4:2). So for approximately 2000 years the non-Christian Jews have been trying to follow the Mosaic Law because they did not believe that Jesus is their Messiah. Even though Jesus is clearly the central figure in the Passover, most Jews follow the ritual without ever realizing this. God told them that this was to be a perpetual celebration and that they were to carefully explain to their children.

The Passover became the first of the seven festivals of the nation Israel. The Passover occurs during the month of Nisan. The 10th day of Nisan is when they single out the lambs and the 14th is the Passover. Their day started at sunset. This festival also begins their religious calendar in the spring.

The Passover is a key event in the history of Israel and becomes an underlying current throughout the entire Old Testament. It is interesting that by tradition, in the orthodox Hebrew culture, almost every major event in Israel’s history is regarded as having occurred in Passover or seems to surface at historically significant Passover dates. These include:

- The Covenant with Abraham is regarded as occurring on Passover in Genesis 15.
- Abraham is regarded as having entertained his heavenly guests by the oaks of Mamre on Passover.
- Sodom is regarded as being destroyed following Passover.
- Jericho is regarded to have fallen on Passover.
- The handwriting on the wall in Daniel 5 is regarded to have been on Passover.

The first place in Scripture this event occurs, which is a type of the Passover, is Genesis 3 where Adam and Eve clothe themselves with handmade fig leaves. God then covers them with a coat of skins. This is the first shedding of innocent blood by God as a covering after their sins. The Levitical system can actually be traced to Genesis 3. This gives us more insight into the story of Cain and Abel because the sacrifices were instituted in the Garden of Eden and prophetically point to the Redeemer. Abel, by faith, observed the system and presented a blood sacrifice to God. Cain did not observe the system and presented what he

wanted to offer, the fruits of his own hands, a non-blood sacrifice in contrast to Abel's offering.

Perhaps the most dramatic prophecy of a type of the Passover was when Abraham was instructed by God to offer up Isaac (Genesis 22). They traveled three days and they went up the hill known as Mount Moriah. When Isaac asks where is the lamb for offering, Abraham says the "*God will provide Himself, a Lamb*" (underlined added). And He did there and 2,000 years later on the wooden cross at Calvary He provided Himself as a sacrifice to redeem us by His blood. Throughout these chapters the word "Lamb" never appears in the plural, it is always singular which makes it very personal. This feast is not a Levitical feast; it is very different than the other feasts. It is much more than that. The High Priest slaughtered the lambs for the rabbinical feasts. In contrast, the lamb for this festival is slaughtered for every household by the head of the household. It is also partaken of and eaten personally by the entire family.

"THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB"

Exodus 12:3-5

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth [day] of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of [their] fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take [it] according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take [it] out from the sheep, or from the goats (underlining added, KJV).

Note the sequence of steps from "a lamb" to "the lamb" to "your lamb". It is very personal. Each person's redemption is only achieved by his own belief, not by a minister or priest or family member. It has to be done by each person in relationship with Christ.

Every detail in the Scriptures about The Passover points to Jesus Christ. "*Your lamb shall be without blemish*" (Leviticus 22:18-20; 1 Peter 1:19). Psalm 34:20 "*He keepeth all his bones: Not one of them is broken*" and Exodus 12:46 "*neither shall ye break a bone thereof*" both speak of not breaking a bone of the Passover Lamb. Jesus' bones were not broken while the other two crucified with Him had their broken to hasten their death as described in John 19:31-37:

Passover represents the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world for us. We essentially become "covered by the blood" once we accept the Lord into our lives. It is our decision just as it was the ancient Israelite's decision to mark the doorposts and the lintel with the blood of the lamb. Once we choose this we are "Justified." God provides several actions, which occur at the moment of belief. We call this being "born again". It is easy to understand Nicodemus' inability to comprehend this, since he was not yet born again at the time of his conversation with Jesus recorded in John chapter 3. Here is the sequence of

actions that happens to a believer as he is covered by the “blood of the Lamb”, and born again:

- We are justified, and we make peace with God.
- We receive the peace of God.
- We are sanctified and begin to grow more Christ –like which lasts our whole lives.
- We receive the Holy Spirit as an earnest deposit to be redeemed by God at either the rapture or the moment of our death, whichever happens first.
- We are endowed with Spiritual Gifts.

