



Christian Ambassadors

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

What is the most important appointment you've ever had?

- School: SAT; MCAT; Bar Exam?
- Work: Job interview; Blockbuster business deal?
- Relationship: Your child's recital; Wedding?

What would have happened if you missed that most important appointment?

- School: No entrance; can't practice law.
- Work: Not hired; perhaps fired.
- Relationship: Broken heart; broken neck.

Did you know that you have an appointment with God?

If you don't know that you have an appointment with God it's probably because you don't keep track of time the way God does. And if that's the case it's because Satan has deceived you into using his calendar to set up and keep appointments. The Devil wants you to meet with him and miss your appointments with God. So you need to know what calendar God uses.

What calendar does God use? (SUN & MOON IN RELATION TO THE EARTH)

From creation God appointed the Sun, Moon and Stars to tell us how to tell time. The sky is God's clock. God doesn't have a leather bound appointment book in which He makes His appointments; God has a heaven bound appointment book. (Gen 1:14) "God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the *day* from the *night*; and let them be for *days*, and seasons, and *years* and *signs*". (Psa 104:19) God says "He appointed the moon for seasons". The word "seasons", as defined in Strong's Concordance of the Bible, is taken from the Hebrew word "Mow'ed", meaning "an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically a festival; by implication, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the congregation; by extension, the place of meeting; also a signal (as appointed beforehand):--appointed (sign, time), (place of, solemn) assembly, (appointed, due) season, (set) time (appointed)." A more succinct way of defining "mow'ed" is to say that it means "the place and time when people assemble."

To get a fuller sense of how "mow'ed" is used, let's look at a few scriptures that support this definition.

(Gen 17:21) God says to Abraham, "My covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall give birth to at this set time [mow'ed] in the next year. (Gen 18:14) Because Sarah doubted God's promise, God says to Abraham, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed [mow'ed] I will return to you, and Sarah shall have a son." (Gen 21:2) God fulfilled His promise: "Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son, at the set time [mow'ed] of which God had spoken to him."

(Ex 29:41-45) "And the other lamb you shall offer at sunset, an offering made by fire to the LORD. This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation [mow'ed] before the LORD: *where I will meet you, to speak to you.*" There I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God."

(Deut 31:30) "Moses spoke in the ears of all the congregation [mow'ed] of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended."

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Now it should be clear: God makes appointments on His calendar to assemble with His people. We should make sure that we assemble at those set times. **And in order for us to keep our appointments with God we have to use the sky as our calendar because God uses the sky as His calendar.** So exactly how does God use the Sun & Moon in relation to the earth to keep time?

ELEMENTS OF GOD'S CALENDAR

<p>DAY (Gen 1:5 God called the darkness Night, and the light Day. So the evening and the morning were the first day.)</p> <p>John 11:9-10 Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walks in the day he doesn't stumble because he sees the light...But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles.)</p> <p>(Deut 16:6) Evening = going down of the sun = sunset. (Mark 16:2) Morning = rising of the sun = sunrise. (Ps 113:3) Day is marked by the cycle of sunset & sunrise.</p>	<p>This is supported by science. A Day is scientifically measured as 24 hours because that's how long it takes the Earth to make one rotation on its own axis.</p> <p>To recap, a Day is 24 <i>HOURS</i>, split into two parts: first an <i>EVENING</i> --- beginning at sunset, e.g. 6pm; secondly a <i>MORNING</i> --- beginning at sunrise, e.g. 6am.</p>
<p>WEEK (Gen 1:31-2:2 The evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. And on the 7th day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the 7th day from all his work which he had made.)</p> <p>(Mt 28:1) "In the end of the Sabbath (7th day --- of rest), as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week..."</p>	<p>There is no celestial definition of a week. Science can't help us here. I think there's a special meaning in the 7-day week which ends with the Sabbath, but that's for another article.</p> <p>To recap, a Week is 7 <i>DAYS</i>, beginning with evening on the 1st day (Saturday night, e.g. 6pm), and ending with twilight on the 7th day (Saturday afternoon, e.g. 5:59pm).</p>
<p>MONTH (Isa 66:23 It shall come to pass, that from one New Moon to another New Moon, shall all flesh come to worship before me, says the LORD.)</p> <p>Another rendering would be from the start of one month to the start of another month. Month comes from the word Moon.</p>	<p>A Month is scientifically measured as 29 ½ days because that's how long it takes for the Moon to make one revolution around the Earth.</p> <p>A month begins at the new moon. A new moon occurs when it's completely dark and is the opposite of a full moon, which occurs when it's completely light. Therefore, a full moon is the halfway point of a month.</p>
<p>YEAR* (2 Chron 24:23 ... it came to pass at the end of the year...). Hebrew word for "end" is TEQUPHAH, meaning revolution around the sun.</p> <p>(Ex. 12:2; Deut 16:1) Abib is the first month of the year; it means one of the springtime months).</p>	<p>A Year is scientifically measured as 365 ¼ days because that's how long it takes the Earth to make one revolution around the Sun.</p> <p>A Year begins at the <i>VERNAL EQUINOX</i>. The vernal equinox comes around March 21st when life is springing back from the dead of winter.</p>

*A yearly cycle can be divided into four parts:

Vernal Equinox = March 20th when it's spring time and there's an equal amount of daylight and nightlight, i.e. 12 hours of each.

Summer Solstice = June 20th when it's summer time and there's the most daylight and the least nightlight, i.e. 16 hours of day and 8 hours of night.

Autumnal Equinox = September 22nd when it's autumn time and there's an equal amount of daylight and nightlight, i.e. 12 hours of each.

Winter Solstice = December 21st when it's winter time and there's the most nightlight and the least daylight, i.e. 16 hours of night and 8 hours of day.

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DECEPTIONS IN SATAN'S CALENDAR

DAY	24 hours, but beginning at 12am/midnight .
WEEK	7 DAYS, but beginning with midnight on the first day (commonly known as Sunday), and ending with 11:59pm on the seventh day (commonly known as Saturday night).
MONTH	An arbitrary 28/29 or 30 or 31 day period that doesn't synchronize with the cycle of the moon; Satan's months are designed to sin-chronize with a 365 day year. NOTE: the moon has <u>nothing to do with defining a year!</u> The moon <u>means month</u> and is used by God solely to define a month. There is no such thing as a lunar year --- only a solar year.
YEAR	From January 1 st to December 31 st --- in the dead of winter .

What appointments has God made with you?

Lev 23:4 *These are the feasts of the LORD*, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons.

Feasts = "Mow'ed" = appointed times. Holy = "Kodesh" = sacred. Convocations = "Miqra" = meetings. Proclaim = "Kara" = to announce. Seasons = "Mow'ed" = appointed times. So another rendering of the sentence is: *These are the sacred appointments of the LORD that He has published so that you can meet with Him.*

Before we proceed with listing God's appointments, let's read Psa 104:19 "He appointed {established as a part of the clock in the sky} the **moon** for seasons {seasons is taken from the word "Mowed" meaning to "the time when people keep their appointments"}". Notice that the Holy Days are designated by **months** / moons.

PASSOVER: Lev 23:5 "On the 14th day of the first **month** at even is the Lord's Passover."

UNLEAVENED BREAD: Lev 23:6-8 "From the 15th – 21st day of the same **month** is the feast of Unleavened Bread."

PENTECOST: Lev 23:11-21 "On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave a sheaf before the LORD to be accepted.
Then count 50 days until Pentecost / Firstfruits."

TRUMPETS: Lev 23:24 "In the seventh **month**, in the 1st day of the month, is a memorial of blowing of trumpets."

ATONEMENT: Lev 23:27-32 "On the 10th day of this seventh **month** is the day of Atonement: you shall afflict your souls."

TABERNACLES: Lev 23:34 "From the 15th – 21st day of this seventh **month** is the feast of Tabernacles."

LAST GREAT DAY: Lev 23:36 "On the 8th day there shall be a holy convocation."

Lev 23:37 *"These are the feasts of the LORD*, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations."

What is the purpose of these 7 meetings?

God plans to **save from eternal death** --- **and deliver into eternal life** --- every human being who has ever lived or will live. But God is executing His plan in 7 stages. So the purpose of the 7 appointments God has made with us is to reveal His 7 step plan of Salvation.

For each *individual* Christian, the 7 stages are:

Passover: By faith, receive Yeshua's sacrificial death as payment and forgiveness for your sins; you no longer have to die the second death --- which is eternal death.

Unleavened Bread: By faith, receive Christ's perfect life of righteousness as your righteousness.

Pentecost: By faith, receive the gift of eternal life; now is the time to have the Law written on your heart and mind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Trumpets: You are resurrected to eternal life. You return to earth with Adonai, to put down all rebellion against Yahweh.

Atonement: You witness Satan the Devil being bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.

Tabernacles: You rule the earth with Messiah for 1000 years.

Last Great Day: You rule with Jesus, as the majority of people who have ever lived and died are resurrected to receive their first chance at salvation.

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The 7 Feast Days of the Lord can also be grouped together in 3 sections.

3 Aspects of Salvation

The Feasts teach us about Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.

Justification: PASSOVER = Forgiveness of Sins --- the Church United to God thru Christ.

Sanctification: UNLEAVENED BREAD = Righteousness Reigns in the Church.

Glorification: PENTECOST / FIRSTFRUITS = Church is Growing to Perfection / Given Eternal Life.

This is the pivotal point: TRUMPETS = Resurrection of the Church / Christ Returns to Take Over the World.

Justification: ATONEMENT = Forgiveness of Sins --- the World United to God thru Christ.

Sanctification: TABERNACLES / INGATHERING = Righteousness Reigns in the World.

Glorification: LAST GREAT DAY = Growing to Perfection / Resurrection of the World to Eternal Life.

3 Time Periods in plan of salvation for the world

The Feasts commemorate the PAST accomplishments of God.

The Feasts motivate Christians to live in the PRESENT by the power of God.

The Feasts anticipate the FUTURE redemptive acts of God.

PAST: Passover & Unleavened Bread (Jesus died for the world's sins; Jesus lived for the world's righteousness).

PRESENT: Pentecost (Christ is building His Church as a witness to the world).

FUTURE: Trumpets; Atonement; Tabernacles; Last Great Day (Yeshua Ha Messiah will rule the world).

3 Stages in plan of salvation

Stage 1: The Feasts show God building His Church (Firstfruits are a small group of people).

Stage 2: The Feasts show God destroying the works of humanity and Satan.

Stage 3: The Feasts show God converting the World (Secondfruits are a large group of people).

PASSOVER = God grants Forgiveness of Sins to the Church / Firstfruits.

Stage 1: UNLEAVENED BREAD = God grants Righteousness to the Church / Firstfruits.

PENTECOST / FIRSTFRUITS = God grants Eternal Life to the Church / Firstfruits.

Stage 2: TRUMPETS = Christ & Church Destroy Human Governments.

ATONEMENT = Christ & Church Destroy Satan's Influence Over Governments.

Stage 3: TABERNACLES / INGATHERING = Christ & Church Build God's Government for "SecondFruits".

LAST GREAT DAY = Christ & Church Teach God's Government to "SecondFruits".

Now, let's hear powerful testimony from God's own mouth regarding the fact the He has only chosen a few people to receive Salvation during the early stages of His 7 stage plan of Salvation, as revealed by God's 7 annual Festivals.

