



# How to Keep Yahweh's Holy Days



By Elder Jacob O. Meyer

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*Most religious groups today have long abandoned the holy days commanded by Yahweh in favor of corrupt, man-made holidays. But Yahweh's holy days, commanded and kept first in the Old Testament and perpetuated in the New, were never abolished by the Father or His Son. They are as vital to salvation as they ever were—and you need to understand why.*

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The Scriptures declare that the commandments of Yahweh are everlasting, Psalm 119:142. Your Bible dogmatically says that the commandments of Yahweh will endure forever, Psalm 119:160. The Messiah's own words indicate that He subscribed unequivocally to the commandments of Yahweh, voicing His approval of them early in His ministry, Matthew 5:17-20.

Yahshua said that not one yothe or tittle should "**pass from the law until all be fulfilled.**" Who are we to reverse such a profound, authoritative statement from the very lips of the Captain of our salvation? When we study the Bible seriously, it becomes apparent that the inspired Scriptures can be harmonized from Genesis to Revelation.

History supports the fact that the Nazarenes kept the commandments of Yahweh; these Nazarenes were the remnant of the original apostolic assembly that sprang to life on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Elements of that original apostolic assembly

have remained through the ages. The True Worshipers lived their lives in obedience to the law of Yahweh.

Today, at the end of the age, the prophecy of Revelation 12:17 can be fulfilled: "**And the dragon became exceedingly angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the remnant of her seed, that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and hold the testimony of Yahshua.**"

From studying the commandments of Yahweh, we discover that there are a number of special days that our Heavenly Father wishes us to observe. Some of these days are observed weekly, some monthly, and some annually. On these special days, Almighty Yahweh directs that we bring our worship to Him.

If you have never read our article **The Sacred Appointments**, write immediately to the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh and request it. It is free for the asking and is most enlightening if you have never considered this subject.

## ***Are They Sacrificial Days?***

These holy days of Yahweh are listed for us in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28 and 29. Numbers 28-29 lists the holy days along with the specified sacrificial offerings that are to be made to Almighty Yahweh on those days.

One of the most frequently encountered arguments against keeping the feasts of Yahweh is that they were kept as sacrificial days, and that this makes their observance void for the New Testament era. But such an argument can easily be proved false with several Scriptures.

First of all, Numbers 28:3-8 shows us that sacrifices were offered **every day**. Should we do away with the days of the week since animal sacrifices were offered on them? As a matter of fact, we cannot eliminate any day from the week. We can remember the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah for our sins each day when we give thanks to Yahweh!

When Yahweh gave His Son to the world and Yahshua the Messiah shed His blood upon the tree of Calvary, the ritual sacrificial system was brought to an end for the True Worshiper. Yahweh the Heavenly Father **manifested** His decision to end the sacrificial system (and inaugurate an era of grace) by allowing His Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed by the Roman armies in 70 C.E.

The shed blood of Yahshua the Messiah had become the acceptable atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, as predicted in Hebrews 13:15-16: ***“Through him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to Yahweh continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name. But do not forget to do good and communicate: for with such sacrifices Yahweh is well pleased.”***

Take note of Hosea 14:2 in regard to the true sacrifice. ***“Take with you words, and return to Yahweh: say to him, Take away all iniquity, and accept that which is good: so will we render as bullocks the offering of our lips.”*** Paul exhorts us to keep our bodies a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1-2. ***“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Yahweh, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Yahweh, which is your spiritual service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of Yahweh.”***

Pure worship, offered freely to Almighty Yahweh out of a pure heart, has now superseded the ritual animal sacrifices, and the meat (meal) and drink offerings. When the Apostle Paul was imprisoned at Jerusalem he declared, ***“...seeing that you can take knowledge that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem....”*** (Acts 24:11).

Paul did not say that he went to Jerusalem to sacrifice animals, but to worship Almighty Yahweh

in His Temple.