If the ancient Israelites chose not to accept God’s atonement provision the destroyer would kill them. God did not do the destroying. It is important to note this as He provided the salvation. If we choose *not* to accept Christ, upon death we go straight to hell. There is no redemption after that for the unbeliever.

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (KJV)

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets (KJV).

Exodus 12:14

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever (KJV).

Note that the Lord instituted this for all times. It was not to end. The Jews still keep the Passover. The Messianic Jews do not slay the Lamb (Jesus) since the Lamb was slain once for all. Most of them still keep the feast and they call it the Haggadah or the Seder.

THE SEVEN FESTIVALS OF ISRAEL

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEVEN FEASTS/FESTIVALS OF OUR LORD

The Lord’s feasts, also called festivals, had a specific time for their yearly occurrence, and coincide with a significant spiritual event. For example, Passover represents Christ’s sacrifice. Each feast’s spiritual prophetic significance has been fulfilled except that of the Festival of Booths, or Sukkot. Here is a list of the feasts:

- THE FEAST OF PASSOVER was fulfilled with the death of Christ the Redeemer, but clearly continues to the Millennium as a ceremony. (I Corinthians 5:7; I Peter 1:9).

- THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD is being fulfilled in the holy walk of the believer who fellowships with our Savior (I Corinthians 5:6-8; II Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:7-9).
- THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS was fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ (I Corinthians 15:23).
- THE FEAST OF PENTECOST was fulfilled in the establishment of the Church at Pentecost fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus (I Corinthians 10:16; 12:12-13).
- THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS will be fulfilled in the future regathering of Israel at the beginning of the Kingdom (Isaiah 18:3, 7; 27:12-13; Ezekiel 37:1-14).
- THE DAY OF ATONEMENT will be fulfilled in its prophetic features in the final conversion of “all Israel” at the Second Coming (Zechariah 12:10-13; 13:1 Romans 11:26).
- THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES, OR SUKKOT will finally be fulfilled in the Millennium as specifically mentioned in Zechariah 14:16.

Three of the seven feasts of Israel occur in the month of Nisan. The first three deal with Christ’s first coming, and Passover became the first of the seven festivals. The feast of Unleavened Bread, which lasts for seven days, starts on the 14th of Nisan, the end of The Passover (Exodus 12:15). In 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 leaven is shown to be in Bible typology an example of sin.

The First Fruits represents The Resurrection and it is the day following the Sabbath of the Passover. Jesus died on Passover, Jesus went into the ground on Unleavened Bread which starts on Saturday and First Fruits (Resurrection) is on the first day of the week or the day after the Sabbath.

The middle one, Pentecost, is fifty (50) days after First Fruits and represents the Church age since the Church was born on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

The three main fall festivals are: Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles. They represent Christ’s second coming.

The only two Feasts explicitly listed in the Bible passages occurring in the Millennium are Feasts of Booths, or Sukkot (Zechariah 14:16), and the Feast of Passover, including the use of unleavened bread (Ezekiel 45:21). Sukkot is the only agrarian festival of the seven, which will be carried out in the Millennium, when all the righteous from Heaven and the earth are ingathered to live in peace and harmony for one thousand years, and all will enjoy God’s grace and protection. Passover, which celebrates national cleansing points back to Christ’s death and will be celebrated as a celebration of Jesus’ work for us, which clearly continues the Feast of Tabernacles, will finally be fulfilled by Israel’s new

position in God's Millennial Kingdom. All the others will have been prophetically fulfilled and will not need to be completed. There is some speculation as to whether all the seven festivals will be carried out during the Millennial Kingdom.

