

Correspondence Course Lesson 9

YAHWEH's Holy Days – Shavuot, Yom Kippur and Sukkot

Pentecost-Feast of Firstfruits

All of Yahweh's Holy Days point us to the revelation of Yahshua being the Messiah. He is revealed in each and every one of them to His true followers. The third Holy day in Yahweh's Master Plan is the day of Shavuot or Pentecost, also called the Feast of Weeks or Feast of First fruits. The Feast of First Fruits is not the same as the Feast of Firstfruit, (singular), which is the day that Yahshua was resurrected and fulfilled the wave sheaf ceremony.

What were Yahweh's instructions regarding this festival?

Lev 23:15 And you shall number to you from the next day after the Sabbath, from the day you bring in the omer of the wave offering; they shall be seven complete Sabbaths;

Lev 23:16 the next day after the seventh Sabbath, you shall number fifty days; and you shall bring near a new food offering to YAHWEH;

Lev 23:17 you shall bring in bread out of your dwellings for a wave offering, two loaves; they shall be of two tenth ephah of flour; they shall be baked with leaven; first-fruits to Yahweh

Lev 23:21 And you shall make a proclamation on this same day; it is a holy gathering to you. You shall do no laborious work of service. It is a never ending statute in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

COMMENT: The first thing that we must make clear is the timing of this Holy Day. This is the only Holy Day that is not given a specific day of the month on the Hebrew Calendar, but you are told that you must count 50 days from the starting point of the day after the weekly Sabbath during Unleavened Bread. The day of this offering was called the day or feast of Firstfruit.

Since this ceremony pictured Yahshua so perfectly, as He even told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him as He had not ascended to the Father in Heaven to be accepted as the Firstfruit on the first day of the week after His crucifixion, Jews in the late first century early second century started to keep this ceremony by starting their count not on the day after the weekly Sabbath, but the day after the Holy Day Sabbath of Unleavened Bread. But if we look at Leviticus 23 again, it is clear the start of counting must be on the first day of the week, because 7 complete Sabbaths later, the Holy Day is falling the **DAY AFTER** the 7th Sabbath. This can only be the first day of the week. What kind of offering had to be presented to Yahweh before the spring harvest could begin?

Lev 23:9 And YAHWEH spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:10 Speak to the sons of Israel, and you shall say to them, When you come in to the land which I am giving to you, and have reaped its harvest, and have brought in the omer, of the first-fruits of your harvest, to the priest,

Lev 23:11 then he shall wave the omer before YAHWEH for your acceptance; on the morrow of the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

Lev 23:14 And you shall not eat bread, nor roasted grain, nor fresh ears, until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your Elohim; it is a never ending statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

COMMENT: Yahweh established His festivals in conjunction with the two annual agricultural harvests in the land of Israel. Yahweh uses these harvests as a pattern for the two spiritual "harvests" of His great Master Plan. Yahweh intends the spring festivals to illustrate to His Congregation yearly that His Spirit-begotten children are the "first fruits" of salvation (***Jacob 1:18***) - the relatively small beginning of His spiritual harvest of mankind into His divine Family.

The spring harvest began in the following manner: On the morning of the first day of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the flour ground from the grain of a sheaf of newly cut barley, cut the night before, was brought to the priest, who waved it in the air to be accepted by Yahweh. This was called the "wave-sheaf offering" and represented the first of the first fruit harvest.

Once the wave sheaf was offered, the harvest could begin. The spring harvest culminated at the time of the Feast of First fruits, which occurred on the first day of the week commonly called today Sunday, the 50th day of the harvest season that began with the wave-sheaf offering. (The New Testament name for this festival is Shavuot, or in Greek Pentecost, which literally means "fiftieth day.") The people gathered on this annual Sabbath to give Yahweh thanks for the first fruits of the year's crops He had given them.

Now let's see the interesting connection between the wave-sheaf offering and Yahshua Messiah.

Yahshua was the first to be resurrected from the dead into Yahweh's Family. Was He therefore the first of the first fruits of Yahweh's spiritual harvest?

