



July 23, 2021

Hebrew Scriptures support the Feasts of the Lord beyond the Old Covenant?

Warm hellos friends, brethren, co-workers, spiritual family, and scattered children of God, from our offices here on the Gulf Coast. My wife and I pray and hope this finds you all doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

Thanks to those who have mentioned appreciation for the recent letters and studies about the early church celebrating the Biblical Festivals. We've been concentrating on reviewing the Greek Scriptures which validate that the early church continued to celebrate the Biblical Festivals, but in a New Covenant way and meaning.

So, the next question we'll look at is do the *Hebrew Scriptures support the celebration of the Feasts of the Lord beyond the time of the Old Covenant?*

Wednesday evening, we held a Speaker's Meeting for the Feast of Tabernacles that CGM will hold in Orange Beach. We discussed in part during the meeting what the next paragraph states.

Let's first look at the chapter where all of the feasts are listed. "*Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'*" (Leviticus 23:2) Notice that these are the "Feasts of the LORD" and "My Feasts!" They are not feasts of Moses, any man, or organization! They are defined and presented to God's people.

As I have so often mentioned in messages, "the weekly Sabbath is mentioned first". To me the annual feasts stand firm with the weekly Sabbath included. They are all listed in sequence here. The weekly Sabbath is critical in determining the count to arrive at Pentecost. In a discussion concerning celebrating the weekly Sabbath, Jesus stated, "*The Sabbath was made for man.*" (Mark 2:27) The Sabbath was given to Adam and Eve and thus all mankind, not just the Jews or Israel. The next analysis supports the notion that the biblical festivals are also given to all mankind.

Let's reflect for a moment and look at a significant prophecy relating to keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. "*And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*" (Zechariah 14:16).

All nations will learn to keep the Feast in the coming 1000 year reign of Christ. That tells us all that observing these Feasts of the Lord is important for all people in all periods of time.

Isaiah describes that time when the law of God will go forth to many people and nations. *"Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."* (Isaiah 2:3) It makes sense that the instructions about both the law and word of God will include those relating to observing the feasts of the Lord. The amazing Millennial Temple described in the book of Ezekiel will be a place where various ceremonies are restored. The priest and the prince will lead in the celebration of the feasts listed in Leviticus 23. This will be an example and means of teaching for the tribes of Israel and the peoples who come to Jerusalem to learn of the ways of the Lord.

The apostles were told that they would be judging the tribes of Israel in the kingdom age. (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30) Jesus stated that *"the saints will judge the world."* (1 Corinthians 6:2) Righteous judgment must be based on the law of God with the statutes not simply man's perspective. The apostles were instructed by the master Teacher, Jesus Christ. Just before He ascended to the third heaven, Jesus reminded the apostles of His previous instructions from the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. (Luke 24:44) He went on to direct them to instruct *"repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name."* (v.47)

How can that not include proclaiming the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments, the weekly Sabbath, and the Feasts of the Lord? Sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4) The law *includes* the commands concerning celebrating the Feasts of the Lord.

We as members of the body of Christ are expected to live by the instructions of the law of God. The apostle Paul stated, *"...for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified."* (Romans 2:13).

How blessed God's people are to know about God's Festivals and how they outline the Plan of God for the salvation of all mankind!

The Festival of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles will be here in a few weeks. I look forward to God's upcoming Feast Days, and I pray you do too! Reflect, pray and meditate on these thoughts above with me will you?

Arms up friends! Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Please do pray for us as well.

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