

ABOUT GOD'S 7 HOLY DAYS

Many religious groups believe the Holy Days picture the whole plan of God for mankind from the beginning of creation to through the ages, and to the end of the time that we read about in the last two chapters of Revelation. Some have rejected Jesus as the Messiah, or the Lamb of God, and still keep the old sacrifice of the old Testament Passover. Others who have accepted Jesus as the Lamb of God keep the symbols as Jesus showed the Apostles. Instead of looking forward to the sacrifice of Jesus they look back as though it has been fulfilled. Looking back in remembrance of the sacrifice and resurrection as Jesus introduced in the New Testament. Paul explained in more detail later in 1Cor.11:23-30. These believers refer to the event as "The Last Supper."

This study is not submitted as new truth or judgmental "written in stone" doctrines. We all are encouraged by the Bible to "prove" (or disprove) all things. However, if no one introduces any new thoughts, how can we grow? We still have lots to learn, and we can learn from each other. This, and all of our articles, are intended as food rejecting or adding onto the understanding as new light is shed. Yahweh does not judge us by how much we agree or disagree, only by how pure and loving our attitudes are. With this intention this study is submitted.

In the old Testament God gave ancient Israel seven Holy Days that required an Holy convocation (Leviticus 23). The New Testament has little to say about these Sabbaths, but we do find that Jesus and Paul was still keeping them along with the weekly Sabbath. Jesus told his disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait there. They were still keeping the day of Pentecost or they would not have all been there on the right day. We find in Col. 2:16 where Paul taught a Gentile congregation not to be intimidated by those who condemn them for observing these special Holy Days. Verses 18-23 clarifies what man made worship they were being influenced to practice by outsiders instead of God's Sabbaths. On the other hand, there is no place in the New Testament that forbids or condemns anyone for keeping God's Holy Days. We also find in the last eight chapters of Ezekiel and Zech. 14:16-19 where God will enforce keeping the Feasts upon the whole world in a future age.

The seven Holy Days:

These seven Holy Days were commanded assemblies: 1-2. The first day of Unleavened Bread, and the last day of Unleavened Bread. There are five days in between that are not holy days.

3. Feast of Pentecost. 4. Feast of Trumpets. 5. Day of Atonement. 6. First day of Feast of Tabernacles with six days following that are not holy days. 7. Feast of The Last Great Day.

The number seven shows up in the Bible more than any other number and is thought to represent completeness. Therefore since there are seven Holy Days can we determine that they do indeed represent the whole plan of God for mankind? Can we relate to how they begin with the very beginning of creation and end with the last two chapters of Revelation? Can there be any connection of these days with the New Testament? Can we tie them in with the whole plan of mankind from Genesis to the last two chapters of Revelation?

We will start with an overview of the commanded assembly Holy Days which starts in the New Testament this time:

The first Holy Day would be the first Day of Unleavened Bread. Something really special on this day that pictures a new change that will effect every human being that has ever lived and died. God impregnated a virgin by the power of His Spirit. The issue was born as a human baby and grew into an adult. God appears in the likeness of man and introduces himself by the use of the body, speaking his own mind and words. His spirit dwells powerfully in the body of flesh who is destined to become known as The Son of God. The body, while flesh, also had a private mind and spirit. It was able to think and feel the same as any human male, even though he had an understanding from God, that His purpose was to become the Sacrificed Lamb.

Within the two Holy Days of the days of Unleavened Bread we have five days that must point to details occurring between the two Holy Days. If the seven Holy Days picture the whole plan of God for mankind, as far as we can see, the scripture should give us some events to put here. This is another study to do.

The second Holy Day is the last day of Unleavened Bread.

The third Holy Day is the Feast of Pentecost. This is the beginning of another new step in saving all of mankind from eternal death. The Holy Spirit is offered to mankind and the option of eternal life becomes available through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The age of Grace began. Jesus returns to heaven leaving Satan the rule of the world. Through the Holy Spirit and his disciples he builds His church.

The fourth Holy Day is Feast of Trumpets. Jesus returns with the last trumpet, imprisons Satan for a thousand years. With His resurrected Saints He completes what he started with the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul. He will rule the earth with love, and teach the Gentiles how to have eternal life. The earth that has been near destroyed, at the end of this age, will be restored and the time of the Gentiles will be fulfilled.

Rev.20:1¶ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed for a short season.

The fifth Holy Day is not a Feast Day but one of afflicting the soul. It is called the day of Atonement. This day calls for repentance, endurance, faith, and martyrdom.

At the end of the thousand year period Jesus releases Satan, gives him another short time to test Gentile nations and the resurrected whole house of Israel. Many are destroyed through rebellion against God. Israel is taken into captivity by their enemies. Eventually they will repent and turn back to God. After they "abhor" themselves God rescues them once again and destroys their enemies.

The sixth Holy Day is the first day of Feast of Tabernacles. Another new giant step in God's plan. He will forgive Israel, cleanses them, give them a new spirit and restore them to their land. Satan is gone. Israel will become the spiritual leader of the nations. When Israel finishes the Temple Christ will come back to a beautiful, clean, and purified earth and dwell with them, ruling from his temple in Jerusalem. This will last until all of mankind have been resurrected and judged. All nations that have never had the

opportunity to know God will finally have a choice to choose life or death. At the end only those whose names are found in the book of life will be given eternal life; the rest will be destroyed. No more death!!

The seventh Holy Day. The Last Great Day. Another step in God's plan for mankind. Rev.21:1 ¶ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Continuing on in the next verses and into the last two chapters of Revelation John sees many peoples from all nations being resurrected and judged. In Chapter 21 we see where all things are made new.

Why keep these holy days he says are his? These Holy days are so important to him that he is going to reinstate them in the sixth age for the whole world to keep. Read the last eight chapters of Ezekiel and Zech. 14:16-19 for more information. It is a way to keep him and his future plans close to our hearts, we need to be reminded every year of our wonderful future. I am convinced it will please him to see us celebrating his days with fellow believers, instead of the pagan celebrations of the world.

R.F.