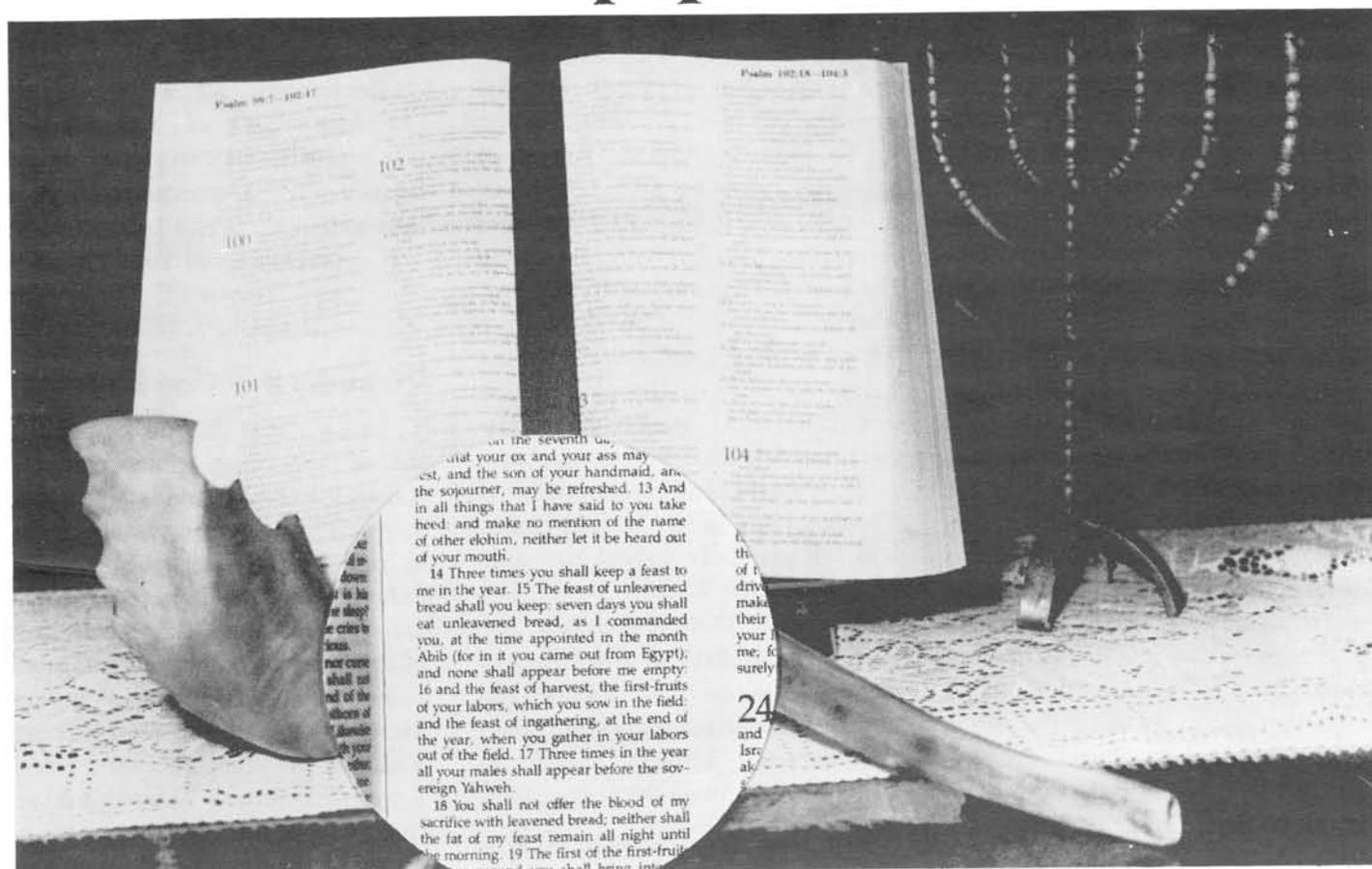


Yahweh's Sacred Appointments



by

Jacob O. Meyer

In every society and culture, man sets aside special days for rest, relaxation, and feasting. These days may be designated to commemorate events of personal importance such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries, or they may be set aside to designate a day of religious significance, when a major event (perhaps miraculous), occurred to the individual, tribe, or nation.

In the Western World, birthday celebrations are practically universal. Anniversaries of

various nature assume positions of nearly equal importance. National holidays such as Flag Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day, are observed throughout our nation.

Sunday has been a day observed for religious purposes throughout the existence of the nations of the Western World. Government offices are closed on that day, and a minimal amount of work is imposed. Frequently, industry pays double or even triple time for Sunday work, designating that some prime importance is indeed attached to

that day. Even those who do not worship on Sunday usually relax on that day.