From these Scriptures it is easy to see that Almighty Yahweh accepts the sacrifice of praise that gives thanks to His Name. He desires to dwell in a body sanctified by His Holy Spirit, and then He will recognize the blood of Messiah as a covering for the sins of all repentant people. We remember this sacrifice as we pray to Almighty Yahweh each day, thanking Him for accepting us upon the merits of His Son, Yahshua the Messiah: the Lamb of Yahweh who became our substitute.

Do you see how the erroneous argument that the scriptural holy days are merely sacrifice days can now be answered? Animal sacrifices were necessary because Almighty Yahweh would not otherwise accept the worship of a sinner. The worshiper was to understand that he was a sinner from birth and destined to die for his transgressions of Yahweh’s Law. Sacrifices were therefore added to the observance of the holy days until the promised seed comes, Galatians 3:19.

### ***Worship Each Day***

From Numbers 28 we learn it was required of the Israelites to offer a special sacrificial offering of two lambs each day, along with appropriate meal and drink offerings. One lamb was to be offered at sunrise and the other at sunset. Please see also Exodus 29:3-46 and Ezekiel 46:13-15.

Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the sacrificial requirements of Yahweh’s Law for those who accept His shed blood and cleanse their hearts from sin. Offering animals during this era of grace is no longer acceptable to Yahweh.

But let us not be too hasty in thinking that we need no longer observe a time of worship each day. The period of time represented by the sacrifices offered to Almighty Yahweh can be used today as a time of Bible study and worship. ***“Let my prayer be set forth as incense before you; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”***

(Psalm 141:2).

David said, ***“Evening, and morning, and at noonday; will I complain, and moan; and he will hear my voice,”*** Psalm 55:17. Apparently it was the custom of the ancient Israelites to pray three times each day.

Daniel was known to pray three times each day, and he found much spiritual strength from this intimate communion with Almighty Yahweh, Daniel 6:10. Consequently, it is implied that a brief period of worship must be set aside each day for communion with Almighty Yahweh. During this time we return thanks for the rich blessings that Almighty Yahweh has bestowed upon us, and we express thanksgiving for the plan of salvation that He has prepared for us through the sacrifice of His Son Yahshua the Messiah. By worshipping daily before Almighty Yahweh, each day of the week is dedicated to His service. Our very lives are offered to Him as a living sacrifice.

### ***New Moons***

Few people today realize the importance of observing the new moon days. Nevertheless, the new moon days were observed in ancient Israel and they will again be observed during the Millennium—on a worldwide basis. Isaiah 66:23 shows that when Yahweh’s Kingdom is established, all people will come to worship Him. Let us read that passage. ***“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, says Yahweh.”*** Ezekiel 46:3 indicates that during the Millennial reign of the Messiah, a special time of worship would be held at the new moons: ***“And the people of the land shall worship at the door of that gate before Yahweh on the sabbaths and on the new moons.”***

The book of Deuteronomy was undoubtedly a new moon observance, during which Moses preached a stirring sermon to the nation of Israel just before his death. You may recall



Deuteronomy 1:3: ***“And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that Yahweh had given him in commandment to them....”*** Moses spoke to Israel on a new moon day, the first day of the eleventh month. Apparently, they had congregated to hear him preach, and the reason for the assemblage was to observe the first day of the eleventh month, the new moon. The new moons are vitally important because the feast days are set according to them.

Even in the New Testament we find a reference to keeping the new moons, although this Scripture is usually misapplied. Taking the context into consideration, we learn that the passage in question, Colossians 2:16, directs us to keep the commandments of Yahweh. ***“Let no man judge you therefore in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a sabbath....”***

If you have never read a scriptural explanation of this controversial passage, write for one of our reprint articles on the subject. You will find it illuminating. Many Sabbath-keeping people, as well as those who eat clean meats, know the correct interpretation of this verse but

still neglect to keep the scripturally commanded new moons.

