

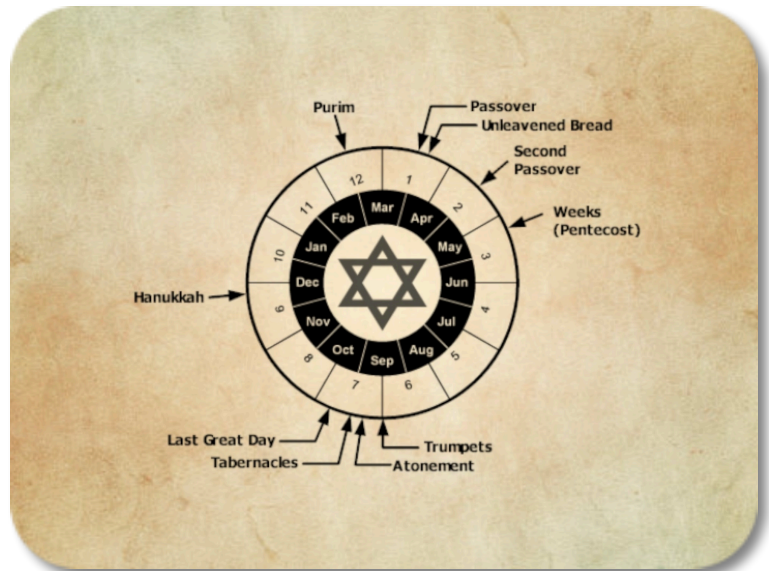
These Are MY Feasts

The Calendar

Restoring the faith of Yahshua as it was taught to us through His disciples, begins with the restoration of the divine calendar described in the Bible for all holy people to schedule their lives around. The church would have us believe the start of the year to be the 1st of January, for that is the schedule they go by on the secular timetable, but YAHWEH measures days differently. The modern Christian religion sets its measurements by celebrations not contained in the Scriptures but which were incorporated into Christian practice from the festivals of pagan and heathen peoples (Christmas, Easter, Saint John's Day, Halloween, and Valentine's Day, etc.) and in Christendom, our days are named for heathen gods, reckoned from sunrise to sunset, and our months, which follow the solar cycle, are likewise named for false idols.

In the scripture, however, it is written in Exodus 12:1-2, that the first month is called Aviv (Abib), not January, and it is begun by the movement of the moon, not the sun. Abib alluding to green ears, indicates that this month begins on the evening of the first new moon that appears after the barley turns green in Israel.

Furthermore, Abib is the only month ever named until the exile to Babylon. Up till then all the rest were numbered. The same was so of week days. Every day was numbered, not named, but the seventh and last also called Sabbath. Moreover, biblically, days begin at sunset, and end at sunset as Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31, make substantially clear. And throughout the biblical year, feasts are scattered to which we count, and from which we measure our days, weeks, months, seasons, and years.



The Feasts

Everyone of these holy days are recorded in Leviticus 23. Additional description of various feasts may also be found in Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 12, Exodus, 19, 20:8-11, 23:14-19, 31:12-17; 35:1-3; Leviticus 16, 23, 25; Numbers 9:1-14; 15:32-36; 28:9-10, 16-31; 29:1-40; Deuteronomy 5; 16:1-17.

These days are the Seventh Day Sabbath, Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day... Also the New Moon.

- The Sabbath begins at sundown on the day that corresponds to “Friday”, and ends at sundown on the corresponding day of “Saturday”. This day requires no work, and demands congregation and rest. This is a feast day which takes place every week.
- Passover begins the evening of Aviv 14. This is a feast requiring lamb (not possible while the Temple is gone), unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. It memorializes the exodus of Israel from Egypt and the death of Yahshua at Calvary.
- Unleavened bread is a week beginning at the close of Passover and ending seven days later. The first and last days of this week are counted as sabbaths no matter what day they fall on, and the same requirements are had for these as for the weekly sabbath. These seven days are feasts, yet no leaven may be eaten, nor possessed by us during this time. Unleavened bread is required to be consumed each day.
- First fruits falls on the Sunday during unleavened bread week. This is when the first fruits of the spring, are waved before YAHWEH. The count to Pentecost begins this day.
- Pentecost is counted from the first fruits, 50 days (or seven weeks or seven sabbaths). It always lands on a Sunday. It is a high Sabbath (the only Sunday Sabbath).
- Trumpets is the first day of the seventh month. It is a New Moon and a High Sabbath. The trumpet must be sounded this day. It is a feast day.
- Atonement is the 10th day of month seven. This is a day of fasting – no food or water for 24 hours. This is a high Sabbath.
- Tabernacles is a weeklong celebration from the 15th through the 21st of the seventh month. The first day is a high Sabbath. These are feast days when all of the people of YAHWEH construct and live in temporary booths or tents in memory of the wilderness wanderings.
- The Last Great Day is the 22nd of the seventh month. This is a feast and the last High Sabbath of the year.