First, let's prove that everyone receives Salvation in EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

Acts 4:10-12 "There is salvation in no other being except Jesus the Christ: for there is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved." In other words, everyone has to come through the same door. Whether people looked forward in time to Jesus' death and resurrection --- as in the case of the Old Testament saints, or whether people look back in time to Jesus' death and resurrection --- as in the case of the New Testament saints, everyone has to come through the same door. There are no exceptions. Yet God says that He has chosen only a few people to come into "His house of Salvation", so to speak.

Secondly, let's prove that God is giving Salvation to only a few chosen ones --- AT THIS TIME.

Mat 22:2-3, 14 "The kingdom of heaven is likened to a certain king [God, the Father], which arranged a marriage for his son [Jesus, the Son of God], and sent forth his servants [the Church / Ecclesia = "called out ones"] to call to the wedding those that were invited to come [the World = the "uncalled out ones"]: but **they would not come**. Many are called, but **few** are *chosen*."

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Why do some come and some come not? Jesus says it's because "**No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draws him**" [this is how we are chosen] (John 6:44).

But you might say that this isn't fair. Well, this is God's response to your statement. Rom 9:14-18 "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he said to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. That's the lesson in scripture concerning Pharaoh; remember I said to him: "for this very purpose did I raise you up and harden your heart: to show my power against you, thereby causing my name to be declared throughout all the earth." God has mercy on whom He will have mercy, and the others **He hardens their hearts.**"

Who else's heart has God hardened? Rom 11:1-2 "Concerning Israel I [Paul] ask this question: Has God cast away his people? God forbid, for I also am an Israelite. God has not cast away His people which He foreknew." Verse 8 "**God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear to this day.**"

What God is telling us is that He has a plan of Salvation that includes choosing people at different times. Not everyone is being saved now; in fact, most will be saved after Christ's second coming. Continuing with Israel ... Verse 11 "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come to the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy." Verse 15 "Now if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Verse 22 "Behold the goodness and severity of God: goodness is toward you, if you continue in His goodness; severity is on them that fell." VV 25-27 "For I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery brethren, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; the mystery is that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.** And so all Israel SHALL BE saved: [question: when will this be?] as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant with them, when I shall take away their sins" [they have not yet accepted Jesus; but why not?]. Verse 32 "God has concluded everyone in unbelief, so that He might have mercy upon all." In other words, everyone has to be called out of the darkness of deception into the light of reception of the Truth; everyone has to be called out of the darkness of disobedience into the light of obedience." The first **few** to be called out of the darkness of this wicked world are the Old Testament saints --- most of whom are listed in Heb. 11, and the New Testament saints --- the Church.

Speaking to the Church, God says "You are a *chosen* generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; *chosen* so that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of **darkness** into his marvelous light" (1 Pet 2:9).

Speaking to Paul, God says "I have appeared to you for this purpose: to make you a minister and a witness of the things which you already have seen and will see in the future. I'm sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, and to turn them from **darkness** to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and eternal life through faith in Me" (Acts 26:16-18).

Speaking to the other Apostles, God says "You have not chosen Me, I have chosen you, and ordained you to go and bring forth fruit. I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. But this is happening because they don't know Him that sent Me" (John 15:16-21). God has blinded most people's minds and hardened most people's hearts. The few God has chosen out of the World have a responsibility to the World to shine light on the path to God and Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and through the preaching of the Word, and through our own walk with God. This is so that whomever else God calls and chooses in the first 3 stages of His 7 stage plan, will clearly see the path to God and know how they should walk.

God is NOT at this time trying to save the world, but God is laying the foundation of salvation for the world by first preparing a **few** chosen ones to rule the world! And God's 7 Annual Feast Days fully reveal this Plan of Salvation!

What is the agenda for God's 7 appointments?

We know that annually God makes 7 appointments with us for the general purpose of teaching us about His 7 stage plan of Salvation for humanity. Whenever you go to a meeting, that meeting has an agenda, meaning that there are specific items needing to be covered. What are the specific items needing to be covered during each of these meetings?

Let's start with Passover since that's the first annual appointment God wants us to keep with Him. So what is the agenda for Passover? The agenda for the Passover is to teach us that **Passover Pictures Love & Life Through Jesus Christ.**

We see the awesome Love of God in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who voluntarily laid down His life and shed His blood for us. Probably the most recognizable scripture in the world sums up this point best. Jn 3:16 "God so **loved**

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the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that **whoever believes on Jesus** will not perish but have eternal **life**.” There you have it: **Passover Pictures Love & Life Through Jesus Christ**. Every human, except Jesus the Christ, sinned, and therefore deserved to die because the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). But Jesus, being God in the flesh, never sinned, and therefore was qualified to reconcile us to God by paying the death penalty in our stead. Let’s review Passover parallels.

(Ex 12:3) *"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the 10th day of this month every man shall take a lamb for his household.'"* Notice that Jesus Christ is identified as The Lamb of God. (John 1:29) *"John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward Him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

In Ex 12:5 God proclaims that not just any lamb can be sacrificed. *"Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year."* Consider the words of the Apostle Peter relating by inspiration of the Holy Spirit that Jesus was a lamb without blemish. In 1 Pet 1:18-19 he writes *"You were not redeemed with corruptible things, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"*.

In Ex 12:6-8 God proclaims that the blood of the Passover lamb protects us from death. *"Now you shall keep the Lamb until the 14th day of the month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at sunset. And they shall take the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Continuing in Ex 12:12-14 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will PASS OVER you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations."* In 1 Cor 5:7 God proclaims that *"Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."* And, in 1 Jn 1:7 it says, *"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin."* Therefore, as it says in Rom 5:8-10, we can conclude that **"God demonstrated His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life"**. Our agenda for the Passover appointment is to learn that **Passover Pictures Love & Life Through Jesus Christ**.

Another point on the agenda I want to cover is the fact that not only did Jesus die for us, but Jesus also lived for us. Consider the words of Mat 20:28 *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"*. One of the many ways in which He did that centered around an event that occurred during Jesus’ last Passover observance. Jn 13:4-5 says, *"When Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." Jesus rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded"*. In an act of humility and service our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ humbled Himself from master to servant and washed His disciples’ feet. Continuing in verse 14, Jesus says, *"If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you"*.

The last point on the agenda is the fact that Christians, i.e. the ones called out of the world to follow Christ, should keep the Passover --- just as Christ did. Please turn to Luke 22:8 *"Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat. VV 13-20 "And they went, and they made ready the Passover. And when the hour was come, Jesus sat down with the twelve apostles. And he said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say to you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."* Our agenda for the Passover appointment has been to learn that **Passover Pictures Love & Life Through Jesus Christ**. Your next appointment with God is The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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Unleavened Bread Pictures Christ In Us!

The Days of Unleavened Bread symbolizes the reality that Jesus, our Bread of Life, lives in us to make us righteous, thereby guaranteeing our eternal life. So if someone asks you if you've been born again the answer is yes in that sense. Another term you might be familiar with is sanctification, which means set apart for holy use. Being born again and sanctified are both accomplished in the symbol and reality of The Days of Unleavened Bread when we accept by faith the SINLESS LIFE OF JESUS.

So after we are *saved from* sin, pictured by the Passover, we are *saved to* righteousness, pictured by The Days of Unleavened Bread. Let's see this perfect picture in Ephesians 2:8-10. "[This first part is Passover language] For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. [This second part is Days of Unleavened Bread language] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing good works, which God has ordained for us to do." Does it make sense that after we have been *saved from* sin we *go back into* sin? Of course not!

Let's take a closer look at seven Biblical clues God gives us regarding the symbolism of The Days of Unleavened Bread. When we unlock the meaning of these clues it will really open your eyes to the richness of the reality.

- 1) For seven days unleavened bread was to be eaten.
- 2) Leavening was to be eliminated from their homes prior to the first day, and kept out during the 7 days of the Feast.
- 3) Anyone who ate leavening during the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread was to die.
- 4) On the 1st and 7th days they were to have congregational worship services.
- 5) On the 1st and 7th days they were to rest from their works, except meal preparation.
- 6) On the 1st day they were delivered from Egypt into a new land and life.
- 7) Israel was to keep this feast forever.

These clues are found in Ex 12:15 –20. Here, God introduces the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Israel through Moses. "Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel. In the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, except that which every man must eat. On the first day of the feast of unleavened bread I will bring your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore you shall observe this feast in your generations by an ordinance forever. In the first month, at the end of the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the end of twenty-first day of the month at evening. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whoever eats that which is leavened shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall you eat unleavened bread."

Before we reveal the meaning of the seven clues, let's ask the bigger question: what is unleavened bread? The English word "unleavened" comes from the Hebrew word "matzah". According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible "matzah" means hastily devouring for sweetness (i.e. not soured, or bittered, or fermented with yeast). Now let's unlock the meaning of the seven clues.

- 1) For **seven days unleavened** bread was to be eaten.
 - 7 is the number of perfection, e.g. 7 days of creation in Gen 1 & 2; 7 Annual Feast Days in Lev 23.
 - Unleavened bread is sweet and unfermented; leavening sours and puffs up (Mat 16:6-11 Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees; then the disciples understood that Jesus wasn't talking about the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees [their doctrine was very vain and bitter]. I Cor 5:1-8 Your glorying is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven puffs up the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth).

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- *Bread* is often used to connote our main source of sustenance (Mat 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone; Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread). And Jesus uses *Bread* to represent Himself (Mat 26:26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread and gave it to the disciples, saying, eat this bread for it represents my body. John 6:48-54 I am that bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and are dead. I am the living bread that came down from heaven: if any man eats this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I give represents my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Whoever eats my flesh has eternal life; and I will resurrect him at the last day).
 - The meaning is clear: **7 days** represents us becoming perfect in the process of eating Unleavened Bread because we are sustained through the perfect sinless “Bread of Life” --- Jesus the Christ --- dwelling in us.
- 2) Leavening was to be eliminated from their homes PRIOR TO the first day and KEPT OUT during the 7 days.
- PRIOR TO the Feast all leavening was to be removed from homes. Why?
 - The meaning is clear: eliminating leavening = eliminating sin from our lives. As we saw in 1 Cor. 5:1-8 leavening is a symbol for sin. The reality is that sin is removed from our lives through repentance and the cleansing blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as pictured by the Passover. Only after leavening has been eliminated can Christ, the Unleavened Bread, be received into our lives.
 - During the Feast leavened bread was to be KEPT OUT of their homes. Why?
 - The meaning is clear: keeping leavening out = keeping sin out of our lives. Sin is so deceitful it can creep back into our lives; we have to be vigilant to keep it out. I want you to think about the process of leavening for a moment. Dough, left in the open, can become leavened by simply attracting yeast spores floating in the air. Satan, the prince of the power of the air, constantly seeks to leaven us (Ephesians 2:1-2). He did this to Adam and Eve when he injected into their minds thoughts contrary to God’s command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. Every sin starts as a lustful thought contrary to God; if it is dwelled upon it gives rise to sinful actions (James 1:14-15). God exhorts us to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- 3) Anyone who ate leavening during the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread was to die. Why?
- The meaning is clear: eating leavening symbolizes rejecting the Messiah and returning to a sinful way of life. Heb 10:26-39 says, “If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but instead a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has rejected the Spirit of grace? For we know the Lord has said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, I shall have no pleasure in him. Please do not draw back and bring upon yourself destruction.”

Here are some examples of leavening that must be removed from our lives.