Christmas is probably the most universally celebrated holiday in our current culture. Christianity designates December 25 as the birthday of the Messiah. But in terms of fact, (both biblically and historically), December 25 could never be the Messiah's birthday. The customs attached to this holiday cannot be proven from the Inspired Scriptures. Nevertheless, people still continue to keep it, even when they attach no religious importance to the day. Plainly

speaking, even athiests and agnostics keep Christmas.

Easter is another holiday widely observed throughout our society. It is supposed to represent the day of the Messiah's resurrection from the dead. Factually, however, the Messiah was not resurrected from the dead on a Sunday morning, and your Bible will prove this very conclusively if you have an open mind to believe what it says. In addition, many pagan customs, such as Easter bunnies, colored eggs, and baby chicks cling tenaciously to the customs surrounding this holiday.

In various branches of churchianity, other days are designated as holy. The Roman Catholic and Episcopalian Churches designate various days as holy for feasting, fasting, and to commemorate some aspect in the lives of the saints. Ascension Day is usually marked with a special commemoration and many people take off work on that day, although again, as with the other days sanctified by churchianity, it has not been declared holy by the Inspired Scriptures.

Christian Holidays Not Biblically Sanctified

Let us squarely face the facts. Many of these religious holy days are derived directly from paganism. Sunday worship is unscriptural. No verification of it can be found anywhere in the Bible. Why is it then observed?

Historically, the pagans worshiped Baal on the venerable day of the Sun. This is why the circle and the cross appear so prevalent in Christian symbology.

Christmas was observed by the pagans at the time of the solar renewal of the year. It occurs at the Winter Solstice, the shortest

day of the year, when the sun stands still, and then the days again begin to lengthen. But, no one in the Bible who followed the true Mighty One ever celebrated Christmas!

Easter was observed in ancient pagan cultures as the time of Spring Fertility Festival, when the earth bursts forth in new growth.

To these customary American holidays must be added Thanksgiving. The designated national American Thanksgiving occurs on the fourth Thursday of November. Nowhere in the Bible is such a Thanksgiving Day designated as being holy. Actually the British and Canadian thanksgiving celebrations fall at a more scriptural time. Periodically, the national Thanksgiving in the United States will fall precisely during the time of Jeroboam's Thanksgiving. You will recall that Jeroboam re-assigned the date of the Feast of Tabernacles to fall within the eighth biblical month, rather than the seventh biblical month as Almighty Yahweh had specified.

And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah, and he went up to the altar: so he did in Beth-el, sacrificing to the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made. And he went up to the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he devised of his own heart: and he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and went up to the altar, to burn incense. (1 Kings 12:32-33)

If you have never read our articles relating to these very enlightening subjects, we would strongly urge you to write in

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Yahweh's Holy Days Important

In Leviticus 23 you will find a list of holy days that Almighty Yahweh has commanded Israel to keep. These holy days are listed in this chapter without specified animal sacrifices, except for the wave sheaf and the wave loaf offering, where lambs and goats were mentioned. These animal sacrifices were completed through Yahshua the Messiah's shed blood. Apparently it was Yahweh's intention even in the Old Testament to separate the keeping of these holy days from the sacrificial system, allowing the eventual change to spiritual sacrifices.

These holy days are again specified and listed in Numbers chapters 28 and 29. You will observe that this passage taught Israel the feast day sacrificial ritual for the Temple. Animal sacrifices had to be offered on every day. Morning and evening a lamb was sacrificed and immolated upon Yahweh's altar. On the new moons and on each of the holy days, Yahweh commanded that special sacrifices be offered. This quickly lays to rest the assertion by some misinformed

feast of ingathering at the year's end. 23 Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the sovereign Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel.

(Exodus 34:18-23)

Do we believe these scriptural passages? Will we obey them? Let us understand what Almighty Yahweh means for us to do. "And Yahweh said to Moses, Write these words: for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel. And he was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments," Exodus 34:27-28. Please compare this to Deuteronomy 9:9.

These Holy Days Commanded— Worldly Holidays Not

We have now seen for ourselves that Almighty Yahweh has plainly spoken. We cannot pick and choose which commandments in the Bible we will obey. All of Yahweh's commandments are of equal weight and importance. Yahweh spoke them. We cannot make void even the least one of them. Matthew 5:17-20 states,

17 Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one yotse or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished. 19 Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20)

Always remember that the Bible must be harmonized from Genesis to Revelation, and that consistency in doctrine must guide our search for understanding in

A festival is a time of rejoicing, a time when we gather together in a family circle. Israel of old gathered together for Yahweh's feast days. Yahweh commanded that they assemble in one place for the three major pilgrim feasts.

the Word of Yahweh. Frequently, religious organizations will stumble upon 2 Timothy 2:15, and race off into a proverbial wilderness of confusion, by wrongly interpreting the word "dividing." The **King James Version** is very misleading here. In **The Sacred Scriptures**, Bethel Edition, verses 14 and 16 provide the revealing context. "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them in the sight of Yahweh, that they quarrel not about words, to no profit, to the subverting of them that hear...But shun profane babblings: for they will proceed further in lawlessness," 2 Timothy 2:14 and 16.