1st Cor 15:20 But now Messiah has been raised from the dead; He became the firstfruit of those having fallen asleep.

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the body, the Congregation, who is the Beginning, the First-born of the resurrection of the dead, that He be preeminent in all things;

Therefore, are Spirit-begotten Believers clearly the first fruits of Yahweh's great Master Plan?

Jacob 1:18 It is He who begot us from His own will, by the Word of truth, that we should be the firstfruits of His creatures.

Rom 8:23 And not only so, but also we ourselves having the firstfruit of the Spirit, also we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly expecting that sonship, the deliverance from our body;

After Messiah was resurrected from the dead, did He have to ascend to His Father in heaven?

John 20:17 Yahshua said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My Elohim, and your Elohim.

COMMENT: This was the first day of the week (Sunday) during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It was on the very same morning that the wave sheaf was offered that Yahshua Messiah was accepted by His Father as the spiritual "wave-sheaf" offering in heaven! Did you catch the statement Yahshua said that He was going to His Father and **OUR Father**. Shavuot is such a wonderful Holy Day because it shows Yahshua as the first of the Firstfruits, but also that we will also be first fruits with Him and reign with Him at His return. This is the mystery of the Good-News, that we will be kings and priests and co-rulers as first fruits with the first of the firstfruits, Yahshua Messiah.

1Co 15:22 for as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all will be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Messiah, the first-fruit; afterward those of Messiah at His coming

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of YAHWEH.

Rom 8:17 And if children, also heirs; truly heirs of Elohim, and joint-heirs of Messiah, if indeed we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together.

1st John 3:1 See what manner of love the Father has given us, that we may be called sons of YAHWEH who made us. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1st John 3:2 Beloved, now we are the sons of YAHWEH, and it was not yet revealed what we shall be. But we know that if He is revealed, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.

Messiah therefore fulfilled the symbolism of the Old Testament wave-sheaf offering. He was the first resurrected Son of Yahweh - the first harvested product of Yahweh's Master Plan. He became the firstborn Son of Yahweh- the first human to complete the process of salvation and be "born again." But Yahshua could not have become the captain of our salvation and our elder brother without possessing an all-important ingredient from Yahweh - something we all must have if we are to be born again as He was.

Could Yahshua do any spiritual works, including obedience to Yahweh, with just His human strength?

John 5:30 I am able to do nothing of my desire; but as I hear, I judge and my judgment is just, for I don't seek my will, rather the will of He who sent me.

Where did He get the necessary power?

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The Words which I speak to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who dwells in Me, He does the works.

COMMENT: The Father "dwelt" in Yahshua through the Holy Spirit! Without the Holy Spirit, the work could not be done. Did Messiah promise the same spiritual help to His disciples?

John 14:16 And I will petition the Father, and He will give you another one which will end the curse, that He may remain with you forever,

On what day did the disciples actually receive Yahweh's Holy Spirit?

Acts 2:1 And in the fulfilling of the day of Shavuot, they were all with one mind in the same place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly a sound came out of the heaven, as a groaning spirit along by a violent wind! And it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And tongues as of fire appeared to them, being distributed, and it sat on each one of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave ability to them to speak.

COMMENT: On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples just as Yahshua had promised. It was on this day that Yahweh sent His Spirit to begin His Congregation-to beget and strengthen the first fruits. The New Testament festival of Shavuot is now a memorial that commemorates the founding of the New Testament Congregation of Yahweh through the receiving of the Holy Spirit. It was on the day of Shavuot in A.D. 30 that the initial first fruits of Yahweh's spiritual harvest began to be prepared by His Spirit for "reaping" into Yahweh's divine Family. It is also traditionally believed that the giving of the Torah was on the day of Shavuot.

Feast of Trumpets – Atonement- Tabernacles

The number seven in Yahweh's plan signifies completion and perfection. The seventh month of Yahweh's calendar contains the final four festivals, picturing the completion of Yahweh's Master Plan for mankind. The festival that occurs on the first day of this month marks the beginning of the final events in Yahweh's plan.