- Self-righteous judgment = judging others without judging myself first; judging according to my standards instead of God’s standards (Mat 7:1-5 Judge not, that you be not judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with whatever measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again. How can you say to your brother, “Let me pull the mote out of your eye”, when there is a beam in your own eye? You hypocrite, first cast out the beam from your own eye; and then you can see clearly enough to pull the mote out of your brother’s eye. John 7:24 Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment).
- Malice/Maliciousness = having an ill will towards someone; the desire to hurt someone without just cause (Acts 8:18-23 When Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him “Your money perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent of this maliciousness, and pray that God forgives the thought of your heart. For I perceive that you are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.” Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, evil speaking,

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and malice be put away from you: be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.)

- An unforgiving spirit = a heart that is not willing to cancel a debt someone owes us. God sent his Son to die for us so that our sin could be atoned for completely. God wants us to imitate Him and cultivate the forgiving spirit. When Jesus gave His disciple the pattern of prayer one of the highlights was “forgive us our debts [sins] as we forgive our debtors”. Jesus also gave a parable about a man with an unforgiving heart. (Mat 18:21-35 Then came Peter to Jesus and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? seven times? Jesus said to him, not just seven times: but seventy times seven. The kingdom of heaven likened to a king taking account of his servants. When one was brought to him that owed ten thousand talents but couldn't pay, the king commanded that the servant, his wife, children and all that he had be sold so that payment could be made. The servant begged the king to have patience with him, promising to pay the entire debt. Then the king was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his coworkers, which owed him a hundred pence: and he took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe. And his coworker begged him, saying, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. But he would not, instead casting his coworker into prison until the debt was paid off. So when witnesses saw what was done, they were very upset, and told the king. Then the king called the wicked servant saying, I forgave you all that debt, because you begged me: Shouldn't you also have had compassion on your coworker? And the king was angry, and delivered the wicked servant to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due to him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do to you, if you from your heart do not forgive every one of your brothers).
- Hypocrisy = pretending to be what one is not; for example, a man sows half an acre of corn and brags to his friend that he has five acres of corn on his farm because he wants to appear as a big shot. But that man will only reap a half-acre of corn because God is not mocked; whatever we sow we shall reap. (Contrast the hypocritical Pharisees with Nathaniel, who had no guile ---Mat 23:1-31; John 1:47).
- Gossip/backbiting = speaking harmful words, especially behind someone's back. Our goal should be to say in public only what we would say to a person face to face. Bad news travels faster than good news so we should be careful what we say. King David asked a thought-provoking question about who will dwell in the tabernacle of God. God's answer is: “He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. He that doesn't backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor (Ps 15:2-3). It is always good to apply the **rotary** four-way test to what seems to be gossip: Is it the truth? Is it fair? Will it build goodwill and friendship? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? If we view every one we come in contact with as our neighbor we ought to treat them right and be mindful of what we say. Our speech should be seasoned with grace for the edification of others and not to degrade others.

4) On the 1st and 7th days they were to have congregational worship services. Why?

- The meaning will become clear: **congregation** = an assemblage of people at an appointed time. It is derived from two uses: a) the people who assemble, as in Exo 12:19 where the Hebrew word for congregation is “edah”, and b) the place and time when people assemble, as in Exo 29:42 where the Hebrew word for congregation is “mow'ed”. To get a fuller sense of how “mow'ed” is used, let's look at Gen 18:14. “Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the **time appointed** [mow'ed] I will return to you, and Sarah shall have a son.” Skip to Gen 21:2. “Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son, at the **set time** [mow'ed] of which God had spoken to him.” Now it should be clear: God makes appointments on His calendar to assemble with His people. We should make sure that we assemble at those set times.

5) On the 1st and 7th days they were to rest from their works, except meal preparation. Why?

- The meaning is clear: **resting on these holy days** proves they are annual Sabbaths --- times when special attention is paid to all that God is and is doing (Gen. 2:2-3; Lev 23:2-8).

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- 6) On the 1st day they were delivered from Egypt into a new land and life.
- Ex 13:8-9 When the time comes say this to your son: "I keep this Feast because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt; for with a strong hand the LORD brought me out of Egypt, that the Lord's law may be in my mouth." Col 1:13, 10 God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son ... that we might walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work.
 - The meaning is clear: ***we are delivered from kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God***, not by our own strength, but by the miraculous power of God, for the purpose of living according to God's Law. It's no mere coincidence that Messiah died on the Passover and was resurrected during The Feast of Unleavened Bread. Heb. 2:14-15 The Son of God became flesh and blood that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 1 Cor 15:3-22 Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again three days later according to the scriptures. Therefore, as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 7) Israel was to keep this feast forever.
- The Israelites in Moses' time kept the Feast.
 - The Israelites in Jesus' time --- as well as Jesus and His disciples --- kept the Feast (Mat 26:17-19 The day before the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to him, Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say to him, The Master says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover).
 - The apostle Paul and Christians of his time kept the Feast (1 Cor 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened lump. After all, that's why Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth).
 - The whole world will keep the all of the 7 Annual Feast Days when Yeshua returns to the earth to establish God's Kingdom (Zec 14:9-19 The LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. And it shall come to pass, that every one 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 to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoever does not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles).

In Conclusion, we've seen that Unleavened Bread pictures Christ in us. Jesus is the Bread of Life; we need to derive our daily strength to overcome sin by making this unleavened bread the mainstay of our diet through daily prayer and Bible study.

Now I want us to focus on Jesus' last Passover, and on the DUB following His crucifixion, and on the following Pentecost. But what does your 7 annual appointments with God have to do with Jesus' last Passover, and with UB, and with Pentecost? Well, the simple fact is that God kept His appointment with Jesus on **Passover**, and during the **Days of Unleavened Bread**, and God kept His appointment with 120 of Jesus' disciples on **Pentecost**. These were 3 historic POINTS IN TIME (appointments) when God fulfilled major prophecies. Do you think that maybe God is going to keep His appointment with you on one or more of the 4 remaining POINTS IN TIME? You better believe that God will be on time; the real question is: will you be on time to meet with God?

Let's look at God's appointment book and see what He did on Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. First we will look at real old appointments from 3500 years ago. Then we'll look at newer appointments from 2000 years ago. The former is a pattern for the latter. One is a type of the other. What God did for Israel 3500 years ago He did for the Church 2000 years ago.

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Exo 12:1 - 5 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be to you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak you to all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the 10th day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb ... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.

Each household, not some priest, had the responsibility of killing, cleaning and cooking their own 1 year old lamb.

Exo 12:6 And you shall keep it up until the 14th day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Keep it **until the beginning of the 14th** means at the going down of the sun (Deut. 16:6 "At the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there **thou shall sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun**"). The evening begins the 24 hour day in God's eyes. For the sake of discussion, let's put a time of 6pm for sunset.

*Exo 12:7 – 10 And they shall **take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. And you shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remains of it until the morning you shall burn with fire.***

In that same night, before midnight when the death angel came to kill the firstborn, they put the blood on the door posts and ate the Passover Lamb. It's very possible to do this in 6 hours.

*Exo 12:11-13 And thus shall you eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S Passover. For **I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.***

The blood of the lamb covering the door posts was the sign to the death angel to PASS OVER those houses.

*Exo 12:21-23 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and **none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.** For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.*

No Israelite was to leave their house until the morning of the 14th or else they would die despite having the blood on the door posts!!! So they couldn't have left Egypt the night of the 14th.

*Exo 12:24 – 31 And it shall come to pass, when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that you shall observe this service. It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. And it came to pass, that **at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.** And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both you and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.*

Either Pharaoh sent word to Moses or he visited Moses at Moses' house, because Moses definitely didn't come outside that night; Moses didn't go outside until the morning (for the sake of discussion let's say 6am --- about the time of sunrise).

Exo 12:33 - 36 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent to them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

This is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Exo. 11:1-3. So, **between 6am – 5:59pm, which is the daylight portion of the 14th, the Israelites took what they wanted from the Egyptians and prepared to leave Egypt.**

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Everything dealing with the PASS OVER was accomplished on the 14th --- nothing regarding Passover occurred on the 15th.

To repeat, these are the things that happened in sequence on the 14th.

- **Keep the lamb from the 10th until the beginning of the 14th**
- **Sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun**
- **Take the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**
- **I will pass through the land of Egypt this night --- at midnight**
- **None of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning**
- **During the daylight portion of the 14th, the Israelites spoiled the Egyptians and prepared to leave Egypt**

Now let's discuss the 15th --- which is the first day of Unleavened Bread. As a prelude, please turn to Lev 23:6-8. "On the 15th day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the LORD: 7 days you must eat unleavened bread. In the first and seventh days you shall have an holy convocation: you shall do no servile work therein." Now let's go to our timeline in Ex 12.

*Exo 12:14 – 17 And this day shall be to you for a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And you shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; **for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt:** therefore shall you observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.*

Clearly, what occurred on the 15th, the first day of Unleavened Bread, was Israel left Egypt! Let's prove this beyond a shadow of doubt by reading Num 33:3. "Observe the month of Abib ... for in the month of Abib the LORD **thy God brought you out of Egypt by night; And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the 15th day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out** with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians."

For a second witness, let's hear the testimony of Exo 12:40-42 "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed to the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations."

The night to be much observed is the night Israel came out of Egypt --- Abib 15.

After Passover and the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread, the next in God's appointment book is Pentecost. For a look at what happened on that day 3500 years ago, please turn to Exo 19.

Exo 19:1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. VV. 10-11 And the LORD said to Moses, Go to the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

Jewish Tradition says that the 10 Commandments were given on Pentecost.

Okay, those were three of the 7 annual appointments God kept with Israel 3500 years ago. Now let's see what God did 1500 years later when He kept His appointments with Jesus and 120 of His disciples.

To understand the sequence of events that occurred during the last week of Jesus' life, we must recognize that in Jesus' time, the Israelites were accustomed to calling Passover the Days of Unleavened Bread, and to calling the Days of Unleavened Bread Passover. In other words, because there's no break in days between Passover and Unleavened Bread, and because Unleavened Bread was eaten during the Passover meal, the names of the two separate Feasts had become interchangeable. *Luke 22:1 reads, "Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover."*

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But make no mistake, God makes it abundantly clear that the two separate Feasts are two separate Feasts! Let's read *Lev 23:5-6*. "*In the 14th day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover. And on the 15th day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the LORD: seven days you must eat unleavened bread.*" Unless you understand this point --- that Passover and Unleavened Bread are two separate Feasts but the names are used interchangeably, you will imagine that there are contradictions in the scriptures. But I will show you how the last week of Christ's life and the birth of the Church followed the same exact sequence of events as the last week of Israel's life in Egypt and the birth of Israel as a free nation.

To do this, our starting point will be *John 12:1*. "*Jesus came to Bethany six days before the Passover [which is really the first day of Unleavened Bread]*". The first day of UB is on the 15th; 6 days before that would be the 9th.