"Handling them properly" is a correct translation, but it could also indicate "cutting straight the Word of Yahweh." Paul is trying to encourage Timothy to be consistent in scriptural interpretation. He wants Timothy to handle the Word of Yahweh properly by taking the straight course of consistency from begin-

ning to end—Genesis to Revelation.

The Hebrew Text Speaks

The term "Feast," when relating to Yahweh's holy days, is #2282 (**Strong's Exhaustive Concordance**), **chag**, meaning a festival or a sacrificial ritual, derived from the prime root verb **chagag**, #2287, which means "to move in a circle, or march in a sacred procession to observe a festival."

A festival is a time of rejoicing, a time when we gather together in a family circle. Israel of old gathered together for Yahweh's feast days. Yahweh commanded that they assemble in one place for the three major pilgrim feasts. The other two, Atonement and Trumpets, could be celebrated in the local assembly, if the Israelite so preferred. But, for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks (Shavuoth), and Tabernacles, all Israel was to leave their homes and assemble in one place to worship Almighty Yahweh.

Another word that is related to the holy feasts of Yahweh is Strong's #4150 "**Mo'ed**". It means "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." The underlying connotation of this word means "an appointment with Almighty Yahweh."

Related to the word **mo'ed**, we must also remember that the holy days are regulated by the new moons. In Genesis 1:14 we find the word used in its first situation in the Scriptures. "And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them

be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years." The heavenly bodies were created to mark time and set the dates for the sacred seasons. Notice how this is proven from Psalm 104:19. "He appointed the moon for seasons: The sun knows his going down."

It is very simple to see then, that the moon was designated as the heavenly body to establish Yahweh's sacred appointments that occur in certain months. Christianity today does not set their holy days according to the new moon crescent. Judaism does not even regulate the holy days they keep (which they contend are observances of the commandments of Leviticus 23), according to the visible new moon crescent.

The Assemblies of Yahweh has faithfully sought to adhere to Yahweh's commandment that the new moon crescent must regulate Yahweh's holy days. We faithfully watch for the appearance of the new little crescent each month. Especially during the first and seventh months, which are critical in establishing Yahweh's holy days, we set our watch carefully. You will discover later in this article that the Word of Yahweh shows that the True Worshipers will be keeping Yahweh's new moons.

Yet another word that is associated with the keeping of Yahweh's holy days is Strong's #4744,* **miqra'**, derived from the root **qr'**, #7121. It means "something called out, in other words a public meeting (either the act, the person, or the place." Also, in some instances, "a rehearsal."

In addition, the term **qadash**, # 6942-6946, 6917 and 18, is closely attached to the keeping of Yahweh's holy days. In its prime root it means, "to make, pronounce, or

observe as clean or sacred." Hence, we must conclude that when Almighty Yahweh declared and specified a certain day to be clean or sacred, He wishes it to be kept holy, not contaminated by worldly activities or work. In other words, that day is a day of spiritual renewal sanctified by our Heavenly Father.

Again, it must be impressed upon our minds that Sunday, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and the other national or personal holidays are never declared to be holy or sanctified by our Heavenly Father. However, He did declare the holy days of Leviticus 23 to be sacred days. He Himself established those days. Man cannot take it upon himself to either reject, refuse, substitute, or declare void, days our Heavenly Father has sanctified. All our Heavenly Father asks us to do is obey His Word. Therefore, it becomes imperative that we keep Yahweh's days holy. Conversely, man cannot declare holy what Almighty Yahweh in His Word has not sanctified.

Yahshua's Example

Yahshua the Messiah kept Yahweh's holy days faithfully. We have with us the biblical record of Him keeping several. Let us notice Luke 4:16. "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and he entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read."

Yahshua the Messiah never observed Sunday at any time during His earthly sojourn, nor did He command that it be kept after His death and resurrection. The Apostolic Assembly never kept Sunday. There is no record in the Scriptures that they kept holy any day except the biblical Sabbath. Yahshua the Messiah went into the synagogue as was His custom. He did not substitute any other day, or declare the Sabbath to be just another day of the week, as some religious groups do.

