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The Feasts of Israel a Calendar of Word Prophecy

The Feasts were given to Moses as times of appointments when God would meet with His people. The Lord commanded the Jews to gather at a place where He would place His Name, 3 times a year, to commemorate 3 Feasts to honor God's mercy and deliverance.

God was very explicit and detailed about how each Feast was to be observed, because within the framework of each Feast were hidden types and shadows . . . symbols, that would clearly point to the Messiah and His work of atonement and reconciliation. As the Feasts unfolded, it became a prophetic calendar of Messianic events, not only for the Jews, but eventually, for the entire world! It became a calendar of prophetic world history, and is yet to reveal its last 3 Feasts.

There have been so many changes in contemporary Judaism that it's hardly recognizable in its present day concepts to *Biblical* Judaism. God, Who knows the end from the beginning, anointed Isaiah to record, (almost 3000 years ago), a prophecy describing the very day we live in, when we would put more emphasis on Rabbinical concepts found in the Talmud, the Mishna, the 13 articles of Faith, etc than in the Torah. “ **Wherefore, the LORD said, forasmuch as the people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.**” Man changes, but the truth stands unchanged by culture or seasons or governments. Evident in types and shadows; the Feasts would always speak of Messiah!

In the book of Exodus, we read how God called Moses up to Mt. Sinai no less than 8 times. It was during these meetings that God gave him the revelations concerning creation of the world, and His plans for man's future. Also, His will for mankind, laws for a life style that would keep man healthy, and wise, and give him the ability to do what he was created to do . . . to give God pleasure! (Rev. 4:11) God wrote, with His own finger, the 10 commandments on tablets of stone, and dictated the other 613 laws and Moses wrote them in his own handwriting, and called it “the book of the law”. These laws were to benefit the people and covered a multitude of issues such as health and fitness, dietary laws and restrictions, (known as Kosher laws today), medical treatments, civil and moral laws, and sacrificial laws governing their relationship with God and worship.

Most important, the Lord gave Moses instructions for a tent type tabernacle that would be a place that He would manifest His Presence to the people, and they would know their God was amongst them.

It was during this time that God gave Moses a pattern or blueprint of exactly the kind of structure He wanted Moses to erect, giving him the exact measurement of every piece of furniture to go in it, and every accessory, down to the color of the drapes and curtains, the type of wood and metals, and the design and the floor plan.

Moses had only to obey and follow the plan God laid out for him! It was all God's plan; "Salvation is of the Lord!" It's all His plan . . . all man has to do is obey and follow the plan! Moses followed the plan, and the result was a tabernacle plan that played a vital role in man's relationship to God for the next 500 years, because it was a floor plan of approach to God! It became an avenue of atonement that spoke of the vicarious sacrifice that came by the blood of animals that would one day be fulfilled by the sacrificial blood of Jesus at Calvary! It was a type and a shadow of Calvary.

All the symbols and types that were found in the ark, the altars and all the furniture were shadows that pointed to Jesus, and they were created with one purpose in God's mind: they were "**a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ**". They were shadows; He is the Substance. It's a principle: first in the natural or physical, followed by that which is Spiritual.

The same pattern is found in the Feasts of Israel. They were designed for the Jew to observe, in that day, and to worship God for their harvests, yet, within the very same framework of each Feast, there's a connection and a prophecy of Jesus and His redemptive work for the Jews and the world! His footprints walk across the pages of the entire calendar!

There are 7 feast days that the Jews were mandated to observe through the year, listed in chronological order in **Leviticus 23**.

Vs: 4-6 "These are the feast of the LORD, even holy convocations which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread".

Vs: 10-11 "Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, when ye become into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then shall ye bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest; and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you; On the morrow after the Sabbath, the priest shall wave it:

Vs: 15-17 “and ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number 50 days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. Ye shall bring out of your habitations 2 wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the first fruits unto the LORD>

Vs: 24 “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.”

Vs: 27-29 “And also, on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in the same day: for it is a day of atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in the same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.”

Vs: 34 “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.”

Vs: 39-43 “Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD you God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations; ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all the are Israelites born shall dwell in the booths: that 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 the LORD your God.:

These were the appointed times that God wanted to meet with His people. When He brought them out of Egypt’s bondage, He made that month, Nisan, the beginning of a new calendar year for them. Now, they would have 2 calendars: the civil year, which began between Sept 15 – October 15th, and the Sacred year, which started between March 15 – April 15th, (by our present day calendar) This calendar

would remind them of where the LORD had brought them from, where He was taking them to, and how to worship Him for His provision and blessings.

As history unfolded, and prophecies were revealed, it became obvious that this calendar was not only for the Jews, but would affect the entire human race. Each Feast day speaks of events that shaped world history, and of events and prophecies that are yet unfulfilled. Through the study of types and shadows, we can see some of the rites and rituals of these Feasts pointing to spiritual truths that have been dormant for several thousand years . . . just waiting to be revealed in this end time generation.

Even numbers play an important role, so that from the first Feast to the last, they become an instrument in unfolding of God's will and intention for humanity. The study of numbers relating to Scriptures is called Numerics.

The commandments of the Feasts were to be implemented when they came back into their land, and began to harvest the land they had been away from for over 400 years. It also contained, hidden within the days, weeks and months, what would become the history and future of the *entire world*, unfolding as the pendulum swung and time quietly slipped by.

Each Feast day speaks volumes of events that have already shaped world history, and of events and prophecies yet unfulfilled. Through the study of **types and shadows**, we will see how the rites and rituals of these Feasts reveal spiritual truths that have been dormant for several thousand years, just waiting for this end time generation.

Even the **numbers** in the texts play an important role, from the first Feast to the last. They too, are instrumental in the unfolding of God's will and intention for humanity. We'll be able to see how God brings more clarity to understanding His word through the numbers He includes in the passages. This type of study is called **Bible Numerics**.

Many times, the meaning of the number lends some support to difficult passages. Have you ever read a verse that didn't seem to make sense? It seemed like the wrong word was used, but we know God doesn't make mistakes! Actually, the word translated at *that* time was the right word for *that* culture and that day, but over the years, words have changed in their meaning and some have even become obsolete from our everyday English. . . for an example, the word "**suffer**" in the context of Matthew 19:14.. "**SUFFER the little children to come unto me**" was Jesus instructing the disciples to *allow* or *permit* the children to come to Him. When we hear **suffer** today, we immediately think of hurt, pain, agony, which wouldn't

make any sense in that text! Words change from culture to culture over time; customs change and new words replace obsolete ones.

Over the years, customs change, but no matter what the time element or culture, one thing has been constantly and consistently the same. . . numbers! A one is a *one*. . .was *one* back then, is *one* today! Same with a 2 or a 3 . . . a 3 will always be one less than 4, and one more than 2! This is not going to turn into a math class (certainly not with ME for a teacher... nearly failed algebra!).

I offer you this to think about: God uses a system of numbers, or numerics, to support and confirm the meaning of certain texts because there are particular meanings to each number that can lend itself to the meaning of the text it's in. God has placed numbers in scriptures for a reason...He does everything for a reason! When you see a number in a scripture, it's not there inadvertently. With a little bit of digging and research, finding out what that number means may shed great light on the scripture it's in.

An example of relating numbers to Biblical study can be seen in the number of Feasts recorded . . . seven. Whenever 7 is used, it always relates to things complete or perfect, and some define it as a "state of fullness".

We can see an example of this in the perfect and complete octave in music . . . 7 notes in a musical scale, (the eighth note begins the 7 note scale again). All music is a combination of just 7 notes "doe, re, me, fa, so, la, ti, doe". The "doe" at the end is not the last note, but actually, the beginning note of the next scale, making it an *octave*. (The number 8 relates to "new beginnings". So the note "doe" is the beginning of the new scale.) All music consists of only 7 notes, rearranged, to form from sonatas and concertos to jazz and boogie!

The color chart is 7 basic colors. All other colors are derived from a blend of the original 7 colors, making it complete.

In creation, the world was complete on the 7th day, and needed nothing more to make it what it was and is now! The week consists of 7 days. Anytime you see 7 within the scriptural context, it will under gird the thought of something complete, entire or whole. The creation of the world was stamped with #7...6 days G-d creatively worked, and completed His plan with the 7th day of rest.

Noah took the clean beasts into the ark in 7's; Aaron and his priests were consecrated for 7 days before they could enter their priestly duties; the high Priest sprinkled the blood on the ark 7 times for complete redemption, etc.

And my point is... Now, knowing that 7 speaks of perfect and complete, we

see it confirms what God is trying to teach the Jews and all the rest of humanity...that His 7 Feasts speak of God's complete and perfect plan for redemption and restoration! As the calendar of the Feasts unfold, each one will combine its numeric significance with types and shadows to present a complete and full understanding of God's plan for man in today's world.

