

Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, is with us

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgression,
and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

Winter Bible Studies

Study Prayerfully & Study Carefully

Yahweh's Feasts

Reading:
Leviticus Chapter 23

1. Introduction

Currently there are many calendars in the world, most of them religious: Chinese, Hindu, Muslim, Grecian, Egyptian etc. In modern times the religious calendars of the world are used mainly to keep track of **religious festivals**. They are seldom used in international business. Were you to ask the average Greek, Muslim, Hindu or Egyptian the date by his own religious calendar, he'd probably not be able to tell you unless it was on or close to a religious festival.

The Civil (Gregorian) Calendar

This is the business calendar used throughout the world. Its months (January to December) and its weekdays (Sunday to Saturday) are well known to peoples of every nation. Legal and business documents, cheques, travel tickets, news papers etc. are all noted with this civil calendar's dates. It is an **international calendar** which, through commerce, has captured the attention of the world.

2. The Sacred Calendar

Then there is the **Sacred Calendar of the God of Israel**. It is the oldest calendar known to man. It was in use in the patriarch **Noah's day**, hundreds of years before the empires of Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Greece or Rome were thought of. **Noah's Flood**

Genesis 7: 11: "*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*"

Genesis 8: 4: "*And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.*"

Genesis 8: 13: "*And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.*"

Yes, the Almighty's Calendar existed long before any world empire came on the scene.

3. Yahweh's Feast Days

The Bible tells us of certain sacred **Feast Days** in the Almighty's Calendar. Comparatively few Christians know of these feasts. Of those who do, many make the mistake of thinking that they are **Jewish Feasts**. To be sure these feasts are celebrated by the Jews; but, strictly speaking, they do not belong to the Jews or nation of Israel. They are the **Feasts of the LORD (Yahovah)!** They belong to Him, **NOT** to any particular race of people. **This is an important point.**

Leviticus 23: 1: "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **FEASTS OF THE LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are **MY FEASTS.**"

The chapter then goes on to list the various feasts of the Most High. Starting with the **weekly seventh day Sabbath** (commonly known as Saturday) it proceeds to tell of the **six annual feasts** of the Most High and **one fast** (the Day of Atonement).

4. Eternal Memorials of Salvation

Yahweh's festivals are eternal **Memorials of Salvation**: each and every one recalling some great **divine achievement** in the Almighty's programme of salvation. Being **memorials of salvation**, they will be celebrated **throughout eternity** by the redeemed host.

Exodus 12: 14: *And this day shall be unto you for a memorial: and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.*"

Leviticus 23: 14: "...it shall be a statute **for ever throughout your generations** in all your dwellings..."

Verse: 21: "...it shall be a statute **for ever** in all your dwellings throughout **your generations...**"

Verse: 31: "...it shall be a statute **for ever throughout your generations** in all your dwellings..."

Verse: 41: "...It shall be a statute **for ever in your generations:**"

Isaiah 66: 22: "For as the **new heavens and the new earth**, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed remain.

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, saith the Lord."

5. Feasts Kept in New Testament Times

From early youth to the day of his death, **the Lord Jesus Christ kept His Father's Feasts**. Here is proof.

Luke 2: 41: "Now his parents went to **Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.**

42: And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem **after the custom of the feast.**"

John 4: 45: "Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem **at the feast:** for they also went unto the feast."

John 7: 14: "Now about the **midst of the feast** Jesus went up into the temple, and taught."

John 7: 37: "In the last day, that **great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

Matthew 26: 17: "Now the first day of **the feast of unleavened bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?"

Luke 22: 11: "And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall **eat the Passover** with my disciples?"

Paul Kept the Feast Days

Acts:18: 21: "But bade them farewell, saying, **I must by all means keep this feast** that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus."

1 Corinthians 5: 8: "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.**"

(See also Acts 2: 1-2, 20: 16, 27: 9, 1 Corinthians 5: 7-8)

6. Christian Holidays

In the course of time the Feasts of the Most High were almost abandoned by the church which at about the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine was made up of predominantly Gentile converts. The sacred Feasts of the Most High were replaced by **Pagan holidays** which were incorporated into Christian worship and given Christian names: **Sunday, Christmas**, Mundy Thursday, Good Friday, **Easter**, Ash Wednesday, the Feast of the Nativity of St John, Whitsun, Hallowe'en, Lady Day, the Feast of the Assumption etc. **All these so-called Christian festivals are nothing more than Pagan festivals in disguise!** No amount of ecclesiastical argument can hide the fact that nowhere in Holy Scripture is their observance commanded. They are **heathen festivals** through and through and the unholiness that motivates their celebration is still apparent in our time. Hundreds of years ago these **festivals of paganism** caused a mighty split in the early church. **That split continues to this day.**

However, it is not my purpose today to analyse and speak about **Pagan festivals**. Visit any reference library and you will soon discover the heathen origins of Christendom's popular celebrations. Suffice it to say that most Christians have little idea of how wrong they are, or of how grievous is their sin, when they celebrate **Sunday, Christmas** and **Easter** etc. Woe to them if they continue to do this after learning the facts. But woe especially to those religious leaders who continue to keep their flocks in blissful and dangerous ignorance. I say - Woe to them!

7. The Signature of Yahweh

The Holy One of Israel has a special **identifying Sign** which He places in the minds and actions of His followers. That **Sign** is the **Sabbath days** commanded in His law.