Yahshua the Messiah kept the Sabbath. He kept the Sabbath properly, not Pharisaically, as the religious establishment did during



For every Sabbath and Holy Day Yahweh has made an appointment to meet with His people. Do you attend the appointment?

His time. Furthermore, He told His people to pray that their flight to avoid tribulation should not occur on the Sabbath (Matthew 24:20), a prophecy applicable for our day.

Yahshua the Messiah also kept Yahweh's annual holy days. You will find that from His youth up (Luke 2), Yahshua went with His parents to Jerusalem to keep the pilgrim feasts. In verses 41-43 the writer specifically indicates that they kept the Passover, that they fulfilled the days (meaning kept all the days) after the custom of the feast.

After Yahshua the Messiah had selected His disciples, He went to the Passover observance in Jerusalem, John 2:13. "And the passover of the Jews was at hand, and Yahshua went up to Jerusalem." In John 7 Yahshua the Messiah kept the Feast of Tabernacles along with the eighth day, the Last Great Day of the Feast.

Yahshua the Messiah provided a good example for us, didn't He? Do we follow in His steps? We must do so if we wish to find salvation as He did. He is the firstborn of the assembly, the firstborn from the dead. In all things He has preeminence, Colossians 1:18. "And he is the head of the body, the assembly: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

"For to this were you called: because the Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps," 1 Peter 2:21.

If Yahshua the Messiah kept Yahweh's holy days, He provided an excellent example for the True Worshiper to follow. As we have previously shown, He left no record that the holy days were

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annulled, substituted, or in any way changed. Therefore, we must come to the conclusion that Yahshua the Messiah was an obedient son and kept His Father's commandments. We are clearly obligated to do the same.

In an article previously published in the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** magazine, we proved from their own writings how the Roman Catholic Church contends that on their own authority as present-day representatives of [the Messiah], they have changed the weekly day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday. Consequently, it also follows that they changed Yahweh's holy days to the current days kept by churchianity. But why shouldn't they do so? They are not worshipping Yahweh. They are worshipping the Lord God (Baal-God—see Yahshua (Joshua) 11:17, 12:7, and 13:5, and Isaiah 65:11).

Since Christianity worships on the venerable day of the sun, using orbs, halos, sunbursts, and

crosses as their symbols, we must conclude that they are not following Yahweh's commandments, and therefore, cannot have Yahweh's Holy Spirit, Acts 5:32. Christianity is not the successor of the Apostolic Assembly but they have departed from the way of Yahweh. They do not carry a resemblance to the description of the True Worshipers as found in Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. Do you follow a doctrine that corresponds to this description?

Paul Kept Yahweh's Holy Days

We frequently read how theological writers contend that the Apostle Paul founded the religion of Christianity. Since theologians cannot point out a passage of Scripture to show that Yahshua the Messiah changed Yahweh's law, they appeal to the writings of Paul. The Apostle Peter said this is exactly what the unlearned and unstable would do! "And account that the longsuffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction," 2 Peter 3:15-16.

Let us be cautious how we apply the writings of the Apostle Paul. "Those who are unlearned" specifically points us toward people who divide the Bible at the Testaments, people who deny the life-setting of the New Testament (sitz im leben). Heretics like Marcion, who from his own imagination developed his personal beliefs (in which he rejected all of the Bible as

Inspired and applicable for our time, except for an edited portion of Luke, and a portion of Paul's writings), fit the description of being unlearned and unstable.

Did the Apostle Paul leave us a biblical example of law-keeping? He certainly kept the Sabbath, because that was his custom. "And Paul, as was his custom, went in to them, and for three sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures," Acts 17:2. He apparently went to worship on the Sabbath day at a place where the faithful gathered. At Philippi he went out of the city to the riverside, Acts 16:13.

In Acts 13, an unparalleled opportunity was presented to Paul to declare the annulment of the Sabbath. Paul never taught such false doctrine. But rather, on the following Sabbath he got together with, and preached to, the multitude who desired to hear the message of the Kingdom of Yahweh in Yahshua the Messiah.

Paul kept Yahweh's Feast of Unleavened Bread because in Acts 20:6 he resided at Troas during the festival. Then we find additionally in verse 16, that he hastened to be in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. This was undoubtedly his last trip to Jerusalem, because there he was taken prisoner by the Romans to save him from martyrdom at the hands of the religious authorities.

We must remember that Judah in his epistle also mentioned feasts, and he called them the feasts of love. Undoubtedly, this designation pinpoints Yahweh's holy days as a time when Yahshua's True Worshipers gather in solemn assembly. **Love** is a focal point in Yahweh's worship.

"Seeing that you can take knowledge that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to

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worship at Jerusalem," Acts 24:11.