The Other Two

The other two celebrations recorded in Scripture, (though not expressly ordered to be practiced, but traditionally observed are Hanukkah and Purim.

- Hanukkah is the memorial of the Temple rededication after Antiochus desecrated it. The record is found in the apocryphal books of 1st and 2nd Maccabees, though Yahshua is said to have observed this feast according to John 10:22. This is an eight day celebration beginning the 25th day of the ninth month.
- Purim is the celebration of the salvation YAHWEH provided HIS people in the book of Esther, even though HIS hand is not seen, His NAME is not mentioned, and HIS Word does not go forth. Yet HE moved unobserved to save HIS own. Every 14th and 15th days of the 12th month. This is remembered. Traditionally the day before these is a fast in remembrance of the fast of Esther. Both this and Hanukkah are not mandatory, but serve good purpose to further our understanding of YAHWEH and the messianic fulfillment of prophecy, as well as those promised for the future when Yahshua returns to reign on earth.

Why Bother?

The reasons for keeping these ancient feast days in our time are various and very important. Many today make excuses for avoiding these times of joy, citing them as being “Jewish”, or “fulfilled” by Messiah. They claim these holy days as relics of the “law” and exclaim eagerly “but we are not under law, but under grace.” And they charge that all of these feasts are only shadows of things that were to come, but say that “Jesus” is the reality of those shadows...

“So we don’t need them anymore” or so they say. The reality, however, could not be further from the truth.

Principally, Scripture never claims these sacred appointments to be “Jewish”, nor are they ever exclusively relegated to the people or region of Judah. On the contrary, in Scripture, YAHWEH says of these times and seasons, “these are MY feasts, the appointed feast of YAHWEH...” This is how HE describes them all as a collective. They are mine! Like a petulant child with his toys, the Almighty says MINE! MINE! MINE! ... Except HE alone has right to lay such claim without being petulant.

HE then begins to list all the days specifically personalizing each with His NAME. “It is a Sabbath to YAHWEH... the Passover of YAHWEH begins at twilight... On the 15th day of the seventh month, the feast of the tabernacles of YAHWEH begins...” And then, again, in the end, HE claims them all once more collectively, “these are the appointed feasts of YAHWEH.” The first and primary reason for celebrating these days in our lifetime then is the fact that they, like we ourselves, belong to YAHWEH Almighty as HIS personal possessions.

The second is that HE commanded their celebration as part of HIS eternal covenant with HIS people. If we are HIS people, then why would we not? The commandments of YAHWEH are the standard of righteousness, and breaking them is sin. He commanded us to keep these days holy, so to refuse would be a sin.

Another good reason, as if obedience is not enough, is that keeping these appointments puts us on the timetable of YAHWEH and keeps our constant focus stayed upon pleasing HIM. Plus, these holidays put us in good company, that of the prophets and disciples of old, all of whom held to these sacred times.

Additionally, all these feasts foreshadow Yahshua from their introduction to His advent into this world, even on to today. Those fulfilled at His first appearing are kept now in memoriam of Him as Messiah, and those yet to be fulfilled are done in rehearsal for that second advent when He will return to us once more. Like all foreshadowing, though, they only gain meaning fully when the foreshadowed event arrives, but the event in noway nullifies the foreshadowing. The event of fulfillment makes the shadow pictures, greater, clearer, and more glorious. Now that Yahshua has appeared, some say we no longer need these shadow pictures, but they are wrong. Now that Yahshua has appeared, though we still have need of these, they are shadows no more. Now Messiah revealed has given them form and substance. If we believe in Him, and if all these feast point as His way, why would we not want them?

Furthermore, each of these holy days was kept by the Messiah Himself. Are we greater than He? Are we holier than Messiah? I think not. If they are all about Him, and He kept them anyway, why would we abandon them now, we who are supposed to be following Him and doing as He did?

And finally, the way of the kingdom of heaven, will all revolve around the sacred days as the prophets foretold. If these feasts were commanded in ancient times, and will be commanded in future times, and YAHWEH Who is overall time, does not change (Malachi 3:6), then why should our time be any different?