The Feast of Trumpets portrays a pivotal event in Yahweh's plan of salvation. It not only pictures the coming of Messiah to resurrect and change the first fruits to be a glorified Spirit being, but it also pictures the terrible time of world war just ahead and the intervention of Yahshua Messiah to save humanity from total annihilation, as well as to establish the Kingdom of Yahweh on earth.

Was this festival to be a memorial of blowing of trumpets?

Lev 23:24 Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first of the month, a Holy Day Sabbath shall be to you, a memorial acclamation of the resounding of trumpets, a holy gathering.

COMMENT: It is from this ceremony that the Feast of Trumpets draws its name. There is a great deal of symbolic meaning tied in with the blowing of these trumpets - especially with regard to the end time in which we're living.

Trumpets were blown to announce Yahweh's festivals, as well as to call Yahweh's people to assembly and to announce the reigning of a new King. Trumpets were also used as an alarm of invading armies and impending warfare. This terrifying sound filled the people of ancient Israel with fear because they knew the horror of war was imminent! It is this warning of war that sets apart the Feast of Trumpets from Yahweh's other festivals.

Mat 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? And, what is the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?

Mat 24:6 For you are bound to hear of revolutions and rumor of wars. Watch out and do not be disturbed, for it is necessary that all these things happen, but it is not yet the end.

Mat 24:7 For nation will be raised against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines and plagues and earthquakes against many places.

Mat 24:8 But all these are a beginning of sorrows.

What does the book of Revelation say regarding the blowing of supernatural trumpets shortly before the return of Yahshua Messiah?

Rev 8:1 And when He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in Heaven for about a half hour.

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven cherubs who stood before YAHWEH, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Rev 8:6 And the seven cherubs having the seven trumpets prepared themselves, that they might trumpet.

COMMENT: The seventh seal that covered the scroll (*Revelation 5:1*), when opened, disclosed seven angels with seven trumpets representing seven consecutive colossal world events. These are to be physical punishments from Yahweh to warn the nations not to go further into national and personal sins. The last three trumpets or "woes" specifically picture three phases of catastrophic world war. At the last trumpet, mankind will be saved from extinction by the Second Coming of Yahshua Messiah!

Did Yahshua promise to send His angels to gather together His elect at the blast of the last great trumpet?

Mat 24:29 And immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the land will wail. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and much glory.

Mat 24:31 And He will send His cherubs with a great sound of a large trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Is the sounding of this trumpet the time of the resurrection of the dead in Messiah?

1st Th 4:15 *For we say this to you in the Word of Elohim, that we the living who remain to the coming of our Master will not at all go before those who have fallen asleep.*

1st Th 4:16 *Because the Master Himself shall come down from Heaven with a commanding shout of an archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of YAHWEH'S. And the dead in Messiah will rise again first.*

1st Th 4:17 *Then we who remain alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet with our Master in the air. And so we will always be with our Master.*

1st Cor 15:51 *Behold, I speak a mystery to you: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed.*

1st Cor 15:52 *In a moment, in a blinking of an eye, at the **last trumpet**; for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.*

This is the seventh and final trumpet, the last one of the seven introduced in Revelation 8.

COMMENT: Notice very carefully that all true believers are on earth during this time of great trouble until the seventh trumpet. There is **NO** pre-tribulation rapture mentioned in Scripture, but it is a lie of Christianity so that they will not prepare for this terrible time that is just ahead of us.

At the sound of the seventh trumpet, announcing the return of Yahshua Messiah, the Firstfruits of Yahweh's plan will be resurrected and changed - born as immortal spirit beings into the Family of Yahweh! Yahweh will then have reaped the smaller spiritual harvest of individuals into His Family. They will then begin to help Messiah rule the earth (**Revelation 20:6**) and reap the much greater spiritual harvest during and after the Millennium.

The last three festivals picture the details of how this will be accomplished.

Day of Atonement

How are we to observe the Day of Atonement?