You Can Understand Paul's Epistles

"Let no man judge you therefore in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a Sabbath day," Colossians 2:16.

People find it so difficult and confusing to understand the writings of the Apostle Paul so they harmonize with the Old Testament. However, we must remember that Paul utilized a unique way of writing. He endeavored, to the best of his ability, to prove every point to his reader as he went along. We must be careful not to become confused by his almost innumerable digressions.

Let us be reminded of what Dr. Irving L. Jenson said in his book, **Independent Bible Study** (page 53), "The usual order of words in a simple declarative sentence is: subject, verb, object. Many times this "core" is lost to the student in an extended sentence involving many modifying clauses."

Meeting a Controversial Passage Head On

Bearing this word of caution in mind, we can approach Colossians 2 and receive a much better understanding of what Paul meant. Notice the involved structure based on modifiers we find in Colossians 2:16-17. "Let no man judge you therefore in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a Sabbath day: which are the shadow of things to come; but the body of the Messiah."

By parsing or diagramming the sentence it may easily be interpreted. Copy it down on a piece of paper, will you? The core of this long drawn out sentence is: "Let no man therefore judge you...but the Body of the Messiah." (You will notice that the word **is** appears in italics, meaning that this verb of existence does not stand in the text.)

The plain and simple explanation of this passage, then, is that the True Worshiper cannot allow himself to be controlled by the rudiments of the world (elementary principles of the world), or worthless philosophies (what man believes the world consists of), or deceit (deluding oneself into believing a falsehood). Since the Messiah came and died for the True Worshiper, we must never let anyone judge us except Yahweh and His Word, and of course, the Body of the Messiah who will judge righteously in harmony with the biblical law.

In what shall we not let others outside of the true faith judge us? He tells us plainly. "In meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day (keeping the feasts of Yahweh), or of the new moons (the correct method of setting Yahweh's holy days), or of the Sabbath (indicating

the seventh day of the week, and all of Yahweh's holy days grouped cumulatively).

Paul wants us to understand that keeping these commandments now are merely shadows of things to come. In the Millennium, the Kingdom of Yahweh, this law will form the basis for the way of life. Then all men will be required to adhere to the terms of Yahweh's covenant. We observe Yahweh's law now as a learning experience, so that we may teach others in the Millennium. Therefore, these things can also be understood as prophecy. The True Worshiper obeys Yahweh's commandments, because we believe in the prophecies of Yahweh's Heavenly Kingdom to come to this earth, and we want to be included in that glorious Kingdom age.

If you have not as yet read our free article clearly explaining Colossians 2:16, be sure to write in for it immediately. It is free for the asking. Write to: The Assemblies of Yahweh, Drawer C, Bethel, PA, 19507.

Another Controversial Passage Explained

Frequently we find in literature published by various religious organizations who do not keep Yahweh's holy days, an objection which they base upon Isaiah 1. They erroneously claim that the prophet declares them to be void or annulled. No such conclusion can be reached if we study this passage objectively. Again, the key to understanding it properly is **context**. Remember, Yahweh does not change (Malachi 3:6), nor does Yahshua the Messiah (Hebrews 13:8).

The Hebrew text places the accent squarely on the word **vain**.

Let us squarely face the facts. Many of these religious holy days are derived directly from paganism. Sunday worship is unscriptural. No verification of it can be found anywhere in the Bible. Why is it then observed?

Let us read this passage from the new edition of the Bible published by the Assemblies of Yahweh. You will find virtually the same translation in the **American Standard 1901**, and in several other unbiased versions.

10 Hear the word of Yahweh, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our Elohim, you people of Gomorrah. 11 What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says Yahweh: I have had enough of the burnt-offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats. 12 When you come to appear before me, who has required this at your hand, to trample my courts? 13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination to me; new moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies,—I cannot *endure* iniquity along with the solemn meeting. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they are a trouble to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; yes, when you make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil; 17 learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, says Yahweh: though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land: 20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken it.

(Isaiah 1:10-20)

Is it not plain from this passage that Yahweh hates and despises **YOUR** feasts and **YOUR** new moons? The people of Israel had rejected and refused to comply with Yahweh's covenant. Yahweh was now entering into judgment against His wayward subjects. Their hearts and minds were filled with sin. To bring burnt offerings and sacrifices (even in droves), could not take away the stigma of sin from an unrepentant heart. Yahweh said, "I cannot endure iniquity with your solemn meeting." Before He would accept the sacrifices of Israel, they were required to cleanse their hands, hearts, and minds of sin. Contrary to what is popularly believed, Isaiah chapter 1 supports the keeping of Yahweh's Holy Days. It does not annul them!