As we look at the overall layout of the Feasts, we see they are divided into 2 time frames; first group has 4 Feasts, followed by a rest period of 4 months, and then, in the fall of the year, the second group...the final 3 Feasts.

The #2 is related to "*separation or division*", which is what we have here...the Feasts, *divided*, or *separated*, by a season, lasting 4 months.

Bible numerics relate the number 4 to "things God created to benefit man; to help mankind in his effort to thrive in this world." An example of the use of the # 4 is:

- God created 4 seasons for planning and harvesting
- God created 4 directions or regions of the earth; north, east, south, and west for man to live in
- God created 4 watches (or parts) of the 24-hour day; for man to work, sleep, eat and live in
- God created 4 lunar phases that affect the tides and plant growth
- God created 4 elements affecting the conditions of the world

On the calendar, the first 4 Feasts are all related to things that enable man to live, plant, produce, harvest and thrive. It's very obvious that the #4 has left it's thumbprint on God's purpose in this time element.

Passover

The first Feast is **Passover**. As recorded in Exodus 11 and 12, it was a means by which God liberated the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. In response to the cries of His people to end their years of hardship and slavery, God instructed Moses to select a lamb on the 10th day of Nisan to start the process of liberation.

If after 4 days of close inspection, the lamb was found to be unblemished, healthy, whole and perfect, they were to use it as a sacrifice on the 14th of Nisan. They were also to sprinkle the lamb's blood on the doorposts of their houses for a protective sign. That lamb would be known as the "*Pascal*" or "*pesach*" lamb, which translated from Hebrew means "*Skipper lamb*" because that night, when the Spirit of God moved across the land of Egypt, He skipped over, (or passed over), their homes if the blood was on the door. It was a sign of their obedience to God, and it

protected them from the 10th plague of death that God brought to all of Egypt that didn't have the blood applied to the house.

Every house that didn't have the blood on its door suffered the death of its firstborn, as a judgment from God, be it a child, an adult, or an animal. According to Biblical and secular history, all those that had applied the blood to their doors survived, while there was great mourning and travail all throughout Egypt, including the Pharaoh's palace.

This was the 10th and final plague that God visited upon the Pharaoh because he refused to let the Israelites go. This was all part of a prophecy that God had given Abraham over 600 years earlier, and it was fulfilled to the exact time, place and circumstance.

It was then Pharaoh, grief stricken, let them go, and the Egyptians were so anxious to be rid of the curses of Jew's God that they gave them whatever they needed for the trip...food, animals, money, jewels, etc. The Jews started their journey home laden down with plenty, fulfilling that prophecy Abraham had made over 600 years before:

“... 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 400 years: and also, that nation whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” (Genesis 15: 13,14)

The Feast of Passover was instituted as a memorial for all generations of Jews to follow forever, to keep alive the memory of what the One God of Israel did for their forefathers. It was during this time, as God led them through the wilderness, and provided for all their needs; that He revealed Himself to be the All Sufficient One God, providing food, water, protection and all their needs.

Through the leadership of Moses, and the Presence of God in the pillar of fire and the cloud that led them, God sufficiently met all their needs. The night when the blood of the lamb saved them from the judgment of death became known as **Passover**, specifically, **the Lord's Passover**.

It's no coincidence that the Feast of Passover is number ONE in the lineup of the Feasts, because the message of Passover speaks of the Almighty God, Who is **ONE** in number. He tells us, in the law, “ **thou shalt have no other gods**”...no multiplicity, as the pagans did, but “**the LORD our God is one LORD**”. (Deut 6:4)

Numerically speaking, *ONE* is a number that needs no other number added to it to make it what it is...it stands alone, expressing exactly what it is... all sufficient, needing nothing beside it to make it what it is! *ONE plus nothing else is still ONE!* (Isaiah 45:21; “...there is no God beside Me; a just God and a Savior; there is

none beside Me.”

Vs 22: “...I am God and there is none else.” The number *ONE* expresses the Sufficiency of the One God; the LORD, our Passover, Who is All Sufficient to redeem us from spiritual bondage and bring us into a place of freedom and peace.

Passover has highly significant types and shadows, and prophetic and spiritual applications, especially for this end time generation. The application of the blood on their houses provided protection for the Israelites from God’s judgment as He passed over Egypt that night. Not just any animal’s blood, but from a specific lamb that had been observed for imperfections for 4 days. When that lamb was found to be without imperfections, he was slain as their sacrifice.

Nationally and historically, this first Feast day deals with the all Sufficient God that provided safety, protection and deliverance to the Jews from their bondage.

Prophetically, it was a “type and shadow”...that pointed to a ***spiritual*** deliverance that God would one day provide through a Sacrifice that would meet the same criteria of that *Pesach* lamb. It would become the means by which man could experience spiritual deliverance from guilt, shame, addictions, disease and bondage that attach themselves to men through sin.

Almost 2000 years later, God sent the Messiah, Yeshua, anointed to walk in this world as the anti-type... of that *pesach* lamb; the fulfillment of the sacrificial *Pesach* lamb of Passover. The apostle/rabbi Paul referred to Yeshua as **“Christ, our Passover”**, (1 Corinth 5:7), who lived among the Israelites and taught them, and practiced Godly principles for over 3 years. John called Him **“ the Lamb of God”**.(John 1:29)

On the 10th of Nisan, Yeshua, the Passover (**Pesach**) **lamb** came into Jerusalem to teach and answer questions in the Temple, in the streets, on the hillsides, in homes, and where ever people gathered to listen. In the next 4 days, Yeshua stood before His disciples, His apostles, His accusers, (the high priests, the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod), and they could not find any validated accusation in Him. (no imperfections) Even Pilate, desiring to free Him, *pleaded* to the crowd that this Man was innocent, and he admitted “I find no fault in Him”.

Yeshua was likened unto the *Pesach* lamb; unblemished and perfect. On the 14th day of Nisan, as a *Pesach lamb* was being sacrificed to shed it’s blood, to fulfill the ceremonial law, Yeshua was fulfilling the spiritual “type” of that lamb by being crucified by His accusers. Outside the city, impaled and bleeding on a stake, Yeshua was providing atonement and deliverance through His blood, to keep

judgment from humanity's house! In Egypt, on the Lord's Passover, a nation was delivered, through the blood of the *Pesach lamb*...a shadow of what would happen 2000 years later! This time, not on a *national* level, for Jews only, but for all mankind, personal and spiritual deliverance through "Christ, our Passover", the Lamb of God.

Today, contemporary Judaism celebrates the Passover rituals by gathering friends and family around a Passover meal, consisting of special foods that are symbols representing the events of the first Passover...hard boiled eggs that speak of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart; salt water for the tears shed by the Jews in slavery; bitter herbs for their bitterness and sorrow before God's deliverance; a mixture to remind them of the mortar they had to make in building the cities for the Egyptians, and the unleavened bread, made without yeast because they fled Egypt in haste. Most important on the tray is shank bone from a lamb, to honor the blood shed for their deliverance from the Pesach lamb.

This is a Feast day set aside to honor the One God of Israel, Who has revealed Himself as the One Lord and Savior, Yeshua. **"For I am the LORD, thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior" Isaiah 43:3**

As we delve into a more detailed study of rites and rituals of the actual Passover meal, you'll begin to see that everything in it points to the plan Yahweh, the Almighty God, had in preparing for the coming Messiah. The Pesach lamb's shadow falls directly on the cross bearing the bloody brutalized body of Yeshua, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, the Lamb of God.

Passover Meal

(Seder)

cleaning out the chametz

Prior to the actual Passover meal, there's a time of preparing the house, and the length of time spent in *that* preparation depends upon the desire of the individual.

The Conservative Jew will separate that which has leaven, (yeast), from the non-leaven foods, storing them apart for the duration of the Passover. The Orthodox will throw/give away anything that has not been designated and stamped " for Passover", and use separate dishes, pots and pans and silverware, as well as clean the cabinets, fridge and entire house. This procedure is known as *Chametz... cleaning out the leaven*.

The Ultra Orthodox..(Chasedic, Lubavitch), will do all of the above, and many times strip the walls, re-paper and paint as a sign of their sincerity to cleanse their home. Going to these extremes has no Biblical basis, and is only found in cultural custom. The reference made to "**unleavened bread**" is found in **Exodus 12:39**, where they were told to eat this bread because they didn't have time to wait for the leaven. (yeast),to raise the bread while they were getting ready to pull up stakes, pack and leave.

The Apostle/Rabbi Paul sees a spiritual analogy in this preparation, comparing yeast to carnality, that could affect the whole body negatively if allowed to prevail...(I Corinth 5:7) He advises us to "**purge out the old leaven**", from our "house"..(.our lives)... of bitterness, envy, jealousy, etc. He refers to "**Christ, our Passover**", Who gives us freedom from the bondage of all these sins.