Notice carefully: on the new moon day extra, special offerings were made, Numbers 28:11-14. ***“And in the beginnings of your months you shall offer a burnt-offering to Yahweh...this is the burnt-offering of every month throughout the months of the year.”***

Today, personal worship (the offering of the “calves” of our lips, a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving) must be of-

fered to Almighty Yahweh in place of animal sacrifices. Some kind of special worship is offered on the new moons to elevate them from the mundane.

We must also understand, as we study this subject, that the new moons have been greatly misunderstood because some people have imagined that they are holy days, on which no work is to be done, and should be observed like a holy Sabbath. Usually Amos 8:5 is offered as proof that the new moons are a Sabbath. We read there, ***“... saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell grain? And the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and dealing falsely with balances of deceit....”***

This passage does not refer to the monthly new moon day nor does it indicate the weekly Sabbath. The reference to the new moon is to the commandment against eating of the new grain until the firstfruit offering has been brought to Yahweh, Leviticus 23:14. Reference to the Sabbath takes us to Exodus 34:22, where the firstfruits offering for the wheat harvest is given at Pentecost.

Therefore, Amos 8:5 is no Scripture to use as proof that the new moon is to be kept as a Sabbath of rest. Nor does Ezekiel 46:3 instruct

us to observe the new moons as holy Sabbath days. The commandment is that the people of the land worship, which we have already seen should be done each day, with special worship on the first day of the month. The weekly and annual Sabbaths are days of rest, when no work is to be done. We shall see that the commandment relative to keeping the Sabbath means a day of rest (because that is exactly what the word means—*rest*). **There is only ONE new moon that is a holy Sabbath (the Feast of Trumpets)**, and this holy day will be considered later.

The beginning of each month is the day on which the new moon is visible. The Assemblies of Yahweh rejects the Judaic method of setting months.

As we have shown in the article **Yahweh’s Calendar in the Heavens**, the months are established by the visual sighting of the new moon. This is the first thin crescent seen in the western sky soon after sunset. The Jews today establish the new moons by calculation rather than observation.

Each member of the Assemblies of Yahweh is challenged to watch for the new moon crescent in his locality. We realize that the new moon will be declared from Jerusalem during the Millennium just as it was in scriptural times. However, during the scriptural era watchmen were stationed on high elevations at various places in the Holy Land to watch the western horizon for the new moon. Today the worship of Almighty Yahweh is no longer centered in Jerusalem. No Sanhedrin sits each month to sanctify the new moon. But Yahweh’s people continue to observe the feast days, and these annual observances are regulated by the new moons. We, therefore, urge all of the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh to watch diligently for the new moon each month and **report to the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh**. In this way all of the body of the Messiah may be in harmony in celebrating the holy days of Yahweh.

Isn’t the rapid communication



of our day wonderful? We can communicate almost instantly across thousands of miles by telephone or telegraph. Such will be the instantaneous communication during the Millennium, Isaiah 66:23. During the era of the Kingdom, watchmen from all points on earth will communicate with the capital of the Kingdom of Yahweh and report the sighting of the new moon.

Today we do the same, but the central point is Bethel until the Messiah returns and the Kingdom of Yahweh is established. Those who are unable to see the new moon in their area because of weather conditions may telephone the offices at Bethel for confirmation of the new moon sighting.

When the new moon is sighted and verified, services are held in the Assemblies of Yahweh. During this time we have devotions—songs, Scripture reading, and prayer. A sermon is preached by one of the ministers. Usually a Bible study is held and questions are answered. If a member is in an isolated area, he should watch for the new moon and then have a time of private worship and Bible study. In this way, the requirements for keeping the new moon during this New Testament era will be met.

In biblical times, a feast was held on the new moons, 1 Samuel 20. Since the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh do not observe the worldly holidays, our children can be encouraged to be obedient to Yahweh's commandments by making His appointed times enjoyable in our homes. We can do as did the Israelites and have a special meal on new moon evening. In the Bethel Assembly of Yahweh, we usually have refreshments after the services; this is especially enjoyed by the children.