Because of our ancestors, Adam and Eve, sin had the chance to enter the originally perfect world. We are now born into a sinful world and no matter what we do growing up, there isn't a thing we can do to get all of the sin out of us. We may be able to convince other humans we are "squeaky-clean", but not God. He knows our born-in-sin-nature, completely.

So, as the Jews clean out their homes of the yeast and eat Matzo, yeastless bread, we are reminded that it is a hopeless case. Just like our inability to clean out the junk in our souls/spirits. We need someone perfect to do it for us.

Matzo has a special way it is made now. It has stripes that look like bruises and is pierced thru. The Rabbi's reason for this is to make the bread cook fast, from start to finish in 18 minutes actually. Eighteen minutes is supposedly the amount of time it takes to prepare and cook it in a manner that will keep all yeast out. What they don't seem to realize is that they have created the perfect symbolism that God initiated long ago.

Belief on the Lord Jesus frees us from the bondage of sin and eternal punishment. He removes the leaven (sin) from our lives. Jesus was beaten and bruised and pierced for our sins. He was and is the only sinless person on this earth and His body is represented by the matzo. Even in modern day Judaism they can't get away from God's plan of redemption. We need Jesus' atoning blood to cleanse us of those sins. We have to let Him come in to live inside of us, in the form of the Holy Spirit, where He can slowly find all that yeast and "burn it up". He burns up the sin just like the families burn up the left-over yeast before these two feasts. We need God to live this "yeastless" lifestyle. But even then, it will be a daily process, because yeast/sin permeates this world. This feast is the perfect celebration of our Savior whose body was broken for our sins. Come celebrate Him with me.

5. Feast of Trumpets — Leviticus 23:24

In a beautiful declaration God commands his people to rest. During this time all regular work is prohibited, and men and women present a food offering to God.

In Leviticus 23:24 God commands his people to gather and to commemorate the decree with trumpet blasts.

On the same front, the sound of a trumpet is also associated with the rapture, or the time Jesus will return for his bride (1 Corinthians 15:52). Once he returns, there will be a

wedding feast of celebration. Revelation 19:9 says, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb” (NLT). He’s preparing us to celebrate!

6. Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur — Leviticus 16, 23:26-32

To make “atonement” is to make restitution for wrongs committed. As a day of humility and repentance to God, it was a time for the Jews to get their hearts, consciences and lives right before him. The observance involved the sacrifice of animals as the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies. What the High Priest did there couldn’t offer more than an annual payment for their sins. However, hiding in plain sight was the promise of one who could atone for their sins permanently (Hebrews 9:12).

Where is Jesus in these sacrificed animals? The bull and one of the goats was an offering of thanks, but the “scapegoat” took on their sins (Leviticus 16:10). The scapegoat was to be burdened with all the sins of Israel and sent into the wilderness.

The Jewish leaders condemned Jesus, and he — burdened with the sins of all mankind — was led out of the city to be crucified: “*He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins — and not only our sins but the sins of the world*” (1 John 2:2, NLT).

The necessity of the Day of Atonement was rendered void by Jesus’ death on the cross — our debt has been paid! From a prophetic view this will be when the nation Israel finally confesses their sin of unbelief in the Messiah and ends the tribulations

7. Feast of Tabernacles or Booths — Leviticus 23:34

Celebration always follows the Day of Atonement. The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates God’s provision and protection for the people of Israel during their 40 years wandering in the wilderness; for the seven days of the feast, people live in temporary structures like they did in the wilderness. The Lord himself was with the Israelites in the desert, in a tented temple called the tabernacle, so the feast also celebrates his presence as he tabernacles (dwells) with us.

Jesus is called Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23, NLT). He put on a temporary tabernacle — a human body — to dwell on this earth and offer himself as a sacrifice.