And so we see a cultural custom, the cleansing of the chametz, becoming an act of literal cleaning, applied to the home, but not as a spiritual law pertaining to spiritual "house." Man became so involved in **works**, that they missed the *spiritual* value! Soon, a new ritual began with the act of searching the house with a feather, a candle and a spoon, and it became the accepted ritual as a prelude to the Feast! The kids loved it, and the one that found the most dust or crumbs in their spoon received a reward!

So now...the house is clean... the spoon and feather inspection is done, and now they set the table... a place setting for everyone, plus the extra setting for Elijah, in hopes that before the end of the meal, he will show up to usher in the Messianic age, the time of peace. According the O.T., Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, and there are those that believe he might return to prepare the way for the Messiah, Who will bring us into the millennium of peace. The wine has been poured, all the special foods are on the Seder plate, and the order of the Passover is ready to begin.

History Of Passover

Over 400 years before the first Passover, the Patriarch Jacob, (also known as Israel), moved his family of 70 children and grandchildren from his homeland of Canaan to Egypt. His son, Joseph, had become a high-ranking ruler in the Egyptian government, and at a time when the entire then known world was going through the stress of a famine, Joseph moved his father and family into the fertile valley of Goshen, in Egypt.

They settled and remained there for over 400 years, at which time, the present Pharaoh made a new assessment of the situation. The name of once highly favored Joseph was long since a dim memory, and Israel's family now numbered more than 3 million, which presented a threat to the new king and to the internal security of Egypt. They seemed as "a nation within a nation", and his fear was one of possible rebellion, or even aiding an outside adversary if they attacked Egypt.

In order to weaken any strength the Israelites might be tempted to use against the Egyptians, the ruler stripped them of power, position, education and rights. They were reduced down to the ranks of a labor task force, and treated them as slaves. They were coerced into a life of labor and servitude, building roads and cities for the Egyptians under cruel taskmasters. They began to cry out to God for deliverance, knowing from their ancestors that God had promised their forefather, Abraham, the land of Canaan, where they had come from 400 years earlier. It seemed, to them, a good time to return to their homeland!

The book of Exodus records that at this time, God raised up a savior for their dilemma; a man named Moses, who, together with his brother Aaron, would be instruments of deliverance for the Israelites. In Exodus 12, God gave Moses exact instructions for their deliverance, which included slaying and sacrificing a certain type of lamb, at a *particular* time, in a *special* place, to be done at a *specified* day and time. The lamb had to be one year old, without disease or blemish; it had to be observed for 4 days, and killed at a certain time of day, and its' blood had to be applied to the door posts of their homes on Nisan 14. (**Exodus 12: 1-7**)

The Exodus deliverance was planned as carefully as the creation of the world! Every detail had its importance in the overall scheme. (God was, and is, very specific, which demands of His followers obedience without excuse. He left nothing for man to contribute to this plan of deliverance, except his obedience!) All details together, they would provide a plan that would give the Jews an escape from a nation that would very soon after experience God's wrath and judgment. God has a similar plan today that will enable all people to escape His soon-to-be wrath and judgment on this world, and give deliverance and protection to those obey.

This plan is based on the same principles and concepts as the original Passover:

**A Lamb,
The blood,
Where and how it's applied
And When....**

all found within the Passover types and shadows!

In reading the account of Exodus 12, we see how the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt, packed down with everything they borrowed from their Egyptian neighbors, who were only too happy to give them what they needed in order to leave Egypt! They gave them jewels, clothing, food, pots and pans, materials and anything they asked for. **(Exodus 12:35,36)** The Israelites left, leaving behind their grieving neighbors who had just suffered the loss of their first born children as a result of God's 10th and final plague against a stubborn Pharaoh who would not obey the Lord.

This was a total fulfillment of a prophecy God had given Abraham over 600 years earlier, much before the children of Israel were ever born: “ **...and He said unto Abraham, know of a surety that thy seed, (now known as the Israelites), shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, (Egypt), and shall serve them; they shall afflict them 400 years; also, that nation whom they shall serve, will I judge.** (God killed all their first born.),**and afterward, they shall come out with great substance.**” (The Israelites left with great abundance to sustain them for their trek in the wilderness.) With such precise clarity, can anyone doubt that this was truly a God anointed prophecy? Or doubt His reason or plan?

Moses was instructed to keep the Passover in our generations FOREVER, and so we, (Jews), do it for (1) a memorial of God's deliverance, and (2) that we should never doubt what He is *still* able to do for us today! Moses was no Superman...he wasn't a spiritual guru or giant of his day! He was a man given to human faults and frailties as we are, but he made himself available to God, and His direction, and it became the source of his deliverance, and for the nation of Israel! We have the same opportunity to seek the same God and enjoy spiritual deliverance also!

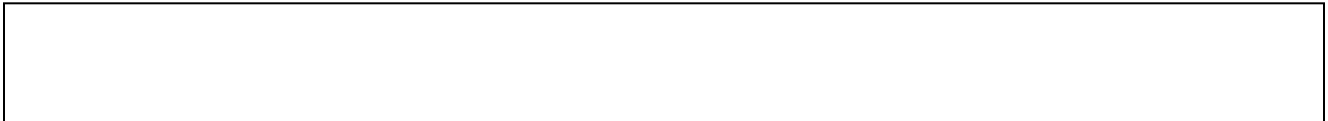
The Israelites were instructed to start observing Passover after they entered the land of Canaan, so that they would never forget what God had done for them. After Jerusalem was devastated in 70 A.D., history tells us that the Jews were eventually scattered worldwide, never to be unified again until Israel became a nation in 1948. For over 1800...Almost 1900 years, they were dispersed to the 4 corners of the world, struggling for their existence. Through the centuries, having assimilated into the various cultures, the Passover took on variations in its

presentation, but always retained the essential Biblical requirements to remind them of the Exodus deliverance for the bound and enslaved.

Passover was an actual historical event, but it pointed to a spiritual principle . . . deliverance for the spirit of man, who is in bondage. Because he is made in the image of God, man too, is spirit, and until there is spiritual deliverance, he is bound and dominated by self-rule. As Moses was anointed and raised up in that hour for Israel's physical redemption, God has raised up the Messiah, Yeshua, in this hour for our *spiritual* redemption!

The Rabbi Saul, of Tarsus, saw in the lamb of Passover a type and shadow of another Lamb. He pointed to Him in **1 Corinthians 5:7** and called Yeshua **"...Christ, (Messiah), our Passover is sacrificed for us.** " John, the Baptist, the prophet of God, recognized Yeshua's fulfillment of the Exodus lamb when he proclaimed Him as **"...behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.:** (John 1:29). As we progress through the Seder, these types and shadows will become a very obvious portrayal of the Messiah, Yeshua.

A description of an actual *ritualistic* Passover Seder is explained in every detail in the last chapter, including the Messianic overtones within the Types and Shadows, all of which point to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.



The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Exodus 12:11: “ and thus shall you eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand: and ye shall eat it in haste: It is the LORD’s Passover.”

They didn’t have time to wait for the chometz.(the leaven or yeast) to rise in their bread, so they quickly mixed flour, salt and spring water, rolled it out and baked it quickly in a very hot oven...about 500 degrees. When it was baked, they pierced it with a fork to allow the steam to escape, and it flattened when it was cool enough to eat. This is the same process Matzah,(also known as matzo), is made by today as the unleavened bread

Exodus 12:15-50: “Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread: even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eath leaven from the first day unto the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel”
Leviticus 23:4-6: “these are the Feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month, at even, is the LORD’S Passover. On the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of the unleaven bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.”

When we talked about the numbers, we saw that the number ONE represented “all sufficiency”, and how it was linked to the first Feast in that the One God of Israel was All Sufficient to provide the blood that protected them from judgment, and to deliver them from bondage and Egypt. Now we have the second Feast, and the number “2” is related to division and separation. Divide ‘one’ of anything in half, and it separates into 2 parts. God created light, and it separated the darkness; then He created 2 lights to divide one for the day, and one for the night...the sun and the moon. This implies that the 2nd Feast, the Feast of unleavened bread, is related to separation; the separation of clean from unclean; holy from unholy; the old from the new.

From a **national** viewpoint, it was an agricultural observance, a time when all the old grain in the barns, the mills and from the house was thrown away to avoid being mixed with the new grain of the future harvest. Originally, Passover and Feast of unleavened bread were 2 separate Feasts, but because one began immediately after sunset, (which was the beginning of a new day on the Jewish calendar), the 2 Feasts became acknowledged and celebrated as one. The Passover lamb was slain around 3P.M. toward the close of Nisan 14, and by the time it was cooked and ready to serve, it was past sunset and already the beginning of Nisan 15, the Feast of unleavened bread.