### **Weekly Sabbath Day**

Another in the list of days when we worship Almighty Yahweh is the weekly Sabbath. This is the seventh day of each week. If you have never proved to yourself which day is the scriptural Sabbath, request your

free copy of the article, **The Fourth Commandment Enigma**. This article will assist you in proving to yourself, once and for all, which day is the weekly Sabbath.

For the Sabbath day, the seventh day of the week, we find that the Bible legislates a number of restrictions. First, the basic commandment in the law of Yahweh legislating the weekly Sabbath demands that we recognize it as a day of rest.

***“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. SIX DAYS SHALL YOU LABOR, AND DO ALL YOUR WORK; but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim: in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maid-servant, or your cattle, or the stranger that is within your gates: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is***



***in them, and rested the seventh day: Therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”*** (Exodus 20:8-11).

Please read also Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Exodus 31:12-18. The word *Sabbath* is derived from the Hebrew verb *šāvat* (*shavath*), which means *to rest or cease from activity*.

It is obvious that on the Sabbath day no work is to be done. This includes any activity in which we normally engage for our livelihood. Almighty Yahweh has declared this 24-hour time period sacred time, sanctified for His worship.

The Sabbath is kept from sunset to sunset rather than in the Roman

manner of midnight to midnight. Please see Mark 1:32, which shows from the context how the Messiah kept the Sabbath. It is quite clear that the time between the two sunsets, which delineates the seventh day, must be kept holy.

We must have a holy convocation on the Sabbath, Leviticus 23:2-3. The brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh must gather (that's what convocation means) and worship Yahweh in unity in the assembly. Read that last Scripture over again: ***“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, The set feasts of Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my set feasts. Six days shall work be done: but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, A HOLY CONVOCATION; you shall do no manner of work: it is a sabbath to Yahweh in all your dwellings.”*** Perfectly plain and clear, don't you agree?

We are commanded to attend a convocation, and, if we fail to obey Almighty Yahweh, we are in violation of His Word. Hebrews 10:25 exhorts the apostolic assembly not to neglect the assembling of themselves, which just as much applies to us in our time as it did to them.

But suppose that a member of the Assemblies of Yahweh is isolated from fellowship and cannot attend a regular weekly convocation on the Sabbath day, what should he do? We live in an age of miracles. Many modern inventions do things for us that would not have been possible several decades ago. The Assemblies of Yahweh assists its members that do not have the benefit of regular fellowship with an assembly served by an ordained minister, through a CD ministry. The Sabbath services at the Bethel Assembly are recorded and reproduced on CDs. Through this medium the isolated individual can feel that he is part of the regular assembly as he listens to the worship services and even joins in the singing of praises to our Heavenly Father.

On Sabbath, we rest and refresh

our minds and bodies after a week of labor. We turn our thoughts toward the Word of Yahweh and His Kingdom to come. Let us allow the prophet Isaiah to instruct us in the will of Yahweh.

*“If you turn away your foot from the sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, and the holy of Yahweh honorable; and shall honor it, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: then shall you delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will make, you to ride upon the high places of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken it.”* Isaiah 58:13-14.

It is simple to understand, from a comparison of the Scriptures, what our Heavenly Father wishes us to do and not do on the Sabbath. No work is to be done on that day. The men should set aside their task of earning a living.

The ladies should prepare the food for their families the previous day—the preparation day. Exodus 16:23, *“And he said unto them, This is what Yahweh has spoken, tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to Yahweh: bake what you will bake, and boil what you will boil; and all that remains over save it to be kept until the morning.”* Since the ladies are busy with their housework all week, Yahweh has given them a day off, too. On the Sabbath day they can relax, just as do their husbands, because our Heavenly Father has instructed them to prepare the food for the Sabbath on the sixth day of the week.

Remember that Nehemiah instructed the people of his time not to purchase food on the Sabbath, (Nehemiah 13:15-22) extending the prohibition against preparing food to unbelievers who might prepare it for sale to the believer.