Lev 23:27 *Also, on the tenth of this seventh month shall be a day of atonement; there shall be a holy gathering, and you shall humble and weaken your bodies and shall bring a fire offering to YAHWEH.*

Lev 23:28 *And you shall do no work in this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to atone for you before YAHWEH your Elohim.*

Lev 23:29 *For any person who is not humbled in this same day shall be cut off from his people.*

Lev 23:30 *And any person who does any work in this same day, I shall even cut off that person from the midst of his people.*

Lev 23:31 *You shall do no work; it is a never ending statute throughout your generations, in all your dwellings.*

Lev 23:32 *It is a Sabbath of rest to you, and you shall humble your souls in the ninth of the month at evening; from evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath.*

How does one "afflict his soul" or "humble" himself on this day?

Isa 58:3 *They say, Why have we fasted, and You did not see? We have afflicted our soul, and You did not acknowledge. Behold, on the day of your fast you find pleasure; and you drive all your laborers hard.*

Ezra 8:21 *Then I called a fast there at the river Ahava, so that we might humble ourselves before our Elohim, in order to seek from Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our goods.*

COMMENT: The Day of Atonement is perhaps the most unusual Holy Day, as far as what Yahweh expects us to do. It is the one day of the year on which Yahweh commands us to fast-to abstain from food and water (*Exodus 34:28; Esther 4:16*) - for 24 hours, from sunset on the ninth day of the month to sunset on the tenth day ("from evening unto evening"; *Leviticus 23:32*).

Fasting for spiritual reasons at any time of the year should be for the purpose of humbling ourselves; to draw closer to Yahweh and His righteous way (*Isaiah 58:6-11*). Thus fasting on the Day of Atonement is a vivid reminder of the state of mind necessary for salvation; of humility, godly sorrow, earnestly seeking after Yahweh and His Torah, to which this world will have been brought to by the catastrophic events culminating in Yahshua Messiah's return!

What does the word atonement mean? Webster says to atone means to "set at one." To join in one-to form by uniting. This day actually symbolizes Yahweh and man being set at one: literally the Day of *At-one-ment!* The word sacrifice in English connotes giving something up, but in Hebrew this word actually means to draw closer to through relationship. The day of **at- one-ment** is about this relationship with Yahweh.

The 16th chapter of Leviticus details what Yahweh told the Levitical priesthood to do on the Day of Atonement. These rituals reveal much about the fifth step in Yahweh's plan to restore His Kingdom on earth and to bring saving knowledge to everyone. Was the Aaronic high priest to make a special sin offering once a year to atone for all the sins of Israel?

Lev 16:32 And the priest whom He shall anoint, and whose hand He shall consecrate to act as priest instead of his father, shall make atonement, and shall put on the linen garments, the holy garments.

Lev 16:33 And he shall atone for the holy sanctuary, and for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar he shall atone; yes, for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation he shall atone.

Lev 16:34 And this shall be to you a never ending statute to atone for the sons of Israel, because of all their sins, once a year. And he did as YAHWEH had commanded Moses.

But before the high priest made this atonement, did he take two goats, and then cast lots to determine who each would represent? *Leviticus 16:7 -8*.

Was the goat representing Messiah offered as a sin offering for all the people? *Verses 15-16*. Were the sins of the people symbolically placed on the head of the other goat, which was then taken into the wilderness? *Verses 21-22*.

COMMENT: Yahshua Messiah atoned for our sins when He took the penalty of our sins (death – *Romans 6:23*) upon Himself by sacrificing His sinless life for us. The two goats actually both represent Yahshua the Messiah. The first goat that was sacrificed, represents the dying Messiah, the one who had to become a guilt offering for each one of us for our sins (*Isaiah 53:10*).

The second goat represents the living or resurrected Messiah who took the sins of His disciples upon himself and the one that lives in each one of His disciples that has been baptized in His name and had hands laid on them for the imparting of the Holy Spirit. Remember our sins are forgiven by Yahshua's death but we are saved by His life.

Rom 5:8 but Elohim commends His love to us in this that we being yet sinners, Messiah died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being justified now by His blood, we shall be delivered from the wrath through Him.

Rom 5:10 For if while being enemies we were reconciled to Elohim through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life;

Rom 5:11 and not only so, but also glorying in YAHWEH through our Master Yahshua Messiah,

through whom we now received the atonement.