Biblically speaking, leaven is almost always portrayed as a type of sin. **Prophetically**, this Feast pointed to a time God's people would separate and cleanse themselves from the heathen and from their sinful idol worship. It pointed to a time that God would demand holiness from His people... "be ye holy for I am holy". God always wanted His people separated from the heathen. In the new covenant, Rabbi Saul exhorted the Jews in **I Corinthians 5:7**; **"purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven.."** he's talking about carnality and sin... **"Neither with leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."**

In its **Spiritual** application, this Feast speaks to us about spiritual sanctification and separation from the world and carnality. We, who believe and have already applied the blood of our Passover, Yeshua, to the door of our hearts and lives, need to move on to the second Feast of separation by stepping into the waters of baptism, where our sins can be remitted, (Acts 2:38)...washed away, separated from us; guilt and shame cleansed from our lives, a new creature in Christ, separated from the bondage of and stain of sin...and we can keep the Feast without leaven.

Feast of the Firstfruits

Leviticus 23:10-12: Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, “when you come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then shall ye bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you; on the morrow after the Sabbath, the priest shall wave it.”

This is the 3rd Feast. In Bible numerics, the number 3 is associated with “new life and resurrection”, . On the 3rd day, God brought forth life from the earth, and it yielded grass, herbs and trees; Jonah was 3 days and nights in the belly of the whale, but came out to walk the earth again, just as Jesus was 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth, and was resurrected to life. Jesus said to His critics, “destroy this temple, and in 3 days, I will raise it up”. He wasn’t talking about the temple where they worshipped, but of His body, knowing He would be resurrected 3 days after His crucifixion. During His ministry, Jesus raised 3 people from the dead; This Feast is a prophetic picture of the resurrection of Jesus, and of the resurrection and of the saints.

Historically and Biblically, this Feast day dealt with the first fruit of the first harvest. The farmer would pick one sheaf, (also called an omer to represent a weight of the sheaf), to represent the entire harvest, and bring to the priest. The priest, ascending up to the Temple and representing the nation of Israel, would wave it before the LORD in worship and praise for the harvest to come that would nourish and prosper the nation. (They not only did this with the harvest, but also the firstborn of both animals and man were brought before the Lord to be sanctified. (Ex 13:2; 11:13; 22:29) The first fruits of all the earth were presented to the Lord in thanksgiving. (Lev 19:23-35).

So, the same sheaf that represented the first fruit of the harvest, was also a symbol of men. Joseph, in particular, dreamed about sheaves bowing down to his sheaf, and it was symbolic of his brothers bowing to him. It was a prophecy of an event that happened some 20 years later when his brothers did bow down to him when Joseph was a ruler in Egypt. The sower in Psalm 126, was a man sowing in tears, but came reaping and bringing his harvest of sheaves with him. This prophetic picture of the High Priest waving the sheaf in the feast is a picture of another Man; Jesus, our High Priest, who resurrected from death – “firstborn from the dead”; “the first begotten of the Father”; “the firstborn among many brethren” ... By His resurrection ... He is the First fruits of a body of believers that will follow in the final resurrection! – That’s us!

Prophetically, this Feast also speaks of a *national* resurrection of dry bones...the ancient dry and barren land of Israel. Since 1948, when Israel became a nation after 1900 years, it has been in the throes of resurrection. Wastelands have come to life; thriving cities exist and deserts have bloomed. There are as many as 6 harvests a year, all happening after returning to Israel from their 3rd exile!

It had been a dead land for over 1900 years and now revived with new life!

Praise the Lord for the Resurrection...it validated His work at the cross. Many men died on a cross, but only One was resurrected, just as He said He would, *when* He said He would! Resurrection was not an alien concept to the Jews; Job talked about it in **Job19:25-26**: “**for I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; ... and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God**”. David knew he would see his dead baby again when he said, “ He can’t come to me but I can go to him”

This is what the Feast Day is all about...resurrection and eternal life! David talked about the resurrection when he prophesied, “**neither wilt thou suffer thy Holy one to see corruption**”. The Holy One David was talking about the Messiah...and Jesus didn’t see corruption because He wasn’t in that grave long enough ... only 3 days! Hosea proclaimed: “**in the 3rd day, He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight**”. (a future resurrection for humanity)

In conclusion of the study of the 3rd Feast of the Sheaf of Firstfruits, we see how it was celebrated Biblically and historically as an agricultural Feast to celebrate the earth’s resurrection in harvest; and the hope of a great harvest to follow. Prophetically, it was a type and shadow of Messiah, Yeshua, - Jesus, Who because of His resurrection, gives us the promise of eternal life through being born again, resurrected in the Spirit of God.

Notice the accuracy of the Scripture text in **Leviticus 23:11**: “**...and he, (the priest), shall wave the sheaf to be accepted for you, on the morrow after the Sabbath, the priest shall wave it.**” Jesus rose from the grave after the Sabbath, making it 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth; He was already risen when the women came to the sepulcher on the first day of the week... “on the morrow after the Sabbath”. He had already risen to **ascend up** before the presence of His Father in the Heavens, to appear as the Wave offering. (According to Strongs’, another meaning for “wave” is to *lift up*) The offering Yeshua, our High Priest, waved after He ascended was “accepted in the Beloved”. Jesus, the First Fruit of the resurrection!

1 Corinthians 15:22,23: “**For as in Adam, all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive; but everyman in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, they that are Christs’ at His coming.**”

And just as the High Priest lifted up the first sheaf to God in the temple, on this day after the Sabbath, Jesus, now as our High Priest, had risen to ascend up to His Father, Our God. He was the first Sheaf lifted up in resurrection, (the firstborn from the dead), by virtue of He, Himself, being the High Priest. The Father accepted the sacrifice of the blood of the first Sheaf, and we, too, shall be “accepted in the Beloved.”

The Feasts of Weeks...Shavuos

1

Leviticus 23:15-21; “ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath. From the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath, shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; and they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.”

This is the 4th feast on God’s calendar; and in Bible numerics, 4 usually relates to things God has created for man’s benefit. It now has been 50 days after the sheaf of Firstfruit was waved before the Lord, and the full harvest God has provided is ready to be gleaned and processed to nourish and support the sowers.

Scripturally, as we pointed out in the Feast of Firstfruits the first sheaf was a **type and shadow** of Jesus in resurrection. *This* harvest speaks of those who will follow Jesus in resurrection power in the fullness of time. On this day, after the grain has been harvested, the priest comes before the LORD with an offering of 2 loaves of bread, baked with the harvest grain and with *leaven*.

Traditionally, This Feast of Weeks is also known, in Hebrew, as **Shavuos(t)**, meaning ‘weeks’, and known to the church world as Pentecost, (which means ‘50’ for the 50th day after Firstfruits). The Jews celebrate it, even today, as a memorial of the time that God met with Moses on Mt. Sinai and manifested Himself in thunder and lightnings, thick clouds, and the sound of loud trumpets. Mt. Sinai was full of smoke from the fire God had manifested, and the noise of the trumpets was almost deafening. It was there the LORD gave Moses the 10 commandments on tablets of stone, and also, the oral law that Moses wrote in the ‘book of the law’. Several hundred years later, when God brought prophets to guide and warn the Jews, He encouraged them with prophecies that promised a time coming soon that would change the covenant of the stone tablets and the book of the law...a time when God would personalize His word *internally* and no longer deal with the priests, but directly with His children. God used Ezekiel with a profound prophecy:

Ezekiel 36:24: I will take you from among the heathen (Gentile), and gather you out of all countries..(this prophecy was fulfilled when God made Israel an independent nation in 1948. After almost 1900 years of being dispersed to countries all over the world, people returned from 86 different countries!) **And will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols.. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land of your fathers; and ye**

shall be my people, and I will be your God” God is speaking of a national and Spiritual awakening!

Not for over 2 thousand years had there been a time God spoke of such intimacy...not since Adam had lost his relationship with God through his rebellion...and now, God was giving man hope of restoring that connection with Him again. Jeremiah was given a prophetic word from the Lord for them, confirming Ezekiel's prophecy:

Jeremiah 31:31-33: “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt; which my covenant they did break, although I was an husbandman unto them, saith the LORD; but this will be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people”.

So the promise was out there...just waiting to be fulfilled!

Joel prophesied: **2: 28,29 “ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I shall pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also, upon the servants and handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.”**

Isaiah 28:11: “ For with stammering lips and another tongue will I speak to this people”, another promise of God's Spirit interacting with people; God touching the lives of humanity and moving in and through their vessels, operating in awesome ways!