The Crucifixion Week unfolded as follows (note: shaded areas are night portion of the day as God reckons a day from sunset):

# of Days	God's Days	Man's Days	Scriptures	Events
6 til UB	Abib 09	Thursday		
	Abib 09	Friday	John 12:1	6 days before the first day of UB and 5 days before Passover, Jesus comes to Bethany.
5 til UB	Abib 10	Friday		
	Abib 10	Saturday	John 12:12-15	5 days before the first day of UB and 4 days before Passover, Jesus, the Lamb of God triumphantly enters Jerusalem. This is when the unblemished lamb was set apart (Ex 12:3-5). This is Palm Sabbath --- not Palm Sunday.
4 til UB	Abib 11	Saturday		4 days before the first day of UB; 3 days before Passover.
	Abib 11	Sunday		
3 til UB	Abib 12	Sunday	Mat 26:2	You know that after 2 days is the Passover, and the Son of man will be crucified.
	Abib 12	Monday		3 days before the first day of UB; 2 days before Passover.
2 til UB	Abib 13	Monday	See below	2 days before the first day of UB; 1 day before Passover.
	Abib 13	Tuesday	Mat 26:17-19	During the daylight portion of the day preceding the Passover, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to him, Where do you want for us to prepare to eat the Passover? And He said, Go into the city to such a man, and say to him, The Master said, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover. This would have been sometime before sunset.

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1 til UB	Abib 14 Passover begins	Tuesday	Luke 22:14-20	And when the hour [evening/sunset (Mat 26:20 “Now when the evening was come, he sat down with the twelve.”)] was come, Jesus sat down with the twelve apostles. And he said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say to you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave to them, saying, This is my body that is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.
			Mat 26:30	And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
			Mat 26:45-50	Then cometh he to his disciples, and said to them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. Probably around midnight, the same time the death angel passed over the Israelites in ancient times, Jesus was symbolically slain. And while he spoke, Judas Iscariot came with a great multitude having swords and sticks, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said to him, Friend, why have you come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.
			Mat 26:56 – 75	<p>“Then all the disciples forsook Jesus, and fled. And Jesus’ captors led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council sought two false witnesses whose stories would agree against Jesus so that they could put him to death; But they had difficulty finding two until finally two false witnesses said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest said to Jesus, tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said to him, You said it: Hereafter you shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then they spit in his face, pushed him around, and slapped him, Saying, Prophecy to us, Oh Christ, Who hit you?”</p> <p>[While this is happening, Peter denies Jesus three times]. “And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered what Jesus said to him: Before the cock crows, you shall deny me three times.” [Cocks crow as morning is arriving. Perhaps this was around 5am --- before sunrise].</p>
			John 18:28	“Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment: and it was early [perhaps 5:30am --- still before sunrise]; and they didn’t go into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; because they wanted to eat the Passover.” [they ate at the end of the 14 th].

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Abib 14	Wednesday	Mat 27:1-2	<p>“When the morning was come [6 a.m.], all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.”</p>
Passover continues		Lk 23:1 - 17	<p>“And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. And Pilate asked him, saying, Are you the King of the Jews? And Jesus answered him and said, You said it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. And the multitude were more fierce, saying, He stirs up the people beginning from Galilee to this place. When Pilate heard of Galilee, he knew that Jesus belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, and he sent him to Herod. Herod questioned Jesus but didn't get any answers. So Herod mocked him by arraying him in a gorgeous robe, then sent Jesus to back to Pilate. And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, said to them, You have brought this man to me, as one that perverts the people: I, having examined him before you but have found no fault; neither does Herod. I will whip him and then release him.” [The Jews had a custom that a Jewish prisoner had to be released on the Feast of Passover. We can prove that it was on Passover day and not during the Feast of Unleavened Bread].</p>
		John 18:38 – 19:3	<p>“Pilate said to the Jews, I find no fault at all in Jesus. But you have a custom that I should release to you someone at the Passover. Do you want me to release the King of the Jews? No, they yelled, Not this man, but Barabbas (even though Barabbas was a robber). Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. Then soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they punched Jesus with their hands.”</p> <p>[All of this happened before 9am].</p>
		Mark 15:17-25, 33-37	<p>“And when they had mocked Jesus, they took off the purple robe from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to be crucified. And they compelled Simon a Cyrenian, to bear his cross. And they brought Jesus to Golgotha and gave him wine mingled with myrrh for a drink: but He refused it. And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him.” [9 a.m.]</p> <p>“And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.” [12 noon – 3 p.m.] “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the breath of life.” [Jesus died at 3pm on Wed afternoon = the daylight portion of the Passover day].</p>

Let's pause so that I can recap the exact correlation between events that occurred on Israel's first Passover and events that occurred on Israel's last Passover during Jesus' life.

FIRST PASSOVER: A lamb was set apart on the 10th day of Abib and kept until the beginning of the 14th day for the purpose of examining the lamb for 4 days to ensure it's pureness.

LAST PASSOVER: The Lamb of God entered Jerusalem on the 10th day of Abib --- Palm Saturday, and was examined for 4 days to see if He could be convicted of a crime and crucified. No one found guilt in the Son of Man. And even on the 14th day --- the Passover, Pilate and Herod proclaimed Jesus' innocence 4 times.

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FIRST PASSOVER: The Israelites ate the Passover at the start of the 14th --- during the night portion of the day.

LAST PASSOVER: Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples at the start of the 14th --- during the night portion of the day.

Please listen very carefully to this next point of discussion. We are about to talk about Jesus being taken down from the cross and buried, then being resurrected 3 days and 3 nights later. Virtually everyone that knows anything about Christianity believes that Jesus was crucified on a Friday and was resurrected on a Sunday morning. This is absolutely false! **This Satanic lie of a Friday crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection is one of the greatest deceptions the Devil has gotten people to swallow!!!** It is diabolical because it makes a mockery of Jesus' true statement that the only sign of His Messiahship is that He would be "3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a fish." (Matt 12:40). It is impossible to get 3 days and 3 nights into a crucifixion on Friday and a resurrection on Sunday morning. So why do people believe this lie?

This next set of scriptures is what trips people up. And it happens because the overwhelming majority of Christians don't understand God's 7 Annual Appointments. You have an incredible opportunity within your reach to tear down Satan's veil of deception if you grasp the understanding of what I'm about to prove to you. The first point the Devil has deceived people on is the "Preparation Day". When the scripture says "Preparation Day", what does it mean? Simply put, it means the day to prepare for the Sabbath. In Mark 15:42 we read, "When the evening was come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath ...". Since there are 52 weekly Sabbaths per year that are observed on Saturdays, there will be 52 weekly Preparation Days that are observed on Fridays. But here's where the power to break Satan's deception comes in: there are also 7 Annual Sabbaths per year that usually DON'T fall on a Saturday; therefore, the 7 Annual Preparation Days usually WON'T fall on a Friday! Can we prove this from scripture? Yes we can!

Let's read about a weekly Preparation Day first.

Exo 16:4-5 "Then said the LORD to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not. And it shall come to pass, that on the **sixth day** they shall **prepare** that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." Verse 23 "And Moses said to the congregation, The LORD said, **Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath** unto the LORD." Verses 25-30 "And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a Sabbath unto the LORD: to day you shall not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said to Moses, How long refuse you to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the Sabbath, therefore he gives you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide you every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day."

Now let's read about an annual Preparation Day.

John 19:31-42 "The Jews therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (**for that Sabbath day was a high day,**) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away... Now in the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, wherein no man had yet laid. There they laid Jesus because of the Jews' Preparation Day; for the tomb was very close by."

What does "high day" mean, and to what Sabbath does this "high day" pertain? A "high day" is one of the 7 Annual Sabbaths listed in Lev. 23. (v.7) = 1st Day of Unleavened Bread; (v.8) = 7th Day of Unleavened Bread; (v.21) = Pentecost; (v.24) = Trumpets; (v.27-32) = Atonement; (v.34-35) = 1st Day of the Feast of Tabernacles; (v.39) = The Last Great Day.

Because we know that Jesus was crucified on the Passover day, and because we know that the Passover is the day immediately preceding the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread, we know that this "high day" spoken of in John's gospel was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And as we have proven earlier, this Passover day happened to be on a Wed. In summary, the Passover is a Preparation Day for the High Sabbath day that is the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread. And in this particular year, the daylight portion of the Passover when Messiah died fell on what we call the daylight portion of Wednesday. So the Annual High Sabbath day that is the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread began at sunset on what we call the beginning of the nighttime portion of Wednesday, and continued for 24 hours until sunset on what we call the beginning of the nighttime portion of Thursday.

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Now that we have smashed Satan's deception that the Preparation Day is always on a Friday, and revealed the truth that a Preparation Day can be on any day of the week, let us proceed with the resurrection of Jesus the Christ and prove that it occurred after He was in the heart of the earth for *3 days and 3 nights* exactly as He said He would.

John 19:30-33 "When Jesus received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit. The Jews therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they did not brake his legs." Luke 23:50-54 "There was a man named Joseph of Arimathea, who waited for the kingdom of God (he had not consented to the counsel and deed of the Jews). This man went to Pilate and begged for the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a nearby tomb that was hewn in stone, wherein never before was a man laid to rest. He hurried because the Preparation Day was nearing an end and the Sabbath drew on." (see also John 19:42).

Sometime between 3-6pm Joseph takes Jesus from the cross to bury him nearby before the Sabbath of the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread. **JESUS, THE PASSOVER LAMB, WAS IN THE GRAVE BEFORE ABIB 15. EVERYTHING ABOUT THE PASSOVER IN THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENT WAS COMPLETED ON THE PASSOVER!!!**

# of Days	God's Days	Man's Days	Scriptures	Events
1 in tomb	Abib 15 1 st Day of UB begins	Wednesday	Mat 27:62 - 64	Wednesday evening (after 6pm) begins Abib 15 = the 1 st Day of Unleavened Bread. "Now the next day that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees went together to Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the tomb be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say to the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first." Wed evening to Thur evening is the first 24 hours Jesus is resting in the grave.
	Abib 15 1 st DUB ends at sunset	Thursday		No work would be done because this is an annual Sabbath day. This is when people would be in the synagogues for their Holy convocations.
2 in tomb	Abib 16	Thursday		Thur evening to Fri evening is the 2 nd 24 hrs.
	Abib 16	Friday	Mark 16:1 Luke 23:56	"And when the [annual] Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Jesus." "And they [several women] returned, <i>and prepared spices and ointments</i> ; and then they rested the [weekly] Sabbath day according to the commandment."
3 in tomb	Abib 17	Friday		Wkly Sabbath begins. Fri evening to Sat evening is the 3 rd 24 hrs.
	Abib 17 Victory!	Saturday	Mat. 12:40	Jesus exits the tomb 3 days and 3 nights after his burial. 3 days & 3 nights = 72 hrs. So Jesus was resurrected sometime between 5 - 6pm on the weekly Sabbath (Saturday).