Although Passover and Atonement are very similar in nature, there is one major contrast between them; Passover is about forgiveness, but Atonement is about reconciliation. You can have forgiveness to someone without reconciling the relationship. The Day of Atonement or *at-one-ment* is about the reconciliation of Yahweh's people to Him due to the forgiveness of sin that was accomplished by the sacrifice of Yahshua His Son.

2Co 5:21 For He who did not know sin, for your sakes made Himself sin, that we might through Him become the righteousness of YAHWEH.

When Yahshua was tried before Pilate, the people had a choice to allow one prisoner to be released; this is also very symbolic of the 2 goats for the Day of Atonement.

John 18:38 Pilate said to Him, What is truth? And saying this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, I do not find even one crime in Him!

John 18:39 But there is a common custom to you that I should release one prisoner to you at the Passover. Then you decide: should I release the King of the Jews to you?

John 18:40 Then all cried out again, saying, Not this One, but Bar-abbas! But Bar-abbas was a robber.

Barabbas in Hebrew literally means "son of the father". How interesting. Here was a choice; they could have chosen Bar-Abbas the human son of the father, or Yahshua the Heavenly Son of the true Father in Heaven Yahweh, and they chose Bar-Abbas. Interesting enough Bar-abbas was arrested for insurrection against the Roman government for trying to overtake it and set up an earthy kingdom and Yahshua was arrested for trying to set up a Heavenly Kingdom. The parallel is striking, and just like the azazel goat of Leviticus 16, we, like Barabbas, can only truly be released from our sin, if the first goat as the sin offering (Yahshua the Son of Yahweh) pays the penalty for our sins.

Feast of Tabernacles

What Yahweh-ordained festival occurs only five days after the Day of Atonement?

Lev 23:34 Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, In the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be a Feast of Booths, seven days to YAHWEH.

What is the divinely set theme for the annual observance of the Feast of Tabernacles?

Deut 16:14 And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son, and your daughter, and your male slave, and your slave-girl, and the Levite, and the alien, and the fatherless, and the widow that are inside your gates.

Deut 16:15 You shall keep a solemn feast seven days to YAHWEH your Elohim in the place which YAHWEH shall choose; (Jerusalem); for YAHWEH your Elohim shall bless you in all your produce, and in every work of your hands, and you shall be altogether joyful.

COMMENT: The Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the sixth step in Yahweh's Master Plan, is a time of great rejoicing! For ancient Israel, it was a time of rejoicing because the abundant winter's food supply was taken in just before the Feast. But in the Millennium, which this feast pictures, the happiness, joy and prosperity portrayed by the Feast of Tabernacles will exist worldwide under the righteous rule of Yahshua Messiah. Universal adherence to Yahweh's way of life will make the world tomorrow a literal utopia!

The Feast of Tabernacles was also called the Feast of Ingathering (***Exodus 23:16; 34:22***) because it celebrated the late summer-early autumn harvest.

Exo 23:16b ... Feast of Ingathering, at the going out of the year, at your gathering your work from the field.

COMMENT: This is symbolic of the great re-gathering that will happen at Yahshua's return. There is an early rain and a latter rain in Israel depicting the two yearly harvests. The early springtime harvest is a much smaller harvest than the greater ingathering at the feast of Sukkot or tabernacles. We, now as Firstfruits, represent the early harvest, the one that started with the Passover sacrifice and the Feast of Firstfruits already mentioned. Now at the feast of ingathering at the return of the Messiah will be a great ingathering of all His people to a greater harvest.

Jer 31:1 At that time, says YAHWEH, I will be the Elohim of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.

Clearly at this great end time harvest, Yahweh will re-gather all 12 tribes of Israel and not only Judah.

Eze 36:9 For behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.

Eze 36:10 And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it. And the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be built.

Eze 36:11 And I will multiply men on you, and beast, and they will increase and be fruitful. And I will make you dwell as you formerly were, and I will do better than at your beginnings. And you shall know that I am YAHWEH.