The day of fulfillment finally arrived. The New Testament records it in the book of **Acts, the 2nd chapter**: On one particular Feast of Shavuos, in the early 30's A.D, it all came together...the prophecies, the hope, the prayers, the longing desires of their hearts to find Messiah...to know God inwardly and experience His reality...it all came together; Jerusalem was busy with crowds of the Feast of Weeks Holy day traffic. The Temple was filled with men from all over Israel who had come to watch the priest offer the 2 loaves for Shavuos, and to worship the LORD for the Law. This day was to begin reading the Torah anew for the next year. In the midst of the service, coming from an upper room in another part of the Temple, a commotion was heard. It started as a thunderous noise, and then, men and women's voices...praising, singing, and preaching; a cacophony of sound with the roaring of what seemed like a whirlwind pushing through the open porticoes. Men started running out of the sanctuary towards the upper room, astounded by the sight of a multitude of men and women, praying and praising, and of what appeared to be flames above their bodies, but without burning them! Fire that burned without consuming them! Was this the same kind of fire that Moses saw in the burning bush? Were these the same thunder, wind and fire that God manifested on Mt. Sinai? And even more amazing, these local people were speaking the works of

God.... in foreign languages, recognized only by those who spoke that language! The Bible text goes on to relate their response:

Acts 2:12: “..and they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, what meant this? Others mocked and said, these men are full of new wine”. But Peter...lifted up his voice and said unto them...be this known unto you, and harken to my words: for these men are not drunk, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day, but this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel...”

Peter preached to those men about Jesus, the Messiah Who was the Sheaf of Firstfruit, and how He rose from the dead... and how we shall be raised to be with Him at a later time, when He comes to gather His harvest...us! We are the anti-type of the 2 loaves of bread the priest raised up to God, because now, the Gospel message of Salvation is to all men, Jew and Gentile alike. We are the ‘loaves’ of humanity, once with the leaven of hatred and malice, envy and sin, but now, we’re new creatures in Christ, and accepted in the Beloved Messiah! And *that* Shavuos was the fulfillment of the prototype...the fulfillment of the ritual that had been practiced every year in the Temple. Now, man doesn’t need a priest to lift the loaves, for as a believer in Jesus, we are called to be kings and priests unto God, and no longer needing a man to intercede for us.. our only Intercessor is the Lord! **“There’s only One Mediator between man and God; the Man Christ Jesus”**

When the men realized Who Jesus was, knowing they had part in crucifying Him, the text in **Acts** continues to tell us **“..now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts and said...men and brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, for the promise is unto you...”**

Yes! They knew *that* promise...Joel promised them God’s Spirit...Isaiah promised them His Spirit. And now Peter was telling them *this* was the day THEY could receive Him. And they did...3000 people gladly received His word, were baptized in water and Spirit! Truly a harvest for the Lord... and every day, the word is being sown in hopes of a greater harvest before the Lord comes, and every day, people are being baptized in Jesus Name, and being filled with God’s Spirit!

The 4 months Between

We have already studied the first 4 Feasts the Lord gave Israel, beginning with **Passover** on the 14th of the 1st month. We saw how this Feast was a Type and Shadow of Jesus on the cross. The Pesach lamb's blood on the doorposts was the sacrifice for the Jews that night, but Jesus, our Messiah, was the Lamb of God, and He was the Sacrifice for the *whole world forever!*

Following within hours of the Passover sacrifice was the beginning of the **Feast of unleavened bread**, which lasted for 7 days. Its purpose was separating the leaven from the old grain, and from their homes. On a Spiritual level, it speaks to the believer of sanctification by the Spirit; a life separated from the "leaven" of malice, hatred, envy, lust and other worldly appetites, and to be separated unto God.

The third **Feast was Firstfruits**, where the Priest waved a sheaf from the early barley harvest in thanksgiving, 3 days after Passover, immediately after the Sabbath. It is a clear type of the resurrection of Jesus, Who rose after 3 days in the tomb, after Sabbath. His resurrection gives us hope of resurrection of the harvest of Saints that will follow when Jesus returns!

The 4th Feast is the **Feast of Weeks**, to commemorate when God gave Moses the Law on Mt. Sinai 50 days after Passover. We saw how this date corresponded to what the church calls **Pentecost**, recorded in the book of Acts, of how God poured out His Spirit, not on tablets of stone, but into the hearts of men and women who praised and worshiped and served Him!

So this brings us to the last 3 Feasts, which are separated from the first Feasts by a period of 4 months. By the **Numerical definition, #4** pertained to things created for man's use or benefit. During this period the Jews made good use of the time to repair, to mend, to work on family projects, build barns, and to prepare for the fall harvest. They had to do whatever they could before the last season of fruits and vegetables came and demanded their time to harvest. They needed this time to prepare for the next 3 Feasts also, and part of that preparation was building a succot...a temporary tent-like booth, where they could gather to pray and feast on their harvested food on the Feast of Tabernacles.

In a **spiritual** parallel, we see the Church in this time frame... having already *experienced* the first 4 Feasts of God's calendar;

- (1) applying the blood of Jesus through the Passover;
- (2) attempting to live a life separate from the leaven of the world after the waters of baptism has cleansed them from their sins; The church saw His resurrection 3 days later, as the priest was waving the firstfruit sheaf

(3) And now, having experienced the Baptism of the Holy Ghost at the Feast Of Pentecost, we are in that time period just before God turns the pages of the calendar on the next 3 prophetic Feasts.

(4) a season to work and prepare for revival

and a great harvest.

The Church is now walking in His Spirit; operating in His gifts; spreading the Gospel; seeing the sick restore; the blind and crippled made whole; manifesting the good news by casting out demons and seeing lives filled with overcoming power in the Holy Ghost. This is the time of preparation. When the next Feast comes, it will be too late to work any more, Church. This is the only time in the calendar of God that we will have to reach and touch the lost! The next 3 Feasts deal with the future. Like the first 4, they are prophetic. It has been said that "if you want to know the future, you have to master the past". To know what lies ahead, you must understand the Feasts that God ordained in the past.

The Feasts of Trumpets

The fifth Feast is the Feast of Trumpets, which falls in the 7th month, Tishrei, of the *sacred* Jewish year. In the Jewish *civil* calendar, this month is recognized as the beginning of the New Year. The last month of the year, Elul, ends approximately in the middle of month of the Gregorian calendar, and Tishrei begins the next day. The first 2 days of Tishrei begin with blowing of the shofar, (a ram's horn), to announce the celebration New Year, and of *Rosh Hashanah*, to commemorate the creation of Adam and Eve.

In Bible Numerics, the number 5 refers to God's grace and mercy, while 7 speaks of completeness and perfection. So we see these numbers associated with the 5th month, Tishrei, during which God extends His mercy and Grace, (5), to repenting people at the completion of another year,(7).

Leviticus 23:23,24: “ And the LORD spake unto Moses saying, speak unto the children of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing the trumpets, an holy convocation.”

Trumpets were blown on many occasions, and for multiple reasons. Moses was instructed to make silver horns, which, by the way, were fashioned from melted silver coins that came from the Temple's ransom fund. (This was the fund from which the Rabbis purchased the animals that were used for sacrifice. This was the same fund they used when they paid Judas to conspire with them to arrest Jesus. Little did they know, then, they were actually using silver coins from the *ransom* fund to purchase the world's Ultimate Sacrificial Ransom for mankind...Jesus, on Calvary!)

These trumpets, both animal horns, (called *shofars*), and the silver ones, were blown to announce the beginning of the months; alarms for war; a call to the Temple to pray; to gather harvest or a call to meeting. There were different signals and sounds to differentiate the various reasons. The shofars sounded somber and bellowing, very difficult to blow, and used mostly in worship in the Temple. On the first of Tishrei, the silver horns were blown to announce the New Year, and Rosh Hashanah. Another priest blew the shofar as a call to prepare for repentance, which would follow 9 days later. On the 10th of Tishrei would be the most solemn and important day in the entire Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. When the trumpets were blown, the people stopped their work, left their fields and came home to tend to the weightier matters of the soul. This was a time restitutions were made between families and friends; apologies spoken, ties restored in preparation for Holiest of Holy days and the shedding of the blood of atonement. The end of the 4 months of labor and harvest had ended...it was now time to do the work of soul searching.

This 5th Feast of Trumpets brought with it a time to meditate and repent; to make things right. Five, the number of Mercy and Grace, woven into the fabric of the Feast, all that man needs to make things right with man and God.

Prophetically, as in the other Feasts, this one also speaks in types and shadows, but of a time yet to come. A time the Church is eagerly looking forward to seeing...and *hearing*, for it will begin with the sound of a trumpet, as was promised in 1st Thessalonians 4: 13-18:

“ But I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep; that you sorrow not; even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them, which are asleep. For the Lord, himself, shall descend from heaven with a shout; with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we, which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.”

He’s talking about the catching away of the church! We call it *Rapture*, when the believers are caught up to meet Jesus in the air. When *that* trumpet blasts, there won’t be any time to *start* making amends...no time to start making phone calls of apology...no time to repent or meditate!

The Apostle Paul put it this way,

“ Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed...”