The weekly Sabbath can indeed be a day of joy—delightful to ob-

serve. When the mundane cares of this life are laid aside at sunset, family members fellowship with one another. And throughout the day the spiritual family of Yahweh congregates to worship our Heavenly Father together. We should think of **Him** and speak of **His Word** on that sacred day.

Since the Pharisees had imposed rigid restrictions on traveling on the Sabbath to attend services, some people today question how far one should travel to attend services. Just remember, the Sabbath is a **commanded** convocation. We usually answer that question by asking another: *“How far would you travel to attend a sporting event, a musical concert, or some other function in which you are interested?”* A distance within reason would be the extent of our travel to attend services with brethren of like-precious faith. No distance is specified in the Bible, however.

### ***Passover and Unleavened Bread***

Another commanded observance is the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. Please read again Leviticus 23:4-8 and Numbers 28:16-25. Passover is the preparation for participation in the holy days of Yahweh. Throughout the Bible, the Passover is always designated the 14th of Abib (the first scriptural month). The first month is regulated by the maturity of the barley crop,

which must be in green heads when the crescent moon appears. Passover is never called a holy day, rather, it was the day on which the Passover lamb was slain in Egypt, and the destroyer **passed over** the houses of Israel and spared them while judging the Egyptians with the plague of death on their firstborn. The name of the day was derived from the deliverance that took place on that day.

On the evening of Passover day (at the beginning of the day), the family of Yahweh, the body of Messiah, assembles to remember the suffering and death of the Messiah. Paul said he fulfilled with the Corinthian brethren the example that had been shown him, that Yahshua the Messiah, the **same night** on which He was betrayed, took bread and blessed it, giving it to His disciples. After that, He took the cup and blessed it, giving it to His disciples, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

This memorial supper in honor of our Redeemer’s death is held once each year, on the same day that the Messiah inaugurated it and on which He suffered for us. We no longer sacrifice an animal, but we remember the Messiah’s sacrifice for us by eating the token of His broken body and shed blood—unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine (grape juice). Preparatory service of feet washing is held, just as directed by the Messiah. We reenact the ordinance of John 13. This is to teach the members of the body of





the Messiah humility.

As we bend down and wash the feet of our brother (or sister), we are indicating that if the need arises we will serve him in any way possible. It is also a type of cleansing service inasmuch as those priests who served in the Tabernacle and Temple were instructed to wash their hands and feet before they entered the house of Yahweh, Exodus 30:17-21.

If one of the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh is isolated and cannot attend this memorial service, we lend help through a cassette tape so that he or she can partake of the supper with us.

Passover day is the 14th of the first scriptural month, Abib. It is not a holy day, but the preparation for the feast. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is held seven days, Abib 15-21. During Passover day, all leaven is removed from our houses. We are careful to eliminate such things as yeast, baking powder, and baking soda. Occasionally, leaven is found in other products beside baked goods. We eliminate these also. For seven days we eat only unleavened bread with our meals.

Sometimes people erroneously assume that unleavened bread is all we eat during that time, but the Bible does not direct that we do that. In place of regular raised bread and other baked goods using leaven, we eat unleavened bread and desserts that are made without leaven. All other food—meat, fruit, and vegetables—is also eaten. Ridding our lives of leaven is symbolic of evicting all that is not of sincerity and truth. See 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Matthew 16:12, and Luke 12:1.

The first day of this festival, the day after the Passover (Numbers 33:3), is a holy convocation. The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh gather on that night, Exodus 12:42. We have a communal meal and regular services, which include singing, prayer, and preaching. Throughout the week, those who assemble at Bethel engage in daily Bible studies. Worship services are held each evening.

The seventh day, the twenty-first of Abib, is another holy convocation, after which we once more resume using leaven in our cooking and baking. The first holy day of Unleavened Bread, Abib 15, was a convocation in Israel commemorating their leaving Egypt. The last holy day, Abib 21, represented Israel as they crossed the Red Sea together. Similarly, today the body of Messiah, modern Israel (Galatians 6:15-16), gathers and remains together during the holy days, as much as possible.