Eze 36:12 Yea, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; and they shall possess you, and you will be an inheritance to them and will not any more increase their bereavement.

Eze 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name which was profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them. And the nations shall know that I am YAHWEH, declares Adonai, YAHWEH, when I am sanctified in you, in their eyes.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from the nations and gather you out of all the lands and bring you into your land.

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle pure waters on you, and you shall be purified. I will cleanse you from all your defilement and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 And I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give to you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do them.

Eze 36:28 And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. And you shall be a people to Me, and I will be Elohim to you.

Jer 16:14 So, behold, the days come, says YAHWEH, that it shall no more be said, As YAHWEH lives who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Jer 16:15 But rather, As YAHWEH lives who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands, there where He had banished them to. And I will bring them again into their land that I gave to their fathers.

Jer 16:16 Behold, I will send for many fishermen, says YAHWEH. And they shall fish them. And after this I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them, from every mountain and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.

Isa 11:9 They shall not do evil, nor destroy in all My holy mountain. For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YAHWEH, as the waters cover the sea.

Isa 11:10 And it shall be in that day, the Root of Jesse stands as a banner of His people; nations shall seek to Him; and His resting place shall be glorious.

Isa 11:11 And it shall be in that day, YAHWEH shall again set His hand, the second time, to recover the remnant of His people that remains, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Ethiopia, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the coasts of the sea.

Isa 11:12 And He shall lift up a banner for the nations, and shall gather the outcasts of Israel, and gather those dispersed from Judah, from the four wings of the earth.

Isa 11:13 And the envy of Ephraim shall turn off; and Judah's foes shall be cut off. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not trouble Ephraim.

Eze 37:19 Say to them, So says Adonai, YAHWEH: Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions. And I will put them with him, with the stick of Judah, and I will make them one stick, and they shall be one (echad) in My hand.

Eze 37:20 And the sticks shall be in your hand, the ones on which you write before their eyes.

Eze 37:21 And say to them, So says the Adonai, YAHWEH: Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations, there where they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and will bring them into their own land.

Eze 37:22 And I will make them one (echad) nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one King shall be for a king to all of them. And they shall not be two nations anymore. And they will not be split into two kingdoms any more.

Amos 9:14 And I will bring back the captivity of My people Israel. And they shall build the waste cities, and live in them. And they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine of them. They shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

Amos 9:15 And I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be pulled up out of their land which I have given to them, says YAHWEH your Elohim.

The feast of Sukkot or Tabernacles is a yearly memorial of the reminder of the soon coming Kingdom of Yahweh to this earth. What many Sabbath keeping and feast keeping brethren tend to neglect is the fact that the feast of Sukkot is not only about the earthly rule of Yahshua Messiah, but also the restoration of all 12 tribes of the nation of Israel back to their land for this millennial reign. That is why it is centered around the greater fall harvest, because now Yahweh is working with His first fruits, a relatively small group of people, where then, it will be with the whole nation of Israel.

Eze 37:11 Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are all the house of Israel. Behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is perished; we are cut off to ourselves.

Eze 37:12 So prophesy and say to them, So says Adonai YAHWEH: Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, O My people, and I will bring you to the land of Israel.

Eze 37:13 And you shall know that I am YAHWEH when I have opened your graves and have brought you up out of your graves, O My people.

Eze 37:14 And I shall put My Spirit within you, and you shall live; and I will put you on your own land. And you shall know that I, YAHWEH, have spoken and have done it, says YAHWEH.

This is the work of Yahweh today. He has never stopped working with the seed of Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob, and His called out disciples should be helping in the worldwide work of restoring the 12 Sons of Israel back into covenant relationship with Yahweh. This is the primary purpose of Sukkot; to look forward to Yahweh's soon coming wonderful Kingdom!

Are Yahweh's people to live in booths - temporary dwellings-during the Feast?

Lev 23:42 You shall live in Sookkuhs for seven days; all who are native in Israel shall sit down in Sookkuhs,

Lev 23:43 so that your generations shall know that I caused the sons of Israel to live in Sookkuhs, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; I am YAHWEH your Elohim.

