

MESSIAH IN THE APPOINTED TIMES

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There are 7 annual appointed times, all spelled out for us in Lev 23.

Leviticus 23:1-2

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

Appointed feasts... some versions call them festivals. But the Hebrew word is mo’ed (plural mo’ed im) which just means a set time, or an appointed time. Scripture says “these are the appointed times of YHWH”. That’s important because a lot of people think these “Jewish holidays” or “Jewish festivals”. But Scripture makes it clear that they are HIS days... HIS times. I like to think of these Appointed Times as our Fathers’ appointments with us. He has asked us to set these times aside, for HIM, and for good reason too. Many of these appointed times clearly related to events in history, and some will related to events in the future as well. But they all share one thing in common. They all have something to do with the Messiah. With Yeshua. So this evening, I want to give you a very very brief outline of Yahuah’s’ 7 annual Appointed Times, and relate them to the Messiah.

There are 7 – starting with Passover (Pesach), and ending with Sukkot.

They can be grouped in two sets of 3, plus one in the middle.

The first set of 3 are sometimes called the Spring Festivals – They all happen within 8 days during the first month of the year (according to the Biblical calendar). First is the day of Passover, followed the next week which is the week of Unleavened Bread, and at some point during that week of Unleavened Bread is the appointed time called FirstFruits.

Then 50 days later is the appointed time of Shavuot, also known as Pentecost.

And then a few months later, in the 7th month of the Biblical year, we have the final three appointed times, sometimes called the Fall Festivals. These include The Day of Atonement, the day of Trumpets, and the week of Sukkot.

The 3 spring festivals all occur at the time of the first harvest – the barley harvest. Pentecost, the one that follows the spring festivals by 50 days, occurs at the time of the second harvest period, the wheat harvest. And then the last 3 – the 3 fall festivals, coincide with the final harvest – grapes, olives, dates, pomegranates.

Each of these three times, all the men of Israel were to go to Jerusalem, and bring with them their offerings to YHWH.

The first three, in the spring, primarily relate to the First Coming of Messiah. In that sense, they have been fulfilled, and we celebrate these three to remember and rejoice in what the Messiah has already done. The last three, in the fall, primarily relate to the Second Coming of Messiah. And we celebrate these in joyful expectation of what the Messiah will do in the future, when he returns.

Let’s just look at them briefly, one at a time.

PASSOVER (PESACH)

Leviticus 23:5

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is YHWH’s Passover.

If you came to Epic’s Passover celebration, you know what this is all about ~3500 years ago, was the **original Passover**, when God’s people – YHWH’s people - were enslaved to the Pharaoh of Egypt, and were delivered from that slavery and given a new beginning. The Destroyer that was to kill the firstborn of

all the households **passed over** those who had the faith to be obedient and sacrifice the lamb and put the lamb's blood on the doorposts.

And then some 1500 years later, on that very same day of Passover -- Jesus -- his Hebrew name is Yeshua -- was crucified as the perfect lamb of God. The original Passover in Egypt is a picture, a symbol, of what would take place when Yeshua's blood would save us all.

And we are told to remember that day. It is an appointment with our Father that He has asked to keep. For a very good reason.

UNLEAVENED BREAD (MATZOT)

The next day after Passover, was the beginning of a 7-day period called Unleavened Bread. This is the 2nd of the annual appointed times.

Leviticus 23:6-7

And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to YHWH; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

The people of Israel originally took with them unleavened bread when they left Egypt. This appointed time remembers that great deliverance, when they walked through the parted Red Sea, that valley of death, and emerged into the freedom on the other side. And 1500 years later, on the very same day, the first day of Unleavened Bread, our Messiah Yeshua, spent his first night and day in the tomb. His body, the bread of life, was broken for us, buried, like a seed in the ground, that it might sprout forth new life again. He literally went through the valley of death, to emerge into new life on the other side.

FIRSTFRUITS (RASHEET)

And during that week of Unleavened Bread, on the day after the Sabbath, which would be what we normally call Sunday, we are told to set apart another day as a special appointment:

Leviticus 23:9-11

And YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before YHWH, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

So the people were to lift up as an offering the firstfruits of their harvest. And on this very same day, some 1500 years later, Yeshua was lifted up, resurrected from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of the harvest.

That's why Paul refers to Yeshua as being the "**firstfruits**" in his letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

We call this Resurrection Day... but Scripture calls it "Firstfruits".

So do you see why these appointments times are so significant? They are important days historically. But they had future meaning as well. On Passover, Yeshua was crucified. He was buried in the tomb during Unleavened Bread. And He was resurrected on Firstfruits. These 3 spring festivals are linked to events primarily related to the first coming of Yeshua.

WEEKS (SHAVU'OT)

The next appointed time is Shavu'ot, which means "weeks", because it occurs exactly 7 weeks after Firstfruits, or Resurrection Sunday, as it's sometimes called. Another name for Shavuot is Pentecost which is Greek meaning 50th, since it occurs 50 days after the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread.