### ***The Wave Sheaf Offering***

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread the wave sheaf was offered. The wave sheaf represented the resurrected Yahshua Messiah, the firstfruit harvest of the human race. He was resurrected from the dead at the end of the Sabbath. Offering the firstfruit wave sheaf occurred on the evening of the first day of the week, Leviticus 23:9-14. The waving of the sheaf began the count toward Pentecost, Leviticus 23:15-16. Although this is not a holy day, we remember this firstfruit offering and the resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah with a special service on the first day of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

### ***Shavuoth or Pentecost***

Seven full weeks after the offering of the wave sheaf we arrive at the only first day of the week pronounced holy by Almighty Yahweh. This single feast day, called the Feast of Weeks, Shavuoth, or Pentecost, is observed to give thanks to Almighty Yahweh for the spring harvest or the barley harvest. It represents the time when the covenant of Yahweh was ratified at Mount Sinai.

The Assemblies of Yahweh gather for the weekly Sabbath day preceding Pentecost. During Pentecost day we remember the time when Israel ratified the covenant with Yahweh, and we examine some of the aspects of that covenant. We recall how the apostolic assembly

began on this day when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon all who would receive it by showing their obedience to Yahweh, Acts 2. It is a holy day and a holy convocation. Yahweh's people assemble and we fellowship together. As at most holy day observances in the Assemblies of Yahweh, communal meals are served, and all-day worship and preaching services are held.



### ***Feast of Trumpets***

The first day of the seventh month is a new moon day, declared by our Heavenly Father an annual holy day, Leviticus 23:24-25, Numbers 29:1-6. It was to be a holy convocation, and no mundane work was to be done. Remember that when Yahweh commands us to set aside our daily tasks, He means a day of complete rest. It is a commanded holy convocation, a day when all of the people of Yahweh gather for worship.

We find that the Feast of Trumpets depicts the last days of this age. The trumpet (*shophar*) blown this day signifies a separation from the people of the world. The people of Yahweh will be separated from the worldly people by the return of Yahshua the Messiah at the last trump (Matthew 4:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Revelation 11:15). The wicked people of the world will

march to their judgment at the battle of Armageddon, Revelation 16:13-21.

The Feast of Trumpets is observed each year by first watching for the new moon. When the crescent is seen in the western sky the beginning of the seventh scriptural month is noted. The *shophar* is blown and the assembled brethren worship Almighty Yahweh. The services held on the Feast of Trumpets include the usual devotional period, songs of praise to Yahweh and sermons from the ministers.

As on other feast days, the people of Yahweh have a meal together. This feast begins the 10 days of penitence that lead us to examine our lives in preparation for the remaining holy days. Just as preceding the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread in the spring is a period of introspection, the Feast of Trumpets begins a time of self-examination in the fall.

### Day of Atonement

The major characteristic of the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, is the solemnity of the occasion. Your Bible declares this important day in Leviticus 23:26-32 and Numbers 29:7-11. At the beginning of the day, we remember the vow we made to Yahweh and to His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, to be faithful until death. We remember the sin offering Yahweh made for us through His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, who died on the tree of Calvary.

The Yom Kippur service, which was celebrated in ancient Israel, is outlined in Leviticus 16. From reading the chapter it becomes apparent that Yahshua's sacrifice upon the tree for our sins, as He suffered and shed His blood to atone for us, completely fulfilled the sacrificial law.

The Day of Atonement is a day of restraint and prayer in memory of Yahshua's sacrifice for us. The

Scripture indicates that it is a time when we must afflict our souls by fasting, Isaiah 58. We remember that it was for our sins that He died because it was the sins of the world that killed Him, Isaiah 53:8.



The day is spent in meditation, and again, as on all of Yahweh's holy days, there is a convocation of believers. Worship services are held, and the assembly hears sermons by the ministers. At the end of the day, the *shophar* is blown and the people are released from the affliction, referring to Leviticus 25:9 and Deuteronomy 15:1-3.