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1 st day of 50 in count to Pentecost	Abib 18	Saturday		<p>Now we start counting 50 days to Pentecost. Counting starts on the day after the WEEKLY Sabbath; the day after the WEEKLY Sabbath means the 24 hours commencing after sunset on Saturday through sunset on Sunday. And this Sunday HAS to be DURING the Days of Unleavened Bread. The pivotal event is the Wave Sheaf offering. This was the first of the firstfruits; in other words, this Wave Sheaf was the first grain picked, and if it was ACCEPTED as good, then the rest of the firstfruits would also be accepted!</p>
			Lev 23:10 – 11, 15 – 16	<p>“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to 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. And you shall count from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: Even until the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number fifty days.”</p>
				<p>Christ is called the First of the Firstfruits because He is the First to be resurrected from the dead to eternal life. He is also the First and only human to live a perfectly sinless / righteous life. So Christ has earned the right to have the preeminence over all other humans.</p>
			1 Cor 15:20 – 23	<p>“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”</p>
			Col 1:18	<p>“Messiah is the head of the body, the body being the church: Messiah is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”</p>
			Rom 8:22 – 23	<p>“For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”</p>
			James 1:18	<p>“Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.</p> <p>Notice how Christ had to be “Waved” before and accepted by the Father on the morrow after the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread (Sunday morning). Only then could He be touched by others. Only then could He dwell in others through the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>

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	Abib 18	Sunday	Mat 28:1	<p>“After the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb.”</p>
			Mark 16:2	<p>“Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, certain women came to the tomb at the rising of the sun.”</p>
			Luke 24:1	<p>“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.”</p>
			Jn. 20:1	<p>“Early the first day of the week, when it was yet dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw the stone taken away from the tomb.”</p> <p>The Son of God had already risen before the Sun had arisen on Sunday. Yeshua was NOT resurrected on Sunday around 6am = sunRISE. As proven earlier, He came out of the tomb --- the “heart of the earth” --- around 6pm on Saturday evening just before sunSET.</p>
			Jn 20:17	<p>Later that day, Jesus, the Wave Sheaf offering, said to Mary “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say to them, I ascend to my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” Still later that day, Jesus, after He had been ACCEPTED by God as the first of the firstfruits, appears to the disciples and allowed them to touch Him.</p>
			John 20:18-20	<p>“Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things to her. <i>Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week</i>, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.”</p>
			Luke 24:36-39	<p>“As the disciples were conversing with one another, Jesus stood in the midst of them, and said to them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified, supposing that they had seen a spirit. The LORD asked them, Why are you troubled? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: HANDLE me [VERIFY BY CONTACT that it is me]; for a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones, as you see me have.”</p> <p>In summary, if we follow the example revealed during the crucifixion week, we will start counting the 50 days to Pentecost on the day <i>after the weekly Sabbath</i>, i.e. Sunday. And this Sunday has to be during Unleavened Bread. God says to count 7 Sabbaths plus one day to get 50 days = Pentecost. That means that Pentecost will always fall on a Sunday.</p>
Days 2-49	Acts 1:1-5 “I am writing all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He had given commandments to the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, <u>being seen of them 40 days</u> , and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Jesus commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”			
50 th day	Pentecost begins	Saturday		
	Pentecost continues	Sunday	Acts 2:1-4	<p>“When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”</p>

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Well, there you have it ... a pretty comprehensive timeline of the events that happened on Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost during ancient Israel's initial appointments with God, and during the disciples' last appointments with God in the flesh. Our Heavenly Father did some pretty awesome things on those three Feast days. I sure am glad that God always keeps His appointments. He's never late; He never postpones them; He never misses them. How about you? Are you ready to keep your 7 annual appointments with God?

The simple fact is that God kept His appointment with ancient Israel on Passover when He slew the firstborn of the Egyptians and spared the Israelites that had the blood of a lamb covering their homes. God kept His appointment with ancient Israel on Unleavened Bread when He freed Israel from slavery and brought them out of Egypt. God kept His appointment with ancient Israel on Pentecost when He gave them His 10 Commandments written on 2 tables of stone. God kept His appointment with Jesus on **Passover** when He used Him as The Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. God kept His appointment with Jesus during the **Days of Unleavened Bread** when He accepted Jesus as the Wave Sheaf offering --- the First of the Firstfruits. And God kept His appointment with 120 of Jesus' disciples on **Pentecost** when He gave them His Holy Spirit so that the 10 Commandments could be written on the 2 tables of their hearts and minds. These were 3 historic POINTS IN TIME (appointments) when God fulfilled major prophecies. Don't you think that God is going to fulfill major prophecies during the 4 remaining POINTS IN TIME?

Let's now turn our attention to the 4 remaining points in time. These Holy Days are prophetic in nature.

The 4 remaining Holy Days are the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. First we'll learn the lessons God wants to teach us through the Feast of Trumpets.

TRUMPETS

Lev 23:24 "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the 7th month, in the 1st day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation."

Trumpets were blown in Israel for 4 reasons, and they all have deep spiritual significance for God's Church today:

- 1) Group Gatherings
- 2) Waging of Wars
- 3) Ceremonial Celebrations
- 4) Coronation of Kings

Num 10:1-10 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps. And when they shall blow with them, *all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation* {Gatherings}. And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward. When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys. But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm. And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations. *And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets* {Wars}; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a *memorial before your God* {Ceremonies}: I am the LORD your God."

We don't see the Coronation of Kings in these verses, so let's go to the historical account of Solomon's coronation.

1 Ki 1:32-39 "And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and *blow ye with the trumpet*, and say, God save king Solomon. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

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So Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them."

Group Gatherings (spiritual lessons)

Mat 24:29-31 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall *gather together His elect* from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Why are the elect gathered together? It is for a resurrection and reunion. When will the resurrection of the saints occur?

Rev 8:1-2 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." Rev 8:6-7 "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded ..."

Rev 11:15-17 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned."

1 Cor 15:50-54 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

1 Cor 15:20-23 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Th 4:13-17 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which 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 which 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."

Why do we meet the Lord in the air? It is for the marriage to the Lord.

Rev 19:6-9 "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."

What is the first thing the Lord will do after His marriage to the Church?

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Waging of Wars (spiritual lessons)

Rev 19:11-21 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

Rev 17:12-14 “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Notice how this event is signaled by the blowing of a trumpet.

Joel 2:1 “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”

Coronation of Kings (spiritual lessons)

Rev 8:2 “And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Rev 11:15-18 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”

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Rev 5:2-10 “And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Rev 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

But God's Kingdom doesn't end after 1,000 years. The fact is --- it never ends!

Isa 9:6-7 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

After Jesus puts all human and angelic rule in subjection under Himself, He will turn over all things to the Father.

1 Cor 15:23-28 “But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

The last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation, tells us the end of the story in these words.

Rev 21:1-5, 22-27 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

Ceremonial Celebrations (spiritual lessons)

Psa 150:1-6 “Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”

Psa 81:1-3 “To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of Asaph. Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, *on our solemn feast day.*”

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

The Feast of Trumpets is the only feast day that falls on a new moon.

Col 2:16-17 “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

This same sentiment of “not judging” our brothers and sisters in the faith as it regards non-salvation issues, is echoed in the book of Romans.

Rom 14:1-13 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things (meat): another, who is weak, eateth herbs (vegetarian). Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Love must rule the day.

ATONEMENT

Lev 23:27-32 “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. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.”

In this context, “Afflict your soul” means to fast, which means not eating or drinking for 24 hours.

Afflict is from Greek word “anah”, and means “to press the flesh down”, or “to submit the self to a weakened state.” This is certainly done by fasting. Fast is from the Greek word “tsuwm”, and means “to cover the mouth”.

Isa 58:3-5 “Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?”

What are the purposes of fasting? There are 3 purposes:

- Fasting Demonstrates the Love of God
- Fasting Demonstrates the Power of God
- Fasting Demonstrates the Need for God

1. Fasting Demonstrates the Love of God

I want to show you a contrast between self-righteousness and righteousness. Self-righteousness is often doing the right thing for the wrong reason. Righteousness is doing the right thing for the right reason. First, let's see self-righteousness.

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Isa 58:3-5 “Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?”

Okay, we’ve seen self-righteousness. Now let’s see righteousness.

Isa 58:6-11 “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shall thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shall cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

Notice that Jesus did the right thing for the right reason. Jesus fasted, and Jesus demonstrated the Love of God.

Luke 4:16-19 “Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

On the Day of Atonement, one of God’s expectations is that we fast. As I’ve proven, Fasting Demonstrates the Love of God. It’s also true that The Year of Jubilee demonstrates the love of God. Exactly how does The Year of Jubilee demonstrate the love of God? Another question: did you know that The Year of Jubilee starts on the Day of Atonement?

Lev 25:8-10 “Count 7 Sabbaths of years [7 days are in a week, with the 7th day being the Sabbath; 7 Sabbaths / 7 weeks = 49 days], seven times seven years [49 years]; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be equal to 49 years. Then shall you cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the 10th day of the 7th month, in the day of atonement shall you make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the 50th year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession [debt relief], and ye shall return every man unto his family [emancipation proclamation; free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty we are free at last! God is the ultimate abolitionist!].”

This confirms what I said: The Year of Jubilee demonstrates the Love of God, and the Year of Jubilee starts on the Day of Atonement, and the Day of Atonement is a day on which we fast. Let’s put these three threads together to see a theme.

Is it possible that Jesus started His public ministry --- a ministry of love --- near the Day of Atonement during the Year of Jubilee? Let’s review Yeshua’s first recorded public message. And keep in mind that this is soon after completing 40 days of fasting. Please turn to Luke 4:16-19 “Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And there was delivered to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to *preach the gospel to the poor*; he hath sent me to *heal the brokenhearted*, to *preach deliverance to the captives*, and *recovering of sight to the blind*, to *set at liberty them that are bruised*, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” This is definitely a jubilee message. When this message was delivered, what time of the year was it?

The Day of Atonement is in the 7th month of the year. Jesus was born in the 7th month of the year. He was born 6 months after his cousin John the Baptist, and John was born in the 1st month of the year during the course of the Priest Abia (Luke 1). Jesus’ public ministry began when He was 30 years old. This would put the time in the 7th month. His public ministry ended 3 ½ years later when He was crucified on Passover day --- which is in the 1st month of the year (from the 7th month to the 12th month is five months; the next month --- a total of six --- is the 1st month of the year. We see that the timing and the language of the Luke 4 sermon definitely points to Jesus’ public ministry beginning around the Day of Atonement during a Jubilee Year.

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

So what does this mean?

I believe that when Yeshua Ha Messiah returns to earth, ie. At His 2nd Coming, His second public ministry will begin on the Day of Atonement in a Jubilee Year. As I've said numerous times, you can understand prophecy when you understand God's 7 Annual Holy Days. Jesus was crucified on Passover; Christ was resurrected and accepted by the Father during the Days of Unleavened Bread; Adonai sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; The Feast of Trumpets foreshadows the triumphant return of the King with His resurrected saints when the 7th Trumpet is sounded. And the Day of Atonement, in part, foreshadows freedom from enslavement to Satan! God is the ultimate abolitionist. We will all sing this song: "Free at last, Free at last, Thank God Almighty, We are Free at last!!!"

No man or woman knows the day and hour when Jesus Christ will return to this earth. Jesus told His disciples this four times in Mat. 24. Do you know what else Jesus told His disciples in that same chapter? The answer might surprise you.

Mat 24:32-33 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: likewise, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." What are "these things", and what "is near, even at the doors"?

These Things

Mat 24:15-16 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand), then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." The Temple and Temple sacrifices will be restored by the Jews. The False Prophet and the Beast will defile and desolate the Temple and Temple sacrifices. This will ignite the Great Tribulation!

Mat 24:21 "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." There will be a great flood of deception to follow as the Mark of the Beast is enforced.

Mat 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." These False Signs and Lying Wonders will be counteracted by Divine Miracles.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

It is near, even at the doors

Mat 24:30 "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Let's read Mat 24:32-33 again. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: likewise, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." We can't know exactly when Christ's 2nd Coming will occur, but we can know when it is about to occur. It's just like Christ's 1st Coming. No one knew the exact day or hour, but a few knew the day and hour was near.