This feast also points to the promise that God will return and rally with his people — in the person of Jesus. And when he does, he has promised that there will be no more death and suffering, that he himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). His return is the final answer to the hope we’ve carried our entire lives. What a day that will be! Prophetically it looks to the Messianic Kingdom where Israel will be protected from the wiles of the Devil as he will be bound for a thousand years.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES OR BOOTHS

Zechariah 14:16

“¹⁶And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.” (ASV, 1901)

Along with the Jews the Gentile nations will be coming up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Booths. According to Old Testament Law, the ancient Israelites were required to appear before the Lord three times in the year at the feast of the Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (Exodus 23:17; Deuteronomy 16:16). In this verse during the Millennial Kingdom the Gentiles are required to present themselves once a year to pay an annual homage to the King of the earth. For the ancient Jews this feast commemorated the gathering of the harvest. It also represents Divine protection and therefore is a fitting symbol of their entrance into the Millennial Kingdom. Today in modern Israel this feast still takes place. The Jewish Tabernacle, and later the Temple, was the center of life for Israel, and was the essence of God’s protection for the ancient Israelites:

Leviticus 23:33-44

“³³And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, ³⁴Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto Jehovah. ³⁵On the first day shall be a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work. ³⁶Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah: on the eighth day shall be a holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah: it is a solemn assembly; ye shall do no servile work. ³⁷These are the set feasts of Jehovah, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto Jehovah, a burnt-offering, and a meal-offering, a sacrifice, and drink-offerings, each on its own day; ³⁸besides the sabbaths of Jehovah, and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill-offerings, which ye give unto Jehovah. ³⁹Howbeit on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruits of the land, ye shall keep the feast of Jehovah seven days: on the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. ⁴⁰And ye shall take you on the first day the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm-trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before Jehovah your God seven days. ⁴¹And ye shall keep it a feast unto Jehovah seven days in the year: it is a statute for ever throughout your generations; ye shall keep it in the seventh month. ⁴²Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are home-born in Israel shall dwell in booths; ⁴³that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am Jehovah your God. ⁴⁴And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the set feasts of Jehovah.” (ASV, 1901)

A *sukkah* is a temporary dwelling built during the Jewish feast of Tabernacles, or in Hebrew, Sukkot. *Sukkot* is the plural form of the Hebrew word *sukkah*, which means temporary dwelling place. The sukkah is also said to represent the temporary shelters in which the Jewish people lived while wandering in the desert for 40 years (Leviticus 23:42-43). The sukkah also refers to huts near the edges of their fields during the harvest season. These dwellings not only provided shade but also allowed the workers to maximize the amount of time they spent in the fields.

A sukkah usually has at least two and a half sides, which can be constructed of any material so long as the sides are secure and do not flap in the wind. The roof must be made of natural, unprocessed materials that have grown in the ground, such as tree branches, bamboo poles or even wood that has been shaped into planks. In addition, the roof should be left open so that people inside the sukkah can see the sky. The sukkah is often decorated with autumn fruit and vegetables, which are tied to strings and then hung around the sukkah. During the Feast of Sukkot it is traditional to eat at least one meal in the sukkah. Many people will try to eat in the sukkah more often though, especially if they have children who can revel in the novelty of eating outdoors. Although some people build a sukkah in their yards, in modern times it is more common for synagogues to build a sukkah for the community to enjoy (about.judiasm.com)

The Feast of Tabernacles had characteristics that the other feasts did not have. For example, it was the harvest festival of joy and thanksgiving. It was a celebration not only of the full ingathering of the harvest work of the field, but also of the fruit and of the vintage. It is the only one characterized as “*the feast of ingathering*” (Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:13).

Even with this small glimpse into these feasts, we see his intentional love for humanity has endured for centuries, and He has left us clues that foreshadow the beauty that is to come. The Old Testament has many hidden truths that, in light of the New Testament, bring a richer understanding to our life in Jesus Christ.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE PART XIII

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