

Yahuwah's Feasts and the Final Days

Understanding the seven annual observances of the Scriptures is to grasp the plan of salvation. These appointed times offer a wealth of "insider" knowledge that includes keys to when Amanuwal will return and who will be saved. These days are also a promise between Yahuwah and His people. They teach us of a coming heavenly Kingdom on earth, where the chosen will have positions of authority under Amanuwal.

Our lives are a preparation to rule with Mashyach when He returns. His annual feasts are a time of gathering to rejoice, celebrate the blessings Yahuwah has given us, and to focus on the awesomeness of eternity with the King. The Feasts unlock the future.

Yahuwah's kadesh times begin with Passover in the month of Abib, when green ears of barley appear and this first of the grains is harvested. In the seventh month are four high Sabbaths, which complete the harvest season and end with the Last Great Day of the Feast.

Yahuwah's plan of redemption is all about spiritual harvesting. Amanuwal is the Firstfruit of the resurrection. Yahuwah's people are also a type of harvest, James 1:18.

Passover commemorates the deliverance of His physical people Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that Israel lived in tents or booths before they were brought into the Promised Land. As with Israel, we face a future of virtual slavery and tribulation before He steps in to deliver His people.

Duality of Harvest

Pentecost or Feast of Firstfruits points to the harvest of those called out of the world now to help Amanuwal rule for a thousand years. Also known as the Feast of Weeks, this time commemorates the giving of the law at Sinai, which Israel ratified under the Old Covenant. In the New Testament the Ruwach Ha'Kadesh was sent to the earth to help us be obedient and keep the law. This became known as the New Covenant. On this day the called-out people entered the New Covenant.

In Acts 2:39 Peter confirms that the chosen will be heirs in the Kingdom. The ekklesia (improperly rendered "church") is being called out of the world now to become a kingdom of priests under the coming rulership of Mashyach. We are not yet in the Kingdom, but those in the ekklesia are heirs of the Kingdom, joint heirs with Mashyach, and are in training now to help rule in the righteous government of the heavens brought to this earth.

Many prophets were given visions of the latter days and the future deliverance of Yahuwah's people, which will be far greater than the deliverance of the 2-3 million Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Jeremiah gives the reason: "Wherefore has Yahuwah pronounced all this great evil against us? Or what is our sin that we have committed against Yahuwah our Aluhym? Then shall you say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, says Yahuwah, and have walked after other deities, and have served them, and have worshiped them, and have forsaken Me, and have not kept My law; and you

have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, you walk everyone after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto Me," Jeremiah 16:10-12.

The 'Easy Way' Teaching

When people today read Jeremiah's prophecy they get the idea that it refers in the modern context to someone else. So-called followers of Mashyach do not realize this prophecy is directed against perverting Scriptures today and forsaking Yahuwah by walking after other deities and serving mighty ones called god or lord (Baal, jer 23:27).

Most nominal church goers would declare that they indeed worship the Mighty One of the Scriptures. However, when clear, explicit verses are presented – such as Exodus 23:11-17 commanding Yahuwah's people to keep the Sabbatical years; to keep the seventh-day Sabbath; not to utter names of pagan deities; to keep the annual kadesh days – almost 100% of them will quickly shrug it off and say that it does not matter today.

Seeking shortcuts is a common human failing. We all tend to follow the path of least resistance. Preaching an easy road to salvation is a pastime of many leaders.

When it comes to pure worship, Yahuwah does not offer shortcuts. His is a doctrine of self-discipline, of overcoming our sinful nature and viewing and living life from His perspective, no matter what the obstacles.

"Therefore thus says Yahuwah, Aluhym of hosts, O my people that dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian; he shall smite you with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against you, after the manner of Egypt," Isaiah 10:24.

Hebrews 12:22-24 clearly shows that the true people of Yahuwah are referred to as those dwelling in Zion. These saints will undergo a future persecution and tribulation under the hand of the Assyrian as did ancient Israel. They will be delivered with a right hand just as were the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. It is during this time that the saints will be living in tabernacles just before Yahuwah intervenes.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that Yahuwah 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 the dispersed of Yahuwah from the four corners of the earth," Isaiah 11:11-12. The gathering of His saints will be from the area around Jerusalem, but will include "the islands of the sea."