What else can help us know the day and hour is near, even at the doors? A knowledge of God's 7-step plan of salvation as revealed by His 7 annual Holy Days. Col. 2:16-17 says that the Holy Days are a shadow of things to come. Passover pointed to the real thing of receiving forgiveness of sins thru the blood of the Lamb of God; Unleavened Bread pointed to the real thing of receiving righteousness thru the Bread of Life; Pentecost / Firstfruits pointed to the real thing of receiving the Divine Nature of God thru the Holy Spirit; Feast of Trumpets points to the real thing of receiving eternal life in a resurrected glorified body; and Atonement points to the real thing of the World receiving debt relief and freedom thru Messiah. Today I want to continue our discussion of the Day of Atonement. As you remember, the Day of Atonement is a day on which people fast. It is also the day on which the Year of Jubilee begins. How do these two things help us to know that "it is near, even at the doors?"

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Consider that Jesus fasted 40 days. Why? Let's look at a couple of examples of where 40 is used to get some clues to the answer. Israel spied out the Promised Land for 40 days. God gave them time to see what was in the land so that He could see what was in their hearts. They were tried and tested; too bad they failed. Because 10 of the 12 spies concluded that God's promise wasn't worth the breath it was spoken with, God made Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years --- one year for each of the 40 days of spying out the land. During those 40 years God tried and tested Israel to see if they would faithfully follow Him. Frankly, they failed. Of course, just prior to the 40 years of wilderness wandering, Israel had come out of 400 years of sojourning in foreign lands. 400 is 40 x 10. Israel suffered as sojourners for 10 cycles of 40 years. We can conclude that 40 is the number symbolizing trials and testing. Jesus fasted for 40 days before defeating Satan. Is it possible that there will be 40 Jubilee Years (2000 years) before Satan is dethroned? There were approximately 2000 years between Adam and Abraham; 2000 years between Abraham and Jesus; and there will be approximately 2000 years between Jesus' 1st & 2nd Coming! Jesus' 1st ministry likely started during a Jubilee Year, and Messiah's 2nd ministry likely will start during a Jubilee Year!

In summary, fasting demonstrates the Love of God because it shows Jesus and His followers sacrificially serving suffering sinners. We die to ourselves that others may live.

2. Fasting Demonstrates the Power of God

Mat 17:14-21 "When Jesus and His disciples encountered a certain multitude, a certain man asked the Lord to have mercy on his son, saying: he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: he often falls into the fire and into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation ... bring him to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately, asking, Why couldn't we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: if you have faith nothing shall be impossible for you. However, *this kind can't be cast out except through prayer and fasting.*"

Did you know that Satan will be cast out of the World and bound in the bottomless pit on the Day of Atonement?

The Type

Lev 16:2 "The LORD said to Moses, Speak to Aaron, warning him not to come into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; except for when I call for him, or else he will die: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat." V7-10 "Aaron shall take two goats, and present them before the LORD. He shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness." V15-16 "Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins." V20-22 "When he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place and the congregation, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the sins of the children of Israel, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send the goat away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited." V29 "This shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the 10th day of the 7th month ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all."

The Fulfillment

Rev 20:1-6 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

The Parallels

An Angel laid hold on the dragon and put him in the bottomless pit = a fit man sent the live goat into the wilderness.

The Bottomless Pit = The Wilderness (both are places of separation from the congregation).

No Deceiving the Nations = Confessing over the live goat all of the sins of the Nation (Satan is the author of sin).

The Conclusion

The Day of Atonement --- a day on which we fast --- demonstrates the power of God to destroy Satan, Sin and the Self.

3. Fasting Demonstrates the Need for God

Deut 8:2-3 “And thou shall remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, *to humble thee*, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; *that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD* doth man live.”

Mat 4:1-4 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Fasting reverses the process Adam and Eve started. They ate food in defiance of God and in submission to Satan. Jesus did the opposite and reversed the process. Jesus fasted in defiance of Satan and in submission to God. Gen 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shall surely die.” Gen 3:1-6 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Satan deceived Adam and Eve into thinking man could become God. But God reversed the process.

Instead of man becoming a god, God became a man. Philip 2:3-11 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

The 1st Adam brought in death because He rejected the Tree of Life; the 2nd Adam brought in life because He accepted the sting of death. Rom 5:12,21 “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ... even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Cor 15:22,45 “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive...And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving spirit.”

Fasting shows we have died to self and live to God; it makes us transparent; it makes God apparent. Fasting demonstrates our need for God.

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

In summary, fasting demonstrates 3 things; it:

- Demonstrates the Love of God
- Demonstrates the Power of God
- Demonstrates the Need for God

What does Atonement mean? Let's go to back to the book of Leviticus to begin to unlock the depths of its meaning.

Lev 23:27 "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."

In this verse, the Hebrew word for atonement is "**kippur**". You've heard of Yom Kippur, right? Yom means day. Yom Kippur means Day of Atonement. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible defines kippur as **the act of expiation**. Expiation sounds like a complicated word, but is simply means *to make complete satisfaction for a wrong that's been done*. We can get a much clearer connotation by looking at the root word for kippur. Kippur is taken from the root word "kaphar". "**Kaphar**" means to **cover with a substance**, *for the purpose of cleansing and reconciling*. We'll see this illuminated in the Old and New Testaments. Let's start by going to the first mention of the Day of Atonement.

Lev 16:3, 6 "Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house." **Aaron offers a bullock for his own sins.**

Lev 16:5, 15-16 "And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an **atonement** for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness." **Aaron offers a bullock for his nation's sins.**

Verses 33-34 give us a nice summary. "And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses."

Verses 29-30 give us a nice summary also. "And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD."

Now let's look at the corresponding event in the New Testament.

Heb 8:1-3 "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer." What did Christ have to offer? Yeshua, the Lamb of God, offered Himself! Let's prove this by reading verses 6-13.

Heb 9:6-13 "The priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone **once every year**, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but *by his own blood* **He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us**. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

TABERNACLES

Lev 23:34 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, The 15th day of this seventh month shall be the Feast Of Tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. {Verse 39} Also in the 15th 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 there shall be a Sabbath. {Verses 42-43} 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.”

- 15th day of month
- 7th Month
- 7 Days
- Tabernacles / Booths
- Gathered harvest / Ingathering
- Gathering the Nations
- I AM The LORD your God!

15th Day

1st Day = Trumpets. New Moon is totally dark = darkness over the world.

10th Day = Atonement. 10 = Judgment. Moon is brighter as it marches toward full light.

15th Day = Tabernacles. Full Moon is totally light = light over the world. Only time when complete light is upon the world.

The 1st day of the 7th month pictures darkness over the world after it has been destroyed by the Battle of Armageddon, and by the battle against the returning King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is similar to the way it was in the Genesis 1:2 when darkness was over the earth. But then, in Gen 1:3 God said the first order of business is to let there be light.

The 10th day of the 7th month pictures Satan, the current “God of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) being dethroned and locked up in prison (Rev 20:1-3).

The 15th day of the 7th month pictures Adonai Yeshua ha Messiah, the Light of the world, in full splendor as He rules the Earth. In Gen 1:14-17 God appointed the Sun and Moon to rule over the day and night to give light on the earth.

7th Month

Exo 23:14-16 “You shall keep a feast unto me three seasons in the year: the Feast Of Unleavened Bread in the beginning of the year; the Feast Of Firstfruits in the field in the middle of the year when you harvest what you have sown; and the Feast Of Ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when you have gathered in your labors out of the field.” Notice how this agricultural terminology is used in connection with Salvation.

James 5:7 “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receives the *early and latter rain*.”

The 7th month is considered the end of the agricultural year and is preceded by the latter rain. So the lesson we learn is that the 7th month pictures the culmination of God’s 7-step plan of Salvation. These 7 Feast Days teach us about planting seeds, watching them grow into mature plants that bear fruit, and then the harvesting of the fruit for the nourishment and life of the people. Of course, the planted seeds are the words of God. This is represented by Passover and the Wave Sheaf Offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The *early* --- and smaller --- harvest of the mature fruit-bearing plants occurred on Pentecost. And the *latter* --- and much larger --- harvest of the mature fruit-bearing plants occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Remember, the food was grown for the purpose of giving life to the Nation of Israel. This whole planting and harvesting cycle obviously pictures God sowing the “seed” of His Word into the ground of our hearts and minds. We are expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of God, until we grow up into the full measure and stature of our Lord, producing abundant fruit through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the world can have life and have it more abundantly!

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We see three themes emerging: 1) God is the Gardener; 2) The Word of God is the seed and we are the ground; 3) God sows abundantly & expects to reap abundantly.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. [v.4-5] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Mat 13:18 "Hear the parable of the sower. When any one hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and snatches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that hears the word, and with joy receives it; Yet he has no root in himself, so endures only for a while: when persecution arises because of the word, he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; but the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, and understands it and bears fruit."

2 Cor 9:6-11 "But this I say, He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causes through us thanksgiving to God. As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remains forever. Now he that gives seed to the sower will multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

Now, just like a farmer that sows seeds abundantly in fertile ground expects to reap fruit abundantly, so does God expect an abundant harvest of souls. God wants for ALL people to be saved. Right now, many are called but few are chosen. That's because right now we're in the "Pentecost" planting and harvesting stage --- this is the early and smaller harvesting period. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the latter and larger harvesting season. That's when ALL will be called and MOST will be chosen. God sows abundantly; God will reap abundantly. God is the greatest Gardener!

7 Days

7 is the Biblical number of perfection, completion and fulfillment.

In the beginning, God ordained that there would be 7 days in a week. Gen 2:2-3 "On the 7th day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the 7th day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the 7th day, and sanctified it."

Every 7th year the land was to be given complete rest so that it could be completely rejuvenated. Lev 25:2-4 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the LORD. Six years you shall sow thy field, and six years you shall prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the LORD: you shall neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard."

This 7-year land Sabbath cycle was to be repeated 7 times so that after 49 years there would be a year of jubilee, which started on the 10th day of the 7th month. Lev 25:8-10 "You shall number 7 Sabbaths of years, in other words 7 times 7 years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be 49 years. Then shall you cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the 10th day of the 7th month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the 50th year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." All debts were to be completely forgiven.

Jesus used the number 7 to admonish Peter to completely forgive those who sinned against him. Mat 18:21-22 "Peter came to Jesus, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? 7 times? Jesus said to Peter, "not just 7 times: but, 70 times 7"."

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The Levitical priests were set apart for holy use during a 7 day period. Exo 29:29-35 “The holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them. And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on 7 days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place. Thus shall you do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded you: 7 days shall you consecrate them.”

The city of Jericho completely fell into the possession of the Israelites on the 7th day. Josh 6:2-5 The LORD said to Joshua, “I have given into your hand Jericho. All the men of war shall compass the city, and march around it once. Thus shall you do six days. 7 priests shall bear before the ark 7 trumpets of rams' horns: and the 7th day ye shall compass the city 7 times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat”.

There are 7 Churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. Rev 1:4 “John, to the 7 churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the 7 Spirits which are before his throne.” Rev 1:20 “The mystery of the 7 stars which you saw in my right hand, and the 7 golden candlesticks. The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches: and the 7 candlesticks which you saw are the 7 churches.” These 7 Churches represent the complete spectrum of pluses and problems in God's people.

Revelation also talks about 7 Angels with 7 Trumpets. Rev 8:2 “I saw the 7 angels which stood before God; and to them were given 7 trumpets.” Rev 10:7 “In the days of the voice of the 7th angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God will be finished, as he has declared to his servants the prophets.” Rev 11:15 “And the 7th angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

1,000 year reign of Christ = 7th thousandth year of Mankind's existence. 2 Pet 3:8 “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” 7 days of creation = 7 thousand years. 7th Day = rest; 7th thousandth year = rest.