Today Almighty Yahweh frowns upon the pagan practices of churchianity. Many people commit sin with seeming **impunity**, then they go to their chosen house of worship and expect Yahweh to benignly forgive them. They offer their worship on days and in a manner which He has **NOT** sanctified or specified. We must always remember that we cannot approach a great personage unless He approves of our audience. Almighty Yahweh has **commanded** us to attend His holy days and Sabbaths as times of worship. We have in effect refused an engraved invitation, made in the majestic Name of Yahweh. Would we refuse the President of the United States, the King of England, or another **worldly** ruler, if he invited us to come and visit

him? Yet, only a few faithful believers keep Yahweh's holy days.

The Problem of Galatians 4

"However at that time, not knowing Yahweh, you were in bondage to them that by nature are no elohim: but now that you have come to know Yahweh, or rather to be known by Yahweh, how turn you back again to the weak and beggarly rudiments, to which you desire to be in bondage over again? You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain," Galatians 4:8-11.

Many of those misguided individuals and groups who eagerly desire to find some passage that could help them in proving that Yahweh's Holy Days need no longer be kept will seize upon Galatians 4. But, simply reading the passage in context gives us the answer to refute these no-law teachers.

The passage opens with verse 1 as Paul tries to make his readers understand that they are Yahweh's children now that they have repented and turned to Him. His Holy Spirit in our hearts causes us to cry Abba (meaning father).

But, now after they have turned to Yahweh, the Galatians have backslidden again. They are keeping days, months, times and years. These could not be Yahweh's Sabbaths, new moons, and sabbaticals because the Galatians had turned to Yahweh in obedience. They must be the pagan holidays.

These days, months, times and years can easily be interpreted from the Word of Yahweh. Turn to Leviticus 19:26, 31, and com-

During the Millennium, all people must assemble at Jerusalem to keep the feasts of Yahweh. At this present time Yahweh's True Assembly keeps the feasts as Israel did in the wilderness.

pare verse 30. Then compare Deuteronomy 18:9-15. The days, months, times and years that Almighty Yahweh warns us not to keep are pagan holidays. We shall listen to His voice and keep His Sabbaths. (Have you read our Commentary on Galatians? If not, write in today for your free copy of this enlightening presentation.)

Yahweh Commands— "Keep My Holy Days"

No passage in the entire Bible will support a doctrine that does away with any of Yahweh's holy days. If we approach the subject with logical reasoning, we must believe that Almighty Yahweh would not contradict Himself. He legislated His holy days in Leviticus 23. He supported them with many additional biblical texts. Therefore, He wants us to keep them. Only the reprobate minds of no-law teachers have confused these facts.

Let us examine several Scriptures that plainly tell us to keep

Yahweh's holy days. The first we will cite is from the pen of the Apostle Paul. "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For our Passover also has been sacrificed, even the Messiah: 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," 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.

Did you carefully notice what you read? "**Therefore let us keep the feast.**" The Apostle Paul kept Yahweh's holy days. This man who was supposed to have advocated a no-law doctrine actually kept the feasts! He urged his readers to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Like this passage from Paul's epistles, it is really surprising when we read John 19, a passage that is frequently read in relation to the communion. Throughout this chapter reference is made to the Sabbath, the Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. But, the uneducated, unlearned minds of unconverted men slide swiftly over these plain statements and the truth never penetrates into their minds.

We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews. The composition reads like some of Paul's epistles, but Paul said he signed all his writings, 2 Thessalonians 3:17. Either the page with his signature was lost, or it is not Paul's epistle. Perhaps it was written by Barnabas, or some other person very familiar with the Temple ritual. Barnabas was a Levite, Acts 4:36.

We find the author makes a very explicit statement in Hebrews 4:9, telling the True

Worshippers to keep the Sabbath. "There remains therefore a sabbath rest for the people of Yahweh." Consequently, we understand that an obligation remains for the people of Yahweh to keep the weekly Sabbath because it is a sign between Yahweh and His people. This sign points toward His government in the Millennium Kingdom of Yahweh. It represents our relationship to Almighty Yahweh by obeying when He commands, in effect recognizing His complete authority over our lives.

By taking into account the Scriptures we have already seen, which associate the weekly Sabbath to the holy days of Yahweh, it becomes plain that we cannot separate between the Sabbath and these holy days. Just as we cannot divide the Bible at the Testaments, we cannot separate the Sabbath from the Holy Days.

From Leviticus 23 you will notice that the Sabbath heads the list of the feasts of Yahweh. If one falls, they all fall. In Colossians 2:16, where the Apostle Paul demands that the True Worshiper allow no one to judge him, the list includes the Sabbath, new moons, and the holy days. You will remember that in the Kingdom age, all people on this earth will observe the new moon. Let us find this prophesied in Isaiah 66:23. "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh." See also Ezekiel 46. Please note the explicit directives in the latter passage.