Leviticus 23:15-16, 21

"You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you

shall present a grain offering of new grain to YHWH... You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

What is Shavu'ot all about? If you were with us at Epic on Shavu'ot you will remember that there is good reason to believe that the day of Shavu'ot marks the very day our heavenly Father gave the 10 commandments, Scripture calls them the Ten Words) to Moses and the people on Mount Sinai. Although Scripture doesn't specifically state this, there is some strong evidence in Scripture that this is the case. And we looked at all that together last Shavu'ot, so I won't repeat it here.

So Shavuot celebrates the giving of His Word, the giving of His Torah. Now Jeremiah tells us that there will be a New Covenant his Torah will then be written on our hearts.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

And Ezekiel says that this new heart, with the Torah written upon it, is linked to the Holy Spirit being put inside of us:

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Would it be any surprise, then, that on the very day of Shavuot, the very day he first gave His Word on Sinai, he would give us his Holy Spirit, and in doing so, begin to write His Word on our hearts?

We have record of this in Acts 2, when the believers gathered together for Shavu'ot, shortly after Yeshua was crucified.

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

So that's Shavu'ot. Now we'll look at the last thee, the fall festivals, which relate primarily to Messiah's second coming.

TRUMPETS (YOM TERUAH)

Leviticus 23:24

"Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed **with blast of trumpets**, a holy convocation.

All we are told here is that this special day is to be proclaimed with a blast of trumpets. We are left to conjecture about why. But what was a trumpet blast used for? It was a signal. A sound to alert people of an event. A trumpet blast was used to announce a new king taking his throne. A trumpet blast was used to call men together for battle. A trumpet blast was used to gather the congregation together for an assembly. A trumpet blast was used to announce the arrival of the bridegroom, coming to claim his bride before the wedding.

I would suggest to you that each of these have application to us in celebrating the day of Trumpets. It seems that this day announces the return of the Messiah to take his throne. This is indeed His second coming. He comes to gather His people. As the King to assemble his army and prepare for battle. As the bridegroom to claim his bride.

And while it's true that no one knows the day or hour of His coming, it would not surprise me in the least if it just so happens to be on the day of Trumpets. There is a reason we are told to celebrate this day. Just there have been reason we were told to celebrate each and every one of the previous appointed times.

Some call the feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashana, (the new year), but this is not in Scripture. And even though this marks the beginning the new year for Israel today, according to Scripture, the Biblical new year is to start 6 months later, in the month of Nisan, the month in which Passover occurs. Trumpets was never meant to celebrate the new year. It was meant to symbolize the gathering of God's people, the coming King, returning to take his throne, claim his bride and assemble his people for the coming battle.

If you haven't noticed, all these appointed times are in order of the events they foreshadow. First the Passover foreshadowing the crucifixion. The Unleavened Bread, foreshadowing the burial of Messiah. Then Firstfruits, foreshadowing the resurrection. Then Shavuot, foreshadowing the giving of the Holy Spirit. Now after a relatively long gap, comes trumpets, foreshadowing the return of Messiah to gather together His people; to proclaim His bride. What's next?

ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR)

Leviticus 23:27-28

"Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and **you shall afflict yourselves** and present a food offering to the LORD. And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

The day of atonement... we are told to afflict ourselves. Other versions say "you shall humble yourselves". Others say "you are to fast", and this is the traditional way this command has been interpreted. As a day of fasting and reflection upon one's sins. This is the most solemn day of the year. A day in which, as we fast and reflect on our sins, we humble ourselves before the Father, asking for His mercy, and knowing that we don't deserve it and never will.

We also know something more about the day of atonement from the responsibilities of the high priest. We know that on that day, and ONLY on that day, the High Priest was allowed to go into holy of holies in the tabernacle (and later in the temple). And there, he would be in the very presence of God, on behalf of all the people. And on that day of Atonement, the High Priest would offer sacrifice for the sins of the nation, and he would take some of incense, along with some of the blood from the sacrifice, into the holy of holies, and smear it on the atonement cover. and their sins would be covered.

So we see that Yom Kippur foreshadows that final day of judgment, when all will come before His presence, and those whose sins have been forgiven because of the actions of our Great High Priest, Yeshua our Messiah will be seen as righteous before the Father, and will find their names are written in the book of life. Whereas those outside of Messiah are condemned to eternal judgment.

SUKKOT

And finally, the 7th appointed time. In the Seventh month, lasting for 7 days, is Sukkot. 7 – the number of completion. So what would Sukkot foreshadow? What comes after judgment day for believers? We get to live the Messiah's new kingdom – with Him! In his very presence with Him as our Provider. The 1000-year reign with Yeshua as King is called the millennial reign.

So it seems that Sukkot primarily foreshadows the Millennium, when God's plan for mankind is essentially complete. Larry will talk more about the Sukkot and the Millennium in another session.