Where will we go? With Him! Where ever He takes me is fine, as long as it’s above all the warfare and hell that will unfold on earth. We see the signs of a nuclear holocaust all around us: nuclear weapons can melt humanity in seconds; diseases that are rampant and pandemic in a medically sophisticated world that can’t cure them; starvation and famine in 3rd world countries; a world that’s heading to a disastrous end. I don’t know if we’re going to be caught out of this world *before* all this tribulation unloads its fiery rage on us, or in the middle of it...or afterwards. Who knows when? I’m going to live right NOW, just because I love Him and want to please Him!

There’s no set time, but in the time slot of God’s calendar, this 5th Feast will be next on the agenda. We need to do all we can to reach people, teach people, and love people into the Kingdom while we can still work the harvest. When that shofar trumpet blows, the harvest is over, and our opportunities over.

In verse 24, there’s an interesting word that is so relevant here:

In strong's', the word "convocation" can be rendered as *a rehearsal!* So "a memorial of blowing the trumpets; an holy convocation" is likened to a rehearsal. It is possible that all these hundreds of years, unbeknown to them, the Jews have been blowing the shofar in rehearsal for the rapture of the church and the soon coming of the Lord!

Day of Atonement
(Yom Kippur)

Leviticus 23: 26,27,28,29:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, also, on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: It shall be an holy convocation unto you: and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering

made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.”

Even as a child, I knew there was something very different about this Holy day. Unlike the other Feast days, there was no levity, no light conversation between family and friends, and everyone just seemed to quietly go about their business with serious expressions on their face. We kids were not allowed into the sanctuary until we were 13, but we weren't too anxious about it because at that age, we were then responsible to fast. This was the only Feast day and holy day that the Jews were called to fast...and that made us realize that this was a very somber and serious day.

It was known also as the “days of awe”, and in Hebrew, it was Yom Kippur, meaning the “day of covering”. **Biblical history** recorded that the High Priest took the blood of a sacrificed bull and went into the Holy of Holies in the Temple and sprinkled it on the ark to cover the mercy seat. This was a sacrifice to atone for his own sin, for no man is without sin. If God was pleased with the offering, He would manifest a consuming fire and lap up the blood of atonement, and the Priest would then come out, change his priestly garments, and finish the rest of the sacrifice for the people's atonement. The rest of the ritual included many prayers of repentance on behalf of the people there and the whole nation of Israel, and then 1 of 2 special goats was sacrificed, and its blood brought into the Holy of Holies. Some of that blood was also put on the head of the other goat, who was called the “scape goat”, because the sins of the people were placed on him. Then the priest would start running into the woods after the goat, chasing him so that the goat would go deep into the woods, and never return with the sins of the people.

This Holy day is so serious to the Lord, that He instructed the people who would not afflict their soul, (which meant fasting), that they were to be “cut off”, meaning killed! Repentance is a very serious matter to God! **Proverbs 28:13: “ he that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”**. And today, contemporary Jews have a dilemma: They no longer have a Temple where we can offer the blood sacrifices for our sin. What do they do about atonement for their sins? The Temple is gone. There were no provisions made to replace the blood... except Calvary....but the Jews don't accept His blood or the new covenant. So, what's a Jew to do to be reconciled to God?

Leviticus 17:11 tells us, very definitely, that it's the blood that makes an atonement for the soul. It's obvious that the sacrificial animals were types that pointed to the Messiah, Who would one day fulfill their role by shedding His blood...which He did, just as He promised...for the rest of that Leviticus verse was prophetic... **“ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for your soul.”** When did the God of Israel ever “give His

blood upon an altar”? He’s a Spirit, (John 4:24)...an *invisible* Spirit! (1st Timothy 1:17) But Isaiah said there **would come a day when a child would be born; a son given, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE (Messiah) (Isaiah 9:6); That was when “God was manifest in the flesh”,(1st Tim 3:16), and they called Him Jesus, (meaning “Jehovah, our Salvation...God with us”)**. So God, resident in the man Jesus,(**“God was manifest in the flesh”, 1st Timothy 3:16**) was nailed to the *altar*, the cross... so, then, God *did* shed His blood for the atonement of our sins, fulfilling all the types and shadows of the Tenach!
II Corinthians 5:19: “ God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.”

When we were separated from our God because of our iniquities, (as Isaiah said we would be), that pure and precious blood that flowed through the veins of Jesus, (the Father’s blood), not only ‘covered’ our sins, but blotted them out! Then, by obedience to His word, applying the waters of baptism, those sins are then washed away, never to be seen again, like the goat in the wilderness! Then, when God brings the Feast of Pentecost to our hearts, we will really experience what it means to have atonement....a time, truly, of AT-ONE-MENT with God!

Getting back to the dilemma: When I was in my teens, a student in Hebrew school, and preparing for my confirmation, I was then able to fast and take part of the Yom Kippur service. This meant spending hours repenting for any little thing I could interpret as unkind, evil, displeasing, etc...that there not be a hint of a possibility there could be any sin found in my life. I would beat upon my chest to portray anguish, and then leave for a few hours, to return later and start the same process again. We talked in hush voices and above all, dared not to smile so that God, and man would be impressed with our piousness. We were doing we had been taught to do to respect God and His instructions, as limited as we were in our knowledge...(we didn’t realize we only had half a book!) Even after all that time in the synagogue, when the shofar blew that long somber one note that bellowed through the sanctuary, we walked out without ever having any assurance that we had been forgiven! We just hoped we had been, and that we were starting the New Year with a clean slate, the old sins having been covered. But in reality, there was nothing to cover it with!

When I was a kid in N.Y., I watched some Chassidic Jews participating in a type of blood atonement service. The Rabbis had already made changes in the observance of the Biblical Yom Kippur, because there was no Temple anymore.... and they substituted the sacrificial blood with good deeds, acts of kindness, endless readings and prayers. They developed new ways of replacing the blood, but the scripture still stands firm... **“...it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”!** Changing what the Scripture taught to fit their need was prophesied by Isaiah in chapter 29:13: **“Wherefore the LORD said, forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips so honor me, but have**

removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men". Because it is innate within man's heart to worship, these Chassidics were having their own atonement service using a chicken, in a ceremony called Kapparrah. They would take a chicken, and swing it over their head 3xs as they recited a Hebrew prayer of repentance. Immediately after the 3rd swing, they would bring it down and slit its throat, spilling its blood on the ground and draining all of it. That was their way of substituting the blood of lambs and bulls and goats, and at the same time, rejecting the blood of Jesus. Then they would give the chicken to the poor or needy, appeasing their need to do a "mitzvah"(good deed.) It was a way of working out their salvation; but Salvation cannot be the works of man... **"Salvation is of the LORD"**...it is done by faith... faith in the shed blood of Jesus, Ha' Messiah! Not chickens; not "Kapparrah", but Calvary!

After the service, we hugged and shook hands, and said to one another, "Happy New Year...May you name be written down in the Book of Life", but nobody really had any assurance, not since the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. With it was destroyed most of the genealogies, so we don't even know who the Priests would be today even if the 3rd Temple were to be built. Who would offer the sacrifice? And where is the sacred ark of the covenant to put the blood on? God, Who knows the end from the beginning, allowed Titus to destroy that Temple, because *that* sacrificial system was over and done with...there was no longer any need for it, for when Jesus died on Calvary, we were sanctified through the offering of His body and blood once...and for all, Jews and Gentiles alike. Jesus said it, Himself, from the cross... **"it is finished"**, and now, we can have atonement with God through Jesus...no longer the blood of bulls and goats! And, we can KNOW we are forgiven. When He seals us with the baptism of the Holy Ghost and gives us the evidence of speaking in tongues...no more "hoping"...no more guess work, we can know that our names are written down in the **Lamb's Book of Life!**

Last year, the Jewish New Year was celebrated in October. It was the beginning of the Jewish year 5767. I clipped an article from the paper, (Gainesville Sun), just to show you what a departure contemporary Judaism is from its origin in the Tenach. The article described how contemporary Jews observe Yom Kippur by throwing crumbs of bread into a stream of water, to symbolize casting sins into water for regeneration and cleansing. Is that what Salvation is all about...tossing "pieces of bread into running water"? A poor substitute for a Man that hung on a cross, brutalized and beaten, pouring out His life fluid to cover humanity's sin. He did it God's way...how can you compare a few crumbs of bread to the sacrificed life of He Who was the Bread of Life?? Man's precepts, not God's word!

This "Day of Atonement" points to end time judgment, when we stand before the Lord. To those of us that have put our trust in the precious blood of Jesus to remit our sins, there will be no White Throne judgment. For those who have tried to work out their salvation in any *other* way, they will have to answer to God Almighty

for rejecting all the love and Mercy He offered at Calvary, and be prepared to be cast into outer darkness and gnashing of teeth.