Keep the Solemn Feasts

The prophet Nahum was sent to encourage Israel and Judah

during the time of the rise of Assyrian power. Let us hear what he says, Nahum 1:15. "Behold, upon the mountains the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah, perform you vows; for the wicked one shall no more pass through you; he is utterly cut off."

The Prophet Jonah preached repentance to the Assyrian nation, and its citizens repented. But, that repentance was short-lived. Soon, Assyria turned their national expansionist policies toward the Holy Land.

The ten northern tribes had not maintained fidelity to Yahweh's covenant. Therefore, Yahweh withdrew His protection, and the House of Israel was soon overrun and conquered by the Assyrian juggernaut. The ten northern tribes had changed Yahweh's feast days, and Yahweh refused to honor His covenant with them any longer. But, Nahum, Zephaniah, and other prophets, were sent by Yahweh to encourage Judah to fulfill the terms of His Covenant. You will remember that Hezekiah observed a memorable Passover. He believed in Yahweh and faithfully kept His commandments. When the Assyrian army attacked the House of Judah, the two southern tribes of Israel, Yahweh protected them. The encouragement of Yahweh's prophets was to maintain their unswerving dedication to Yahweh's covenant. Please read the account in 2 Kings 18-19, also Isaiah 36-37.

Nahum 1:15 can also be understood spiritually. If the Assyrians represent a form of Satan's system of things, then we must believe that Judah stands for the True Worshipers. If you peruse

The Jewish Encyclopedia, edited by Isidore Singer, you will find that he defines the term 'Judah' as **a worshiper of Yahweh**. Therefore, the commandment rings forth loud and clear. "Oh worshiper of Yahweh, keep your solemn feasts. For the wicked one, Satan the devil, shall no longer come near you." Therefore, protection is offered, but you must obey by keeping Yahweh's holy days to receive it.

The Feast Days Observed in the Millennium

It is of prime importance to learn that the feasts of Yahweh will be observed during the Millennium. Let us read Zechariah 14:16-20.

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoever of *all* the families of the earth goes not up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, upon them there shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt goes not up, and comes not, neither *shall it be* upon them; there shall be the plague with which Yahweh will strike the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations that go not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLY TO YAHWEH; and the pots in Yahweh's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. (Zechariah 14:16-20)

During the Millennium, all people must assemble at Jerusalem to keep the feasts of Yahweh. At this present time Yahweh's True Assembly keeps the feasts as Israel did in the wilderness. We gather together for worship, just as Israel did in their encampments in Numbers 23. (An interesting taped sermon on this chapter is available for those who are interested. Write if you desire information on how you can receive it.)

When the woman of Sychar asked the question of John 4:19-24, let us notice carefully Yahshua's answer.

Yahshua says to her, Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. You worship that which you know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such does the Father seek to be his worshipers. Yahweh is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:21-24)

The Requirement of a Temple

Yahshua the Messiah declared that the True Worshipers must worship Yahweh in spirit and in truth. Certainly there is no Temple in Jerusalem remaining through which Yahweh works today. Forty years after Yahshua the Messiah ascended to Heaven, the Romans destroyed the Temple. Now the True Worshipers gather again as did Israel in the wilderness. The scattered people gather together in holy convocation to worship Yahweh, but they do so in spirit (spiritually) and in truth without the requirement of a Temple.

When Yahshua the Messiah returns to establish His Kingdom on this earth, He will sit in a rebuilt Temple. Notice again Ezekiel 46, where all the people are required to come and worship before Him on the Holy Days, the new moons, and the Sabbaths. That is the same setting as Zechariah 14.

Tabernacles—A Millennial Feast

But, let us notice—if the Feast of Tabernacles is to be observed in

the Millennium, then we should also observe it now. So we will understand how to observe it in the Millennium and teach others, we must learn the ways of Yahweh now. Yahshua the Messiah when He returns will correct any deficiencies in knowledge we may have developed in our human life, so that we can perform as able teachers to the people of this earth.

Those who do not come up to worship before Yahweh of Hosts in the Feast of Tabernacles will receive no rain. Rain is a type of doctrine. It is also very necessary to have water to nourish plants, so that the season is productive.

Therefore, if no rain falls, a drought will occur, and for lack of proper diet the people will become sickly. If they do not repent and change and keep the Feast of Tabernacles, Yahweh's harvest season thanksgiving feast, they will receive the curse. Undoubtedly, this indicates some sort of disease epidemic, which will be contracted by a body weakened through malnutrition.