Tabernacles / Booths

Heb 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:9-10 “By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, **dwelling in tabernacles** with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb 11:13-16 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that **they seek a country**. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one**: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their **God: for he has prepared for them a city**.” Heb 11:37-40 “They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

1 Th 4:13-17 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which 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 which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede 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.”

Rev 19:19 – 20:6 “And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the

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souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Rev 5:9-10 “And they sung a new song, saying, You art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Gathering of Harvest

Exo 23:14-16 “Three times thou shall keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shall keep the Feast Of Unleavened Bread: (thou shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the Feast Of Firstfruits of thy harvest labors, which thou hast sown in the field: and the Feast Of Ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labors out of the field.”

Gathering the Nations

In Isa 11:4-12 it says, “With righteousness shall Messiah judge the poor: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” This is when blindness will be removed from Israelites and Gentiles.”

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- 15th day of month
- 7th Month
- 7 Days
- Tabernacles / Booths
- Gathered harvest / Ingathering
- Gathering the Nations
- I AM The LORD your God!

I AM The LORD your God

Zec 14:1-19 “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. The LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. But this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass, that every one 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 to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Mic 4:1-4 But in the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it. (2) And many nations shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem; (3) and he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (4) But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it.

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The sixth step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Feast of Tabernacles / Ingathering (similar to U.B.).

Lev 23:34 "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The 15th day of this 7th month shall be the feast of tabernacles for 7 days unto the LORD. Lev 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the 8th day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. Lev 23:39 Also in the 15th day of the 7th month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD 7 days: on the 1st day shall be a sabbath, and on the 8th day shall be a sabbath. Lev 23:41-43 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD 7 days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the 7th month. Ye shall dwell in booths 7 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."

- 15th day of month
- 7th Month
- 7 Days
- Tabernacles / Booths
- Gathered harvest / Ingathering
- Gathering the Nations
- I AM The LORD your God!

This next passage of scripture concisely captures and summarizes what we've been talking about.

Micah 4:1-7 "In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it [*Perfection arrives*]. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem [*Ingathering for Salvation*]. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid [*Tabernacles / Booths*]: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation [*Freedom*]. And the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever." [*I AM God*]

Tabernacles = Righteousness Reigns in the World (Sanctification)

- Old = People dwelt in temporary dwellings to teach them their need for a permanent home (Lev 23:34-43); also, this was the large harvest when most food was gathered in (Ex 23:16; 34:22).
- New = People dwell in temporary bodies of flesh to teach us our need for eternal life. In 2 Cor 5:1-4 Paul says, in speaking of his body: "We know that if our earthly tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not because we want to be unclothed, but because we want mortality to be swallowed up of life." This is what the hope of the world will be. This Feast also begins the large harvesting of the World.

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The seventh step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Last Great Day (LGD). The LGD = Resurrection of the World to Eternal Life. How can we prove this? We can analyze the 3 clues in the OT to unlock the meaning in the NT.

From Lev 23:34-36 we know for sure that the LGD commences immediately after the 7 days of the FOT ends. (34) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, The 15th day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for 7 days to Jehovah. (35) On the first day shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no work of labor. (36) On the eighth day shall be a holy convocation to you. It *is* a solemn assembly. And you shall do no work of labor."

This fact is corroborated in Neh 8:14-18. (14) "The priests found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the 7th month: (17) And all the congregation of them that were come out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Joshua the children of Israel had not done so. But now there was very great gladness. (18) Day by day, from the first day to the last day, Ezra read from the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast 7 days; and on the 8th day *was* a solemn assembly, according to the Law."

From the mouth of 2 witnesses we see that the LGD commences immediately after the 7 days of the FOT ends, which is why the LGD is called the 8th Day. In other words, the LGD is a continuation of sorts of the FOT. *This is the first clue.* In what way is it a continuation? In looking again at Neh 8:14, 17 we see that the FOT is about staying in temporary tabernacles, i.e. booths. *This is the second clue.* In looking again at Exo 34:22 we see that the FOT is about gathering in the harvest; that's why it's also called the Feast of Ingathering. *This is the third clue.* In summary, the LGD is a continuation of the two themes of the FOT, which are dwelling in temporary abodes, and gathering of the harvest.

Now we can understand the NT meaning of the 3 OT clues. Dwelling in temporary tabernacles teaches us that our bodies are temporary because they are physical, and that this world is temporary because it is physical. Gathering of the harvest teaches us that there will be a resurrection to eternal life in permanent spiritual bodies, and that there will be a new permanent world that is spiritual. And the timing of these two events is immediately after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

Let's see these truths revealed in the NT. First, let's take a look at the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead.

1 Cor 15:12-26 "If Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how come some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (18) Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. (20) But the truth is that Christ has risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. (21) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (22) As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming.** (24) Then comes the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. (25) For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. (26) The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." Keep this in mind because we'll come back to it later.

1 Cor 15:35-50 "But some will say, How are the dead raised up, and with what body do they come? (36) Don't you know that what you sow is not made alive, except it first dies? (37) And that seed that you plant, doesn't it bring back a plant that looks different from the seed? (40) Another thing to consider is that there are celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies: the glory of the celestial differs from the glory of the terrestrial. (42) So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: (43) It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: (44) It is sown a natural body; **it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (45) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was* made a living spirit. (46) Keep in mind that the physical body comes first and afterward comes the spiritual body. (47) The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. (48) As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

Everybody that has ever died is still dead --- except Jesus the Christ.
Everybody that has ever died in Christ will be resurrected at Christ's 2nd Coming.
Everybody in this resurrection will have spirit-composed eternal bodies.

What about the rest of the dead?

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Rev 20:4-5 “I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.**”

Who are the “rest of the dead”? The “rest of the dead” are obviously not the faithful martyrs who died during the Great Tribulation, for they are resurrected at the beginning of the 7th thousandth year --- which is the first year of Christ’s rule over the world as King of Kings. The “rest of the dead” aren’t the faithful followers of God that lived prior to Jesus’ first coming, for they are resurrected at Christ’s second coming. Heb 11:4-32 lists them in chronological order. “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being still dead speaks.” Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sara, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab [Joshua and Caleb aren’t mentioned but are certainly counted as faithful]. Heb 11:32 “And what more shall I say? for the time would fail me to tell of [the Judges] Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, [etc.]; of [the Kings] also, i.e. David, [Josiah, etc.] and of the prophets: Samuel, [Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.]. That brings us up to the time of Christ. But what does it say about all these people just mentioned? Heb 11:13-16 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly country: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he has prepared for them a city.” Heb 11:39-40 “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Who is the “us”? Whoever is the author of the book of Hebrews is a part of the “us”. And whoever that is is a part of the Church era. The Church is categorized as those who are called AFTER Christ’s first coming but BEFORE His second coming. So when is the Church resurrected? 1 Th 4:13-17 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep. 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 which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede 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: from then on we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Cor 15:22-23 “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”

So all of the faithful followers of God prior to Christ’s first coming --- which is from Abel to Malachi, and all of the faithful followers of God after Christ’s first coming but prior to His second coming --- which is the Church era, shall be resurrected at Christ’s second coming. So none of them / us can be considered the “rest of the dead”, as mentioned in Rev 20:4-5.

Let’s read that passage again. “I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”

Who are the “rest of the dead”?

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Ezek 37:1-27 “The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD. The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. **And David my servant shall be king over them;** and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant **David shall be their prince for ever.** Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. **My tabernacle also shall be with them for evermore: yes, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”**

This is great news for the Israelites, but what about the Gentiles?

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Everybody will inherit eternal life in the same manner. Everybody has to come through Jesus the Christ by faith.

Act 4:1-12 “As the Apostles spoke to the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, (2) Being grieved that they preached the resurrection from the dead through Jesus. (8) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, (10) Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. (11) This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we can be saved.**”

Now notice this extremely important point. John 7:37-39 reads, (37) “On the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (39) (But **He spoke this about the Spirit, which they who believed on Him should receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**)”

If the Holy Spirit had not yet been given en masse prior to Jesus’ resurrection, and if having the Holy Spirit is required for having eternal life through Jesus Christ, then what chance did the masses of people who died prior to Jesus’ glorification have for their salvation? The answer is none! And that’s the point: God HAS NOT been --- and IS NOT NOW --- trying to give Salvation to everyone in the world. God works in stages. God’s 7 annual Holy Days reveals the chronology of God’s 7 stage plan of Salvation for everyone in the world. Make no mistake about it, God does intend to offer Salvation to everyone who has ever lived, but He’s doing it according to His 7 Step Master Plan!

But some will argue: “as long as a person is good, God will do good by giving them Salvation. But God says: “I have before charged both Jews and Gentiles all with being under sin, as it is written: “There is none righteous, no not one; there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.” “They are all gone out of the way, *they* have together become unprofitable, there is none that does good, no, not one.” (Rom 3:9-12). And “We have all become as one who is unclean, and all our righteousness is as a filthy rag; and we all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (7) There is none who calls on your name, who stirs up himself to take hold of you; **for you have hid your face from us**, and have consumed us by means of our iniquities.” (Isa 64:6-7).

God has hidden His face from us from the time He kicked Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and placed Cherubim by the gates to prevent them from reentering and receiving the Holy Spirit (Tree of Life). Why did God do this? God did this so that humanity could try every conceivable method of obtaining eternal life in eternal paradise, and see how futile it is unless we believe and obey every word of God! And what has been the result of all our human efforts? Our human efforts have resulted in despair, disease, destruction and death. We are doomed to failure because of our sinful nature! Once we learn that lesson, then we’ll be humble enough to receive God’s mercy and grace. I’ll conclude by quoting **Rom 11:32-33**. “God has shut up all in unbelief, so that He might show mercy to all. (33) O *the* depth of *the* riches both of *the* wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

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Earlier we proved 3 things from the OT:

- 1) that the FOT is about staying in temporary tabernacles;
- 2) that the FOT is about gathering in the harvest; and
- 3) that the LGD commences immediately after the 7 days of the FOT ends, which is why the LGD is called the 8th Day. In other words, the LGD is a continuation of sorts of the FOT.

Subsequently we began to prove 3 things from the NT:

- 1) that dwelling in temporary tabernacles teaches us that our bodies are temporary because they are physical, and that this world is temporary because it is physical;
- 2) that gathering of the harvest teaches us that there will be a resurrection to eternal life in permanent spiritual bodies, and that there will be a new permanent world that is spiritual; and
- 3) that the timing of these two events is immediately after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

We started out by taking a look at the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, and proving that there are 2 resurrections:

- 1) the resurrection of the saints to eternal life in spirit-composed bodies at Christ's 2nd Coming; and
- 2) the resurrection of "the rest of the dead" to temporal life in physical bodies at the end of Christ's 1000 year reign on the earth.

Now we need to talk about the New Heavens and the New Earth, for this is going to be the eternal dwelling place for all those who are alive eternally.

Rev 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and Him sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And a place was not found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the small and the great, stand before God. And books were opened, and another book was opened, *which is* the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead in it. And death and hell delivered up the dead in them. And each one of them was judged according to their works. (14) And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. (15) And if anyone was not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 21:1-5 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is. (2) And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. (3) And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. (4) And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away. (5) And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.