Yom Kippur is the 6th Feast of Israel. The **number 6** deals with the imperfections of man. The number 7 deals with that which is perfect and complete, but 6 never quite comes up to that standard...a 6, no matter what degree one takes it to, will always fall short of the perfection of 7. Man, in his most powerful state, will only be a 666, (ad infinitum), and always be less than perfect! This Day of Atonement speaks of the imperfection and sin nature in man who will come before the Lord to be judged. The only way he can be spared from judgment is to repent and make atonement. It is a day, yet to be fulfilled in prophecy, but spoken of in Zechariah. A time when the Jews, as a nation, will repent and mourn when they finally realize it was God they rejected, and not another falsely proclaimed Messiah. They had been visited by over 50 false Messiahs, and were skeptical to receive another. Had they just known the word, they would have recognized Him by how He fulfilled all scripture. He told them through the prophets of His coming, but their eyes were blinded...they had no interest in the Spiritual proof. In Zechariah 12:10, the Lord says “...**and I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**”... how will they see the Lord, unless He appear in the body of Jesus?

“and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day, there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem...”There will be no priest to make atonement for the nation of Israel, as they had in the past, but there will come a day, yet in the future, when Israel will know “**God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.**” Then they will repent and seek Him for atonement and bring the prophecy to be fulfilled.

Simchas Torah

The last day of the Feast is called Simchas Torah, when the Rabbi and the Cantor open the sacred ark on the bema, (platform), and the Rabbi carefully takes the holy scrolls out of the ark. There are 2 scrolls, rolled inwardly, face to face. They are covered with a velvet jacket, and are very carefully handled, for the Jews reverence the Scriptures as a living part of God, His Word. The scroll contains the Book of the Law, dictated by God to Moses, which contains the first 5 books of the Tenach.(Old Testament) This Book of the Law was placed on the side of the ark. Within the ark were the Ten Commandments that were written by the finger of God on tables of stone.

The Rabbi, followed by the cantor and other ministers, would then proceed to walk up and down the aisles, carrying his precious cargo on his shoulders. He would make sure to walk very close to the pews so that people could reach out and touch the velvet cover as he passed by.

When I was a kid, I tried to get as close to the end of the pew as I could, thinking I would get a chance to touch a “part of God”. I wanted to know what God felt like, but I could never get close enough...people would push in and reach over the head of a young kid, and I always wound up getting pushed back. I never did get the opportunity to touch the velvet part of God...but when I received the Holy Ghost, I felt something better than velvet! It was the joy and love of God, and the peace of a guilt free heart. That night, I knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I had touched God! I am so thankful that we have the Word walking amongst us everyday, and no man can push past us or take our place! We can touch Him and feel His very Presence in our midst, anytime, any place!

The Feast Of Tabernacles (Succoth)

The Feast of Tabernacles is the only Feast that God will continue in the millennium, when He returns with His harvest of Saints. **Zechariah 14:16:** **“And it shall come to pass that everyone that is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”** We will

see Him, arrayed as the King He is, able to worship without the pressures of stress and evil, for we shall no longer feel oppressed and bound.

Leviticus 23: 33,34: “ And the LORD spoke unto Moses saying, speak unto the children of Israel saying, the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

39-43:Beside the Sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your free will offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. Also, in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD for seven days; on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees and willows of the brook, and ye shall rejoice before the LORD, your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations; ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days, all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: that 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 the Lord your God.”

As the Lord had said, this was a day to remember where He had brought them from, and how He had provided the plenteous harvests they had gathered in barley, wheat and now fruits and vegetables. He wanted them to never forget that they had been strangers, and nomads, wandering around in the desert, living in tents and lean-tos. When they came into the land He had promised Abraham, the Lord wanted them to live in these temporary dwellings or booths to remember God's promises are “yea and amen”. This Feast was the last one of the year to be celebrated, and a joyous time for the people to rest from their labors and enjoy the fruit and food from their harvest. It was all about the goodness of God and His blessing. Even the numbers in the dates factored into design of the Feast, for the number 7 is used repetitively, and is the number of completion. The number 15, (on the 15th of the 7th month), is the number of rest. They were celebrating and taking their rest in the tabernacles or booths.

There was yet another link to the 15th day of the 7th month. Not only was it a day that brought rest, but on one *particular* Tishrei 15, it became the day that REST externalized itself. Jesus personalized REST, when He said, **“come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.... and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:28,29.** Isaiah described the Holy Ghost as *rest* in 28:11,12: **“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing...”** How did that *rest* come on Tishrei 15? In the

form of a baby boy, born to a young Jewish virgin, in Bethlehem. God has concealed this within numbers in the scripture, but a careful and close study, reveals these hidden truths. The world teaches December 25th as the birthday of Jesus, but that's a fallacy, according to the Bible. I don't mean to sound like the grinch that stole Christmas, but I'd like to share a few scriptures that seem to line up and come out without a different conclusion.

At the time that David collected all the money and building materials so that Solomon could build a Temple, he decided on a system of priests to minister in that Temple. The original priests had long since died, but their sons and grandsons ministered in their name. They decided on 2 priests for each ministry for a period of 2 weeks, so each month, they had a total of 4 priests in each ministry. Two cleaned the altar; 2 changed the oil in the lampstand and whatever else..2 tended to the shewbread table, etc. That's the backdrop for Luke 1:5. The priest we're concerned with is Zacharias, the husband of Elizabeth. The Bible says they were childless and elderly, and he was the priest that ministered at the Temple in the course of Abia, one of his patriarchal fathers. The chart shows us, according to **1st Chron. 24:20**, Abijah is the 8th course. Checking with the chart, it brings us down to between June 15 and July 15th. Zacharias saw an angel while he was ministering, in Luke 1:11-25; and after his ministry was complete, he went home, and shortly thereafter, Elizabeth conceived.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch in Nazareth, and angel appeared to Mary.(**Luke 1:26-31;36-39**) Mary conceived Jesus and spent time with her cousin, Elizabeth, who was already 6 months pregnant. John was born, between April 1-15, and 6 months later, Jesus was born, October 15th, the 15th of Tishri. From another timeline: Tradition dates the age of Jesus at 33 1/2 when He was crucified at Passover, in April...his last birthday was 6 months before; his next birthday would have been 6 months later...backwards or forwards, it's October 15th! In the Gospel of **John 1:1;14**; he says, speaking of the incarnation: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father); full of grace and truth."** In Strongs concordance, the word *dwelt* has an unusual meaning in the Greek, not used anywhere else in scripture. It's "*skenoo*, meaning to tent, encamp, or occupy; To reside as God in a tabernacle." John is actually saying, to paraphrase it, "and the Word was made flesh and encamped, resided or tabernacled among us". So in addition to remembering the wilderness life of tents and lean-to's their forefathers lived as they traveled to the promised land, The Feast of Tabernacles was also to celebrate the birth of He Who tabernacled in flesh and walked among as Jesus, our Messiah!!

One of the Biblical practices of this Feast was to bring a jug of water and one of wine to the outer court of the Temple, to spiritualize the provision of God. They placed the wine on the altar for the Priests, and poured the water on the ground to

offer thanks for the rain God had provided to help thirsty ground to produce crops. This was called a “libation service”, and was the part of the service we see Jesus in. **John 7:37:” In the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.(but this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”** Jesus was offering Himself for the quenching of man’s *spiritual* thirst, knowing that after Calvary, He would be pouring out His Spirit upon all who desired to be saved. He had already told them the only way to see God was to experience being born again,” of water and Spirit.” He was offering them both. The water was a picture of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, which would come later.

Numerically, Tabernacles is the 7th Feast, and #7 relates to fullness or completion. It is the full and complete calendar God gave the Jews to worship by, live by, and produce by. It dealt with their deliverance from bondage and their agricultural harvests, and their worship and relationship to God. The calendar was a floor plan of life, both physical and spiritual, and concealed within, it contained Messianic prophecies that we can now see revealed. The first Feast on the calendar was Passover. #1 pointed to the All Sufficient One, God. In Passover, we saw a lamb sacrificed for the Jews. It was a type and shadow of Jesus, sacrificed for the world... the blood of Jesus, all sufficient. In Tabernacles, the 7th Feast, we see Jesus again, born during the time of that Feast, and “tabernacled” in flesh, pouring out His Spirit to be tabernacled in us...Christ in you, the Hope of glory. We see Jesus, in the first month and in the last. Truly, He said “ **I am the alpha and omega; the first and the last.**”

“Tabernacles” is the only Feast that God speaks of to be observed in the Millennium age...a period of 1000 years of peace and tranquility, when the Lord will reign after the time of Tribulation. In Zechariah, the Lord makes references to the nations that remained after the Tribulation, after He judged the nations that came against Israel. Those nations that remain would come to Jerusalem at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles to worship Jesus, the Almighty God and King. They would then realize it was He, Jesus, Who had been “tabernacled” in flesh so that He could shed His blood as the Ultimate Sacrifice for all the world. When this event takes place, Jesus will return to the earth with His followers, to reign and rule on earth, beginning in Jerusalem, for 1000 years.