Do you want productivity in your life? Do you want protection from the enemy? Then, keep the feasts of Yahweh, and He will bless you. Don't think that you need to stay home and protect your property when you are required to attend one of His holy convocations. Yahweh promises to protect your property while you are gone to the Feast. "For I will cast out nations before you, and enlarge your borders: neither shall any man desire your land, when you go up to appear before Yahweh your Elohim three times in the year," Exodus 34:24.

But we must also remember that the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread will be ob-

served in the Millennium. Then it will take on new meaning for the redeemed True Worshiper. Yahshua predicted that renewed observance in Luke 22:15-16.

This is obviously a parallel to Hosea 12:9. "But I am Yahweh your Elohim from the land of Egypt; I will yet again make you dwell in tents, as in the days of the solemn feast." Notice also Jeremiah 23:7-8. "Therefore, behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that they shall no more say, As Yahweh lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, As Yahweh lives, who brought up and who led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all the countries where I had driven them. And they shall dwell in their own land."

Summary

As we have already seen, Yahweh's Word plainly tells us to keep His feasts. He explains what they are. He outlines them carefully so we cannot misunderstand. He tells us that they are to be kept now, and that in the future they will yet have a different significance than they do today. We today keep Yahweh's Sabbath in anticipation of His Kingdom, just as Israel kept the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread in remembrance of Yahshua's pure sacrifice.

Some groups keep the scriptural seventh day Sabbath as Yahweh has commanded us, and yet reject the annual holy days. There can be no separation between the Sabbath and the holy days. Any division is in complete error. These holy days recognize the authority of Almighty Yahweh over our lives, which we learn in anticipation of His Kingdom. □

The Sacred Scriptures

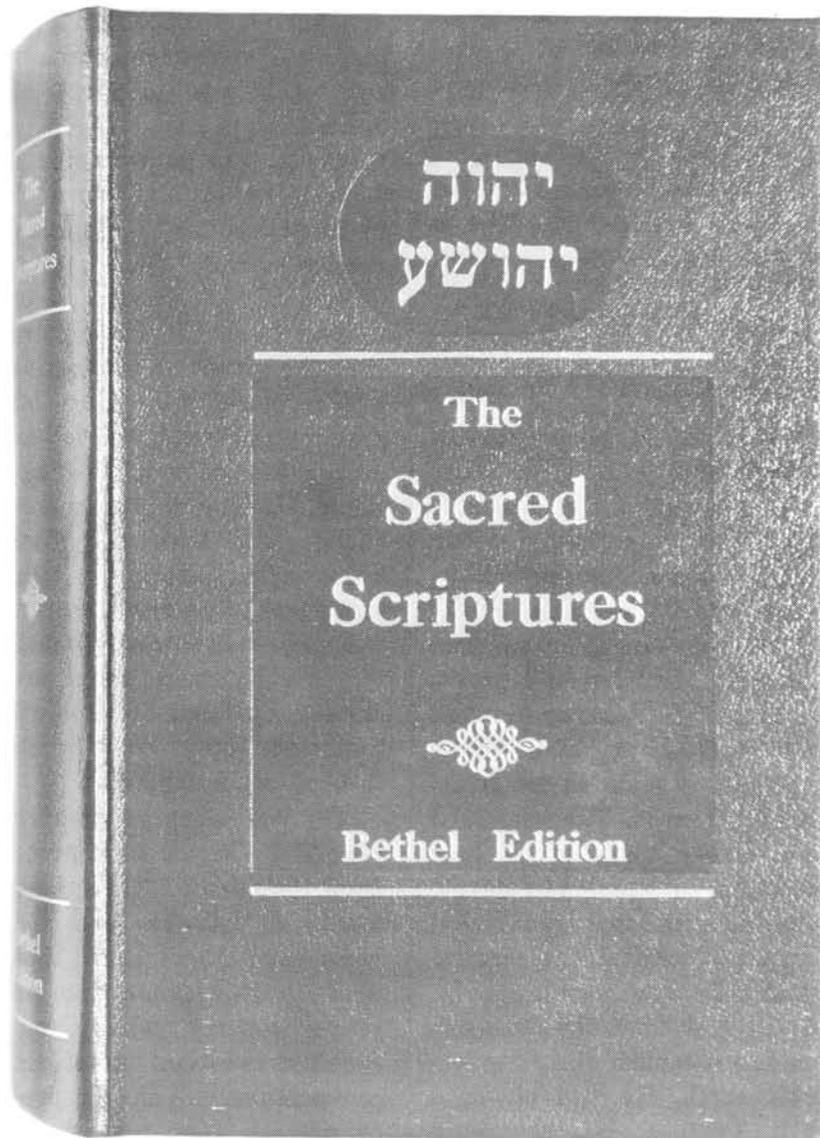
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