### Feast of Tabernacles

This feast is a time of rejoicing. The seven days of this observance represent the coming era of joy and harmony predicted for the Kingdom of Yahweh. You will find the directions relating to this holy feast time in Leviticus 23:33-43 and Numbers 29:12-34.

Almighty Yahweh commands all who would be Israelites (including those who are begotten by the Holy Spirit, Galatians 6:15-16) to take up residence in temporary dwellings. He wishes us to realize that when we leave the world of sin behind we must not put down any firm roots in the world of this age, but keep our eyes fixed on the future

Kingdom of Yahweh. Most of the brethren live in tents or camping trailers; we decorate them with the boughs of trees.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a holy convocation. While distance prohibits many members of the Assemblies of Yahweh from attending all of the feasts of Yahweh, each one makes a special effort to attend the general assembly at the Feast of Tabernacles, which is held in a central location in our country.

Note especially a function that is scheduled according to Deuteronomy 31:9-13. ***“And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it to the priests the sons of Levi, that bore the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and to all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the set time of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, when all Israel has come to appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which he shall choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and your sojourner that is within your gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Yahweh your Elohim, and observe to do all the words of this law; and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim, as long as you live in the land which you go over the Jordan to possess.”***

It seems that **all Israel** made a special effort to attend the Feast of Tabernacles each year, and then, every seventh year, the book of Deuteronomy was read.

During the Feast of Tabernacles, the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh rejoice together for seven days. We learn to live as a family. When someone stands in the midst of the encampment of the Assemblies





of Yahweh, he finds himself in the atmosphere of Main Street, mid-Millennium. The atmosphere has the unmistakable air of peace and joy. We seek to stay together like a family during this sacred time.

On the 15th day of the seventh scriptural month, we find that Yahweh has directed us to have a holy convocation. Worship services are held, and the members of the congregation learn the ways of Yahweh from sermons by the ministers. During the week, organized activities are held, with services scheduled several times each day. Remember, the Feast of Tabernacles is seven days, with a special day at the end, Numbers 29:12. Recall also that Yahshua kept this feast as well as all the others, John 7.

### ***Last Great Day***

Although the Last Great Day is usually included with the Feast of Tabernacles, it is actually a separate holy day. This day depicts a time—still future—at the end of the Millennium when all people will have been made spirit. Who knows what the future holds? The Bible is a book that is specifically concerned with the seven thousand years of man. It says little about what took place previously, or what will take place after the Millennium, 1 Corinthians 2:9-1.

At the end of the Millennium,

after Satan has been destroyed, the Holy City will come down from Yahweh out of heaven and the Most High will dwell with mankind. There will be no sin and no more sorrow. All things will be made new, Revelation 21, 22.

On the Last Great Day of the feast is a holy convocation. It is a Sabbath of rest and no work is done. Worship services are held. It always appears that, by the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, the group is bound together in a very special sort of spiritual affection which is typical of what will take place during the Millennium and on into infinity.

### ***The Blessing for Keeping the Feasts***

In Numbers 6:22-27 is found the Aaronic blessing to Israel. ***“And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, On this wise you shall bless the children of Israel: you shall say to them, Yahweh bless you, and keep you: Yahweh make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: Yahweh lift up his face to you, and give you peace. So shall they put my name on the children of Israel; and I will bless them.”***

We reserve this blessing for the end of each one of the annual feast days described as holy convocations. Almighty Yahweh has offered a

rich blessing for keeping His Law and assembling on His holy days. Yahweh’s face will be toward the faithful and they will be blessed. Please read also Deuteronomy 16:15.

### ***An Offering for Yahweh***

Most visitors to a regular weekly Sabbath service of the Assemblies of Yahweh are puzzled when the entire meeting passes and no offering plate was circulated. One is reminded of various groups who thrive on taking offerings in their services—for the general fund, missions, orphans, nursing homes, building fund, etc.