Zechariah 14:16: “ And it shall come to pass, that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and keep the feast of tabernacles.”

It is during this period of time that Zechariah also made a prophecy concerning Israel, and how the remaining one third of them, (a remnant), will finally be reconciled unto the Lord :

Zechariah 13: 8,9: “ and it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die, but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, it is my people: and they shall say, the LORD is my God.”

What is left of the Israelites, (Judaism), will then understand what Jesus meant when He tried to teach them, when He walked in the world, “ **I and My Father are One**” . After they see the nail scars in His hands, they will then understand why it was necessary that “**God was *in Christ*, reconciling the world unto Himself.**” It will be the beginning of an eternity they will have to worship Jesus as the true **Tabernacle of God!**

What a joy to know what we have to look forward to in these last 3 Feasts as the Body of Christ awaits the final blast of the Trumpet; to be caught away with the Lord, protected from the wrath of man and God; to return to rule and reign with Him in peace, spending eternity in His Presence! We will see the Calendar of God unfold and all prophecy be fulfilled!

....In conclusion....

We have seen, in this presentation of the 7 Feasts, the history of the Jewish Nation unfold, from the 1st prophecy of Abraham, the Father of faith, to Zechariah's prophecy, that is yet to be fulfilled. From the first Feast of Passover, to the last Feast of Tabernacles, we were instructed to remember the hardships and suffering of our people in bondage; living like nomads in a wilderness, enroute to a Promised land. We memorialize the blessings of God's harvests, and honor their call to repentance. Through this history played out in the annual Jewish calendar, we see Jesus Christ, Yeshua, Ha Meschia, stepping off the pages of that calendar, pointed to in types and shadows as the very Substance of every Feast, and the Promise and Hope of the last 3:

- 1.His appearance at the sound of the trumpet... the catching away of the Church;
- 2.Our names found written in the Lamb's book of life because He has become our “atonement”;
- 3.To return with Him and reign with Him in the millennium, and to see all the nations come to worship the King of Kings at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Every Feast on the calendar was called “ **a Holy Convocation**”...a time of a sanctified meeting...a “**rehearsal**”. A rehearsal for what? All these centuries, every time the Jews observed the Feasts, it has been a “rehearsal”...*a practice* for the REAL THING! And that real “thing” is the soon Coming of the One True G-d, Jesus!

We're such bless't people to live in such a time as this. As part of the Body of Christ, the church, we've already seen, and experienced, the fulfillment of Passover and Pentecost; been delivered out of the bondage of sin; risen into new life through Spirit baptism; and now here we are: sounding the trumpet of witnessing to a world, warning them of soon coming judgment and tribulation. We will be the generation of sheaves that Jesus comes after, and will reign with Him forever. Zechariah tells us we will see Him in the nail scarred body He chose to 'tabernacle' in when He manifested Himself to the world, and we shall know what a privileged people. While others are still turning the pages of the wall calendar, busy with their rites and rituals, we have the joy of experiencing the totality of the Substance and fulfillment of all the Feasts in Yeshua, Jesus, our Messiah.

Channukah (Chanukah)

Channukah is a memorial to an event that happened during the intertestament period, and became a traditional holiday. Even though there was never a command to observe it, it appears on the Jewish calendar, and was recorded to have been observed by Jesus in John 10:22. It was known as a **Feast of Dedication**, and is celebrated in December, but because the Jewish calendar is based on lunar calculations, it doesn't have a fixed date, but occurs from early December on, even sometimes coinciding with the Christmas season.

During the 3rd century BCE, the army of Antiochus Epiphanes marched into Jerusalem, besieged the city and overthrew it, and as their greatest sign of victory, entered their enemy's place of worship, tearing down their last stronghold, as was the custom for victors in that day. Tradition tells us the story of how they ransacked the Temple, overturning the barrels that contained the pure pressed olive oil that was used to maintain the Eternal lamp. The Jews were commanded that the light in the sanctuary must never be extinguished, because it was a symbol of the Eternal Spirit of God, and of His abiding Presence. To add insult to injury, before they left, the soldiers killed a pig and smeared its blood on the sacrificing altars, thereby desecrating the altar, because a pig is deemed an unclean animal in the Torah,(law), and never used in sacrifice, nor was included in their diet.

Judah Maccabee, the leader of a small Jewish band of soldiers, attacked the enemy, and day after day, hammered at their weakest parts, until finally, Maccabee and his band wore their attackers down, and put them to flight. What was left in their wake was a desecrated altar, a flickering lampstand with no supply of oil, and a Temple left in ruins.

The repairs to the sanctuary could be made without problem; the altar could be cleansed and rededicated, but their major concern was the oil replacement, for it had to be pure pressed olive oil, which took several days to process, and time was of the essence. Tradition tells us the flame was already low and flickering, and it seemed hopeless. In spite of the circumstances, they began their search for olives to begin the process, but every day, their hopes flickered with the Eternal lamp's flickering waning flame..every morning, as they came into the sanctuary, they were amazed to see the lampstand still burning...and finally, on the 8th day, the oil was ready and with great joy and worship, they cleaned away the dross and renewed with fresh oil, and the flame grew bright, never to go out until 70 AD, when God allowed the armies of Titus to besiege Jerusalem and overthrow the city, destroying the beloved Temple.(Jesus had already become the final Sacrifice, once, and for all, so, in the eyes of God, perhaps the Temple had lost its usefulness and purpose. Jesus said, we had become the Temple of God, and we were to present **ourselves** as a **living** sacrifice.)

From that year on, the Jews memorialized the event by lighting 8 candles, one for each day the candle flickered beyond its normal capacity, until fresh oil was made. They light a special lampstand, (called a menorah), that holds 9 candles..8

candles for the days, and a “Shammas” or candle lighter. It has become a time of rededication of one’s life, of renewing one’s commitment, and in contemporary observance, small gifts or money, (channukah gelt), is given on each of the 8 nights, and a retelling of the story in synagogues. There are various legends lending itself to this historical event, regarding the origin on the 8 lights for the 8 days, but regardless of the fables woven through the holiday, the events of the battle, the desecration and the renewal of the Temple is a fact that the people honored and remembered from BCE until today. Jesus observed this day, and along with other Jews, went to the Temple with an attitude of rededication. (He Who was the Personification of the Light of the World, went to celebrate the lights that represented Him!)

By virtue of the fact that Jesus observed Channukah, it should validate to us the need for our spiritual renewal, which, through God’s Spirit, can happen on a daily basis. The NT teaches us that our bodies are the temple of the Lord.(1 Corinth 6:19) Jesus described Himself as the “Light of the world”, and through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, (Acts 2:4), we can have that Light ever constantly burning **within our** temples,(our bodies), giving Light to the lost world.

John affirmed to us, “**be ye filled with the Spirit**”...never let the Light flicker or go out!...It is our purpose, and obligation, before God, to keep the temple cleansed; to let the High Priest of our Salvation, (our **Divine** Shammas), daily minister to the lamp..to cleanse it to allow the oil to flow freely, for greater illumination for those around us in darkness. As with the candle wick, as the flame burns brightly, it burns out the dross and impurities. With the Eternal Spirit burning brightly within our temples, we can live in a state of constant renewal as He continually cleanses, and we die out to carnality and impurities that come with life’s daily assaults!

It’s interesting to note that in Bible numerics, the number 8 is associated with new beginnings..(the 8th day of the week would actually be a beginning of a new week; the eighth note of the scale would be the beginning on a new octave; etc.) We see, in the story of Channukah, the 8th day analogy of new commitment...new spiritual beginnings. Commitment and dedication are born out of a willing heart..it can never be legislated, which probably explains why Channukah did not come out of the Levitical Law. All the rest of the law was strictly observed by command, but this Feast Day came by the heartfelt desire to serve God, by submission and commitment. As in everything He did, Jesus fulfilled righteousness by observing this Feast of Dedication, giving us another example of renewing and commitment that would give Light to a world struggling and stumbling in darkness.

We are reminded, as each candle is lit, of Scriptures that tell us “ **The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear**”, (Psalms 27:1); “**Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path**”,(Psalms 119:105); “ **I am the Light of the world**”, (John 8:12); and one day, in New Jerusalem, we shall see **Messiah as the Light**, “**...and I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and,(even), the Lamb are its temple. And the**

city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its Lamp is the Lamb.” (Rev 21:22-24) The Feast of Dedication speaks to us in every way in types and shadows of Yeshua, our Messiah, for we see Him as the Eternal Light; the Holy Oil, (Spirit of Anointing), the Lampstand; the Servant Light Bearer,(the Divine Shammash), and the High Priest of our Salvation who daily ministers in our lives, enabling us to enjoy the Feast of dedication continually..