Exodus 31: 13: "*Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.*"

Exodus 31: 16: "*Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a PERPETUAL COVENANT.*"

Deuteronomy 6: 4: "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*
5: *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*
6: *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*
7: *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*
8: *And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*"

Ezekiel 20: 12: "*Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a SIGN between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them...*"

20: *And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a SIGN between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.*"

Note carefully that **Yahweh's Sign** (signature) is His Sabbaths. (plural) This means more than just the weekly Sabbath. The **Weekly Sabbath** (Saturday) is like the Most High's initials. To have His **full signature** in the mind, one must observe all of the **seven annual Sabbaths**: the Feasts of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles etc. All these Sabbaths, taken together constitute the **Sign, the Signature of the Holy One of Israel**. That is what the Bible teaches. Believers ignore these facts at their peril.

8. A Spiritual Election Coming Soon

Shortly before the Saviour returns to earth, the whole world is going to be involved in the greatest **spiritual election** ever held. Multiplied millions of souls will have to decide between the **Law of the LORD God** and the law of the **Antichrist**; between **obedience** and **disobedience**; between the Sabbaths of the LORD and the

festivals of Paganism. The test will centre on the **Sabbaths of the Most High** which hang on this command:

Exodus 20: 8: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10: But the **seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God**: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Observance of the seventh day of the week, (Saturday) the **Sabbath of the LORD thy God** and the **annual Sabbaths** listed in Leviticus chapter 23 **will test** the whole human race when the Antichrist makes his appearance. As pointed out previously, Yahweh's Sabbaths constitute His Signature, His Sign, the special **identity mark** He places in the minds and actions of His faithful followers. They may not be perfect individuals, but their observance of these divinely ordained Sabbath days will identify them as the '**People of Israel's God**' as nothing else ever will.

By contrast the inhabitants of the earth will be required to receive the **Mark of the Beast**; the **Signature of Satan**, the deadly **Festivals of Paganism** which the world so eagerly celebrates in place of the Sabbaths of the Most High. The peoples of the world will have to choose between these two options:

1. The **The Almighty's Seal & Signature**... His Law & Sabbath DayS (plural).
2. The **Mark of The Beast**... the festivals of Paganism.

Economic Sanctions (not being allowed to buy and sell in the markets of the world) will be used against those who refuse to receive the Mark of the Beast:

Revelation 13: 16: “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17: **And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”**

Needless to say, most people will accept the **Beast's Mark** without a qualm in preference to the Sabbaths of the LORD God. After all, these are the days they normally keep anyway.

9. Time Prophecies in Scripture

The **Time Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation all slot into periods of time between the feast days in the sacred calendar**. Begin counting on a feast day in one year, and lo! 1260, 1290, 1335 or 2300 literal days later another feast occurs. This fact is explained in **Appendix C** of our booklet entitled **The Sacred Calendar of the God of Israel**. This mathematical relationship between the Almighty's Feasts and end-time prophecy means that in the last seven years (2300 days is about 6.5 years) before the Saviour returns, the Time Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation will begin **on one or another of the Bible Feast days**. We will know at which feast - **and in which year** - when we see the promised **signs in the sun, moon and stars**.

10. How to Keep the Feasts

Yahweh's Feast days are Sabbath days on which no work, other than the preparation of food, should be undertaken.

Exodus 12: 16: “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.”

A **holy convocation**, incidentally, is a commanded assembly, which means '**compulsory attendance**.' This means that unless you're working in some **life-saving job**, where failure to work could result in someone dying (i.e. doctors, nurses, ambulance or fire services etc.) **attendance at these holy convocations is compulsory!** If no such service is held in your area, see **How to Organize a Sabbath Meeting**.

The Almighty's Feasts are days of **rejoicing** in that they celebrate His mightiest acts in the Programme of Salvation.

Ezra 6: 22: "And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days **with joy**: for the LORD had made them **joyful**, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel."

Nehemiah 8: 10: "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: **neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**"

11. Summary

1. Though there are many man-made calendars in existence today, the one that has gained the attention of the world is the **Gregorian Calendar**. It is the one used in every office of the civilised world.
2. The oldest calendar however, is the **Sacred Calendar of the God of Israel**. It was in existence before Noah's flood, before the Babylonian, Egyptian, Persian, Grecian and Roman empires came on the scene.
3. There are certain **Sabbaths** mentioned in the sacred calendar. They belong to **Yahweh (Yahovah)** the Almighty God of Israel. They are not Jewish feasts, They are the feasts of the LORD thy God.
4. The **Feasts of the LORD are Memorials of Salvation**; each and every one being a reminder of some great act in the programme of salvation.
5. **These weekly and annual Sabbaths were all kept holy by the Saviour**, the Apostles (including Paul) and the early church. They should be kept by all true believers in the LORD God of the Bible.
6. **Pagan festivals** were introduced into the church in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries when multitudes of semi-converted Gentiles began to profess Christ. The festivals of **Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Hallowe'en and Sunday** worship are all adopted from paganism. These have no Scriptural backing whatsoever.
7. The **Sabbaths of the LORD constitute His Sign, His signature** on the human mind.
8. **Pagan festivals constitute the Mark of the Beast**, the Signature of Satan. In an end-time spiritual election all mankind will be required to choose between God's Sign and the Beast's Mark.
9. **The Time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation** slot into periods of time between the Feast Days in a correct calendar.
10. The Sabbaths of the Almighty are rest days on which **holy convocations** (commanded assemblies) are held. Failure to keep the Sabbaths of the LORD is a dangerous and sinful thing. The only work permitted is the preparation of food for the Feasts and life-saving activity. No **servile work** (physical labour and business activity) is allowed.

May the Almighty grant us all the wisdom to recognize these facts and the courage and power to act upon them.

AMEN!

In the Son's Name - For the Father's glory.
Elder: Max W. Mader

A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada
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