And now read verse 16, "There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt," Isaiah 11:16. Note that it will be but a remnant of His people, that will be left as He sets His hand to recover His people the second time. He will be known as the One who saved His people from the north country, not

as the Aluhym who save His people from Egypt. This series of events will surpass anything that the world has ever seen prior to this time.

Disobedience Carries a Price

The world is not obediently keeping the feast days as Yahuwah commands. The result is judgment. "Howl ye; for the day of Yahuwah is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty ...Behold the day of Yahuwah comes, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine, " Isaiah 13:6, 9-10.

Yahuwah Himself spoke of this time in the Olivet Prophecy in Matthew 24:29. Notice that He begins in verse 21 stating, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Verse 24 shows that the elect, or chosen people, will still be on the earth, for he speaks of false messiahs, and false prophets who will show great signs and wonders that will be so astounding and real that if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived.

The Savior goes on to say in Matthew 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. This prophecy is also seen in Joel 2:31. It is a time of Yahuwah's wrath upon a lawless and defiant world.

Many times Isaiah refers to the end of the age when Yahuwah's wrath is poured out on a sick, sin-filled world. Isaiah 59:18 shows that Yahuwah will repay the sins of His adversaries with fury. "So shall they fear the Name of Yahuwah from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Ruwach of Yahuwah shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgressions in Jacob, says Yahuwah," verses 19-20. Yahuwah promises deliverance to His people who overcome now and live for him. But he does not promise a rapture from earth.

Fall Festivals Unfulfilled

Isaiah 60 tells of the re-gathering of His people from around the world. He promises untold glory for those who remain steadfast. In Isaiah 61 we find the same verse that Yahuwah quoted when he began His public ministry.

"The Ruwach of Yahuwah is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor; he has 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 Yahuwah," Luke 4:18-19.

Amanuwal stopped in the middle of the second verse. But it is obvious that He was speaking of the sabbatical year in this prophecy. Yahuwah always brings events about according to His timetable. The Feasts of the seventh month have not been fulfilled. Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles are awaiting fulfillment and Yahuwah undoubtedly will be right on schedule.

His feast days help us remember His plan of redemption, which we are reminded of at three harvest times during the year. The fall moedim begin a time of tribulation and foreshadow the deception of the false prophet and the iron grip of the man of sin. These festivals go on to remind us of the coming Kingdom of Yahuwah where His law and government will rule the world.

Temporarily dwelling in Succoth or shelters as we are commanded of Yahuwah at Tabernacles reminds us that we are but sojourners and travelers in this world. Our real goal is to be in that Kingdom wherein is righteousness and where the entire world will be keeping His Sabbaths and His laws, Isaiah 66:23. We are merely passing through this present veil of tears, knowing that a tabernacle represents our temporary dwelling on earth.

“For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed,” Isaiah 9:16.

We today have the greatest opportunity ever to worship Yahuwah in spirit and in truth. We have more study resources to prove the truth of the Scriptures than did any generation before us.

In spite of these advantages, most are more ignorant of the Scriptures than those of Jeremiah's time. Few desire to search out the truth of the Scriptures as they should. The difficulty comes when they ignore or work their way around the plain statements of obedience.

Almighty Yahuwah is not pleased with His creation of humans when they refuse to do what He expects. What a disappointment man must be to Him - defiantly insisting that he doesn't need to obey the precepts Yahuwah established for man's own protection and happiness.

Knowing and loving Yahuwah means doing what He asks, just as a child shows love and respect to his parents by obeying them – and they love him all the more in return.

By obeying Yahuwah's commands, including the observance of the seventh-month festivals, we show that we indeed want His awesome blessings. We truly want the awesome promises of rulership with Him in His Kingdom that come only by proving that we first will obey Him.

John wrote, “But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of Aluhym perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him,” 1 John 2:5.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a taste of the Kingdom on earth. You can have a foretaste of that joyous Kingdom today. Decide right now to be closer to your Heavenly Father. Keep the Feast this year even if it is at home in a tent. Find out what happiness comes in living for Yahuwah, rather than just talking about it!