COMMENT: A "Sookkuh" or "booth" is a temporary dwelling. Yahweh commanded the ancient Israelites to live in temporary shelters made of tree branches (*verse 40*) while observing the Feast of Tabernacles. For Yahweh's people who attend the Feast of Tabernacles today, a tent, camper, motel or hotel room would certainly qualify as a temporary dwelling.

Yahweh intends the Feast of Sukkot to separate and free His people from the world. Living in temporary

dwellings for an entire week - away from their everyday surroundings, jobs and most negative influences - Yahweh's people enjoy a tiny foretaste of the universal freedom, joy and peace that will exist in the Millennium when Satan is gone and the Spirit of Yahweh is leading all of humanity (*Joel 2:28, 32*). Every year during this week of Sukkot Yahweh wants His elect to come out of Satan's system and keep their focus on His work of restoring Israel and His soon coming kingdom.

Just as the Feast of Tabernacles is a physical feast filled with rejoicing, it is also a spiritual feast of education and preparation. Members of Yahweh's true congregations receive instruction from Yahweh's servants through inspiring sermons to help them further prepare to rule and teach with Messiah during the Millennium.

After Yahshua Messiah subdues the warring nations at His return and establishes Yahweh's government over the earth, will the nations begin to come to Him for instruction in Yahweh's way of life?

Mic 4:1 But it shall be in the end of the days, the mountain of the house of YAHWEH shall be established on the top of the mountains; and it shall be lifted up from the hills; and peoples shall flow on it.

Mic 4:2 And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of YAHWEH, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob. And He will teach us from His ways, and we will walk in His paths. For the Torah shall go forth out of Zion, and the Word of YAHWEH from Jerusalem.

Will the whole world finally come to understand Yahweh's way to peace, happiness, abundant living and salvation?

Isa 11:9 They shall not do evil, nor destroy in all My holy mountain. For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YAHWEH, as the waters cover the sea.

Jer 31:34 And they shall no longer each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know YAHWEH. For they shall all know Me, from the least of them even to the greatest of them, declares YAHWEH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.

COMMENT: Once Satan has been bound and the government of Yahweh set up, a 1,000-year golden age of world peace and prosperity will begin. Messiah's re-education program for the entire world will bring about a new civilization based on Yahweh's way of life - (His law of love) - resulting in great physical and spiritual blessings.

But what will happen to those nations that at first refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and thus refuse to be re-educated to Yahweh's way?

Zec 14:16 And it shall be, everyone who is left from all the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YAHWEH of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Sukkot.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be, whoever will not go up from the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, YAHWEH of Hosts, there shall even be no rain on them.

COMMENT: Messiah will re-educate the people of the world through His annual festivals. The world will come to know that Yahweh's Master Plan pictures the way to physical blessings and spiritual salvation. Those who stubbornly refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles will suffer from drought and plagues until they submit to Yahweh.

By the end of the 1,000 years, the great Family of Yahweh will be ready for the final step in Yahweh's Master Plan. Even greater joy and accomplishments lie ahead after the Millennium!

The Last Great Day

Just as the week is not complete without the seventh-day Sabbath, Yahweh's Master Plan is not complete without His seventh and final annual festival. The number seven in the Bible signifies completion and perfection. This seventh festival of Yahweh reveals the perfection of Yahweh's great Master Plan-which Yahweh's love and mercy toward mankind will extend beyond the Millennium.

Was there an eighth day of worship immediately following the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles?

Lev 23:36 Seven days you shall bring a fire offering to YAHWEH; on the eighth day you shall have a holy gathering; and you shall bring the fire offering to YAHWEH; it is a solemn assembly; you shall do no laborious work of service.

Lev 23:39 Also, in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you gather the increase of the land, you shall keep the feast of YAHWEH seven days; on the first day a Holy Day Sabbath, and on the eighth day a Holy Day Sabbath.

COMMENT: The last annual Sabbath or Holy Day is observed immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. But because of its close proximity to this seven-day feast, it was associated with the Feast of Tabernacles and was called the "eighth day." This festival came to be known among Believers as the Last Great Day. It is clearly a separate festival and Holy Day. The Last Great Day pictures the completion of Yahweh's Master Plan.