Rev 21:10-11 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God. And its light *was* like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Rev 21:22-27 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, even the Lamb. (23) And the city had no need of the sun, nor of the moon, that they might shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. (24) And the nations of those who are saved will walk in the light of it; and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. (25) And its gates may not be shut at all by day, for there shall be no night there. (26) And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. (27) And there shall in no way enter into it anything that defiles, or any making an abomination or a lie; but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:1-5 And he showed me a pure river of Water of Life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. (2) In the midst of its street, and of the river, from here and from there, *was*

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the Tree of Life, which bore twelve fruits, each yielding its fruit according to one month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) And every curse will no longer be; but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will serve Him. (4) And they will see His face, and His name *will be* in their foreheads. (5) And there will be no night there. And they need no lamp, or light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light. And they will reign forever and ever.

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What things happened on the LGD that give us a clue as to its full meaning?

- 1) Jesus gave His “rivers of living waters” sermon.
- 2) Jesus healed a man blind from birth

Let’s start our analysis by first drinking in the meaning of the “rivers of living waters” sermon.

John 7:2, 14 shows the context as the Feast of Tabernacles. **John 7:2** “Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.” **John 7:14** “In the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.” **Joh 7:37** On the **last day, that great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and said ...”

John 7:37-39 reads, “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come to me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for **the Holy Spirit was not yet given**; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

Holy Spirit Not Yet Given

God does things in stages. Prior to Jesus being glorified, only a very, very few people were given the Holy Spirit. Even after Jesus was glorified only a few people have been given the Holy Spirit. God has to initiate the process.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

The Holy Spirit imparts the mind and heart of God to us.

1 Cor 2:7-14 “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Compare the Disciples’ hearts before and after receiving the Holy Spirit.

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Also on this day Jesus healed a man blind from birth. Jn 9:1-3, 6-7 “As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was **blind from his birth**. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” “When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.” God blinded that man just like He has blinded the World --- but it is for a specific purpose to be fulfilled at a specific time. God healed the man on the LGD. God will heal the world on the LGD. The LGD, a.k.a. The Great White Throne Judgment, is the judgment period when the majority of people will be judged for the first time; most will be saved.

Gentiles are Blind

Mat 11:20-27 “Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for *if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented* long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for *if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained* until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: **and no man knoweth the Son, except the Father, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**”

Israelites are Blind

John 12:37-40 “Though Jesus had done so many miracles before them, yet they did not believe on Him: the reason is so that the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, “Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?” **Therefore they could not believe because God has blinded their eyes**, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”

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Rom 11:7-32 "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

Rom 11:20-32 Israel was broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be high-minded, but fear; (21) for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. (22) Consider therefore the kindness and the severity of God; severity toward those who have fallen, but kindness toward those that remain in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. (23) And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in; for God has the power to graft them in again. (25) For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise within yourselves; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (26) And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

This is a quotation from [Isa 59:20](#). Now this cannot be understood of the manifestation of Christ among the Jews; or of the multitudes which were converted before, at, and for some time after, the day of Pentecost; for these times were all past when the apostle wrote this epistle, which was probably about the 57th or 58th year of our Lord; and, as no remarkable conversion of that people has since taken place, therefore the fulfillment of this prophecy is yet to take place.

(27) For this *is* My covenant with them, when I have taken away their sins."

Jer 31:31-34 Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, (32) not according to the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them, says Jehovah; (33) but this *shall be* the covenant that I will cut with the house of Israel: After those days, says Jehovah, I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (34) And they shall no more teach each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Jehovah. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.

(28) Indeed as regards the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes. But as regards the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes. (29) For the free gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. (30) For as you also then disbelieved God, but now have been shown mercy through their disbelief, (31) even so these also have not believed now, so that through your mercy they may also obtain mercy. (32) For God has shut up all in unbelief, so that He might show mercy to all.

Rom 9:1-33 I tell *the* truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience also bearing me witness in *the* Holy Spirit, (2) that I have great heaviness and continual pain in my heart. (3) For I myself was wishing to be accursed from Christ for my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh, (4) who are Israelites; to whom *belong* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the service *of God*, and the promises; (5) whose *are* the fathers, and of whom *is* the Christ according to flesh, He being God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (6) Not however that the Word of God has failed, for not all those of Israel *are* Israel; (7) nor because they are the seed of Abraham *are they* all children. But, "In Isaac shall your Seed be called." (8) That is, not the children of the flesh *are* children of God; but the children of the promise *are* counted for a seed. (9) For this *is* the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." (10) And not only *this*, but when Rebekah also had conceived by one,

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by our father Isaac (11) (for *the children* had not yet been born, neither had done any good or evil; but that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who called,) (12) it was said to her, "The elder shall serve the younger." (13) As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." (14) What shall we say then? *Is there* not unrighteousness with God? Let it not be! (15) For He said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." (16) So then *it is* not of the *one* willing, nor of the *one* running, but of God, the *One* showing mercy. (17) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "Even for this same purpose I have raised you up, that I might show My power in you, and that My name might be declared throughout all the earth." (18) Therefore He has mercy on whom He will *have mercy*, and whom He will, He hardens. (19) You will then say to me, Why does He yet find fault? For who has resisted His will? (20) No, but, O man, who are you who replies against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him who formed *it*, Why have you made me this way? (21) Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel to honor and another to dishonor? (22) *What* if God, willing to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction; (23) and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy which He had before prepared to glory; (24) whom He also called, not only us, of Jews, but also of the nations? (25) As He also says in Hosea, "I will call those not My people, My people; and those not beloved, Beloved." (26) And it shall be, in the place where it was said to them. "You *are* not My people; there they shall be called sons of the living God." (27) Isaiah also cries concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel is as the sands of the sea, a remnant shall be saved. (28) For *He is* bringing *the* matter to an end, and cutting short in righteousness, because *the* Lord will make a short work on the earth." (29) And as Isaiah said before, "Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have been as Sodom, and would have been like Gomorrah." (30) What shall we say then? That the nations, who did not follow after righteousness have taken on righteousness, but a righteousness of faith. (31) But Israel, who followed after a law of righteousness did not arrive at a law of righteousness. (32) Why? Because *it was* not of faith, but as it were by the works of the Law. For they stumbled at that Stumbling-stone; (33) as it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a Stumbling-stone and a Rock-of-offense, and everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame."

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Most people have died “blind”, i.e. they’ve never heard the Gospel. When will they have their first chance at Salvation?

Rev 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast nor his image, nor had received *his* mark on their foreheads, nor in their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **(5)** This *is* the first resurrection. **But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.**

Rev 20:7-10 And when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be loosed out of his prison. **(8)** And he will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle. The number of them *is* as the sand of the sea. **(9)** And they went up over the breadth of the earth and circled around the camp of the saints, and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of Heaven and devoured them. **(10)** And the Devil who deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *were*. And he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a **great white throne**, and Him sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And a place was not found for them.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

Rev 20:12-13 And I saw the dead, the small and the great, stand before God. And books were opened, and another book was opened, *which is* the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **(13)** And the sea gave up the dead in it. And death and hell delivered up the dead in them. And each one of them was judged according to their works.

Rev 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. **(15)** And if anyone was not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire.

Next studies: 1) Judgment; 2) Book of Life

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JUDGMENT

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, **judging** the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 12:38-42 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we want to see a sign from you. (39) But He answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign. And there shall be no sign given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. (40) For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the huge fish, so the Son of Man shall be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (41) The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclaiming of Jonah, and behold, *One* greater than Jonah *is* here. (42) The queen of the south shall rise up in the Judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it, for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, *One* greater than Solomon *is* here.

Mat 27:15-26 Now at *that* feast the governor was accustomed to release to the people a prisoner, whomever they desired. (16) And they then had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. (17) Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, Whom do you desire that I release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus *who is* called Christ? (18) For he knew they had delivered Him because of envy. (19) But as he was sitting down on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just man, for today because of Him I have suffered many things in a dream. (20) But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd that they should ask *for* Barabbas and destroy Jesus. (21) The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you desire that I release *to* you? They said, Barabbas. (22) Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ? *They* all said to him, Let Him be crucified. (23) And the governor said, Why? What evil has He done? But they cried out the more, saying, let Him be crucified! (24) But when Pilate saw that it gained nothing, but rather *that* a tumult was made, he took water and washed *his* hands before the crowd, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it. (25) Then all the people answered and said, Let His blood *be* on us and on our children. (26) Then he released Barabbas to them. And when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.

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Judgement To Death

Joh 5:21-29 For as the Father raises the dead and makes alive, even so the Son of Man makes alive whomever He wills. (22) For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, (23) so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death to life. (25) Truly, truly, I say to you, The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they who hear shall live. (26) For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself, (27) and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is *the* Son of Man. (28) Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice, (29) and shall come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil to the resurrection of condemnation.

Rev 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. (15) And if anyone was not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire.

Who Goes to Hell?

Beast & False Prophet – definitely!

Rev 16:13-14 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (14) For they are spirits of demons, working miracles, *which* go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that day, the great day of God Almighty.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet doing signs before it, (by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast), and those who had worshiped his image. The two were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone.

Satan the Devil – definitely!

Rev 20:10 And the Devil who deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *were*. And he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Unrepentant Sinners – definitely!

Mar 3:22-30 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, He has Beelzebub, and He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons. (23) And He called them and said to them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? (24) And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. (25) And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. (26) And if Satan rises up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. (27) No one can enter into a strong one's house and plunder his goods, except he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. (28) Truly I say to you, All sins shall be forgiven to the sons of men, and blasphemies with which they shall blaspheme. (29) But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of eternal sin. [**Mat 12:32** Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this world or in the world to come.] (30) Jesus said this because the scribes said, "He has an unclean spirit."

The Holy Spirit is the Power of God!

Luk 24:49 I am sending on you what my Father promised. But stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Act 1:8 You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

BOOK OF LIFE

Psa 69:21-28 “They also gave me gall for my food. In my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink. (22) Let their table before them become a snare. May it become a retribution and a trap. (23) Let their eyes be darkened, so that they can't see. Let their backs be continually bent. (24) Pour out your indignation on them. Let the fierceness of your anger overtake them. (25) Let their habitation be desolate. Let no one dwell in their tents. (26) For they persecute him whom you have wounded. They tell of the sorrow of those whom you have hurt. (27) Charge them with crime upon crime. Don't let them come into your righteousness. (28) Let them be blotted out of the Book of Life, and not be written with the righteous.”

Phi 4:1-3 “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm in the Lord. (2) I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to have the same attitude in the Lord. (3) They have struggled with me in the gospel along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”

(Rev 3:5) “The one who overcomes, this one will be clothed in white clothing. And I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Rev 13:4-8 “They worshiped the dragon because it had given authority to the beast. They also worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight a war with it?” (5) The beast was allowed to speak arrogant and blasphemous things, and it was given authority for 42 months. (6) It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God. (7) It was allowed to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation. (8) All those living on earth will worship it, everyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb of God that was slaughtered from the foundation of the world.”

Rev 21:1-3, 27 “I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. (2) I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. (3) I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, God's dwelling is with people, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (27) There will in no way enter into it anything profane, or one who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.”

(Rev 22:19) “And if anyone takes away from the Words of the Book of this prophecy, God will take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which have been written in this Book.”

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Observing the Holy Days is not about legalism!

The Holy Days are not Jewish; they are God's gift to ALL mankind.

The Holy Days were kept in Old Testament and New Testament by God's Chosen Nations.

The Holy Days will be kept by ALL mankind after Christ's 2nd Coming.