Eight is the number of new beginnings and that is what this eighth day represents. After the Millennium is over and Yahshua sets down every enemy, the last enemy being death, then will come the white throne judgment where all people that ever lived will be judged for the things that they have done in this life, both good and bad.

2nd Cor 5:10 For we all must appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, so that each one may receive the things done through the body, according to what he did, whether good or bad.

Yahshua mentioned in ***Matthew 12:41-42***, the people of Tyre and Sidon, Sodom, Nineveh in Jonah's time and finally the Queen of the South. All of these examples of people who lived in different generations and shows that there will be a judgment day for every single human who ever lived. Yahshua gave enough examples of people living at widespread times to prove that most of humanity will be alive at the same time on this earth. There will be pre-Flood men and women, all 12 tribes of Israel, those who lived during the middle ages and the vast majority living now. Even babies and children who died untimely deaths will be resurrected then. They will all rise in the second resurrection because they were not Firstfruits of Yahweh and were not in the first or better resurrection. These people will be judged by their works.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one having part in the first resurrection. The second death has no authority over these, but they will be priests of YAHWEH and of His Messiah, and will reign with Him a thousand years.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a Great White Throne, and the One sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled; and a place was not found for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the small and the great, standing before YAHWEH. And books were opened. And another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works.

The difference being since most of these people died being blinded to the truth, Yahweh can lower the bar for them and make their accountably much less than people who knew the truth and willfully disobeyed.

Luke 12:47 But that slave knowing the will of his Master, and not preparing, nor doing according to His will, will be beaten with many stripes.

Luke 12:48 But he who does not know and does the thing that is worthy of stripes will be beaten with fewer stripes. For anyone who is given much to him, much is required from him. And to he whom they have committed much to him, much more they will require by his hand.

Rom 11:32 For Elohim shut up all into disobedience, that He may show mercy to all.

These are the people described in Romans 2 as gentiles who kept the Torah (Law) without even knowing it.

Rom 2:13 For not the hearers of the Torah are righteous with YAHWEH, but the doers of the Torah shall be justified.

Rom 2:14 For when pagans not having the Torah do by nature the things contained in the Torah, they not having the Torah are a law unto themselves,

Rom 2:15 who show the work of the Torah written in their hearts, their conscience witnessing with them, and the thoughts either accusing or even excusing one another,

There are many good hearted people out there who have not had their mind opened by our Heavenly Father to His truth but their nature has been chosen by themselves not to lie or steal and to be faithful to one spouse. Yahweh will reward these people with eternal life as without even having His spirit they chose on their own to obey Him without even knowing it. Look at when they will be rewarded.

Rom 2:16 in a day when YAHWEH judges the hidden actions of men, as my good news teaches, through Yahshua Messiah.

This is the White Throne Judgment and the meaning of the eighth day of the feast called the Last Great Day. Yahweh will not be mocked. All men will reap what they sow, that is why it is so important today to try to show mankind the need to repent and have the blood of Yahshua, the Eternal Son of Yahweh cover their sins. This is truly life and death.

Then the spirit-composed members of Yahweh's great ruling Family can look forward to new heavens and a new earth-and to new and wonderful opportunities in ruling the universe under Yahweh our Father and Yahshua Messiah our elder brother! And then it will be just the beginning of the rest of eternity. All these Holy Days focus around the redemptive work of Yahshua Messiah. He truly is the Focus of Yahweh's Holy Days.

Points to Remember

- 1) All the Holy Days point to Yahshua's redemptive work as Messiah.
- 2) The Holy Days are to be kept forever and are yearly memorials of Yahweh's redemptive work through His Eternal Son Yahshua.
- 3) The Holy Days tell the story of the plan of salvation.
- 4) The Holy Days are Sabbaths and we should honor them as such by not working, and by assembling with Brethren on these days.
- 5) Part of the commandment of the three Pilgrim feasts was to appear before Yahweh in Jerusalem at these set apart times to receive blessing for obedience or cursing for disobedience.

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