Worship services in the Assemblies of Yahweh are free of charge! See Matthew 10:8. You can come with an empty wallet without feeling any apprehension about contributing. There is no need to be embarrassed as you may have been in ch-rchianity.

The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh know that the Heavenly Father instructs us to tithe of the increase of our labors (Leviticus 27:30-33), and they return those tithes to Yahweh voluntarily without the pressure of the usual offering plea that most religious groups employ.

However, Almighty Yahweh has instructed us to bring a special offering to Him at certain times each year. In His covenant law we read, ***“The feast of unleavened bread shall you keep: seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib (for in it you came out from Egypt); and NONE SHALL APPEAR BEFORE ME EMPTY....”*** (Exodus 23:15). Note the emphasized words. Almighty Yahweh demands an offering (or gift) of thanksgiving during these sacred appointments. This is made quite plain in Deuteronomy 16. For instance, we read in verse 10, ***“And you shall keep the feast of weeks to Yahweh your Elohim with a tribute of a freewill-offering of your hand, which you shall give, according as Yahweh***



*your Elohim blesses you....”*

We cannot avoid the fact that Almighty Yahweh has directed that we respectfully approach Him in worship with an offering to show our sincerity. As a matter of fact, this passage indicates that bringing an offering at the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) is an essential part of the worship of Yahweh. The word *tribute* in Hebrew means *liberal, free flowing*.

Now let us go to the end of the chapter (Deuteronomy 16). We read in verses 16-17: ***“Three times in a year shall all your males appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which he shall choose: in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles; and they shall not appear before Yahweh empty: every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of Yahweh your Elohim which he has given you.”***

One can hardly misunderstand this instruction. It is at the feasts of Yahweh that we are commanded to take an offering and present it as visible evidence of our reverence for Him. He is our King and we take Him a thanksgiving gift. The size of the offering is voluntary. As Yahweh has blessed you since the last feast day observance, likewise you return thanks to Him for bestowing such bountiful blessings.

Occasionally people ask how we use the feast offerings. These offerings are placed in the general fund of the Assemblies of Yahweh and are used to increase our outreach. All of the dedicated members of the Assemblies of Yahweh sincerely desire to send forth this truth of Yahweh’s Name and the keeping of His commandments to all of the people of the world so that others may have the same faith as they do. Yahweh’s tithes and offerings are used for this same purpose.

## ***The Means To Attend Yahweh’s Holy Days***

Almighty Yahweh has even provided means so that all can attend the feast day observances. His method of financing is through the saving of a second tithe. No, the Assemblies of Yahweh does not collect a second tithe from its members. We teach that Almighty Yahweh requires you to attend His holy day observances and therefore, He has directed that we save a second tithe of our wages for this purpose. Please read Deuteronomy 14:22-26. By saving a little each week we have plenty of funds to make the trip.

This tithe is not the same as the first tithe which is holy to Yahweh, Leviticus 27:30-33. Each person shall use the second tithe to provide a way to the feasts and funds for food and lodging while there. The purpose is to LEARN to reverence Yahweh (verse 23).

***“Three times in a year shall all your males appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which he shall choose: in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles; and they shall not appear before Yahweh empty.”***

DEUTERONOMY 16:16

Many people today faithfully tithe to Yahweh by sending it to a religious organization. In addition, they take a vacation, never thinking that Almighty Yahweh has a similar program whereby they are instructed to take their vacation **at the feast days**. Do you see the righteousness of the commandments of Yahweh?

One further comment on the second tithe. History has recorded

in various places that the second tithe offering was first used for the peace offerings and thank offerings described in Leviticus 3. The fat and blood were offered at the altar, but the flesh **was eaten by the one who offered the sacrifice!**

## ***Only Three Feasts?***

Since the Scriptures specifically direct us to keep three special holy day seasons each year, there are those who occasionally ask about the observance of Trumpets and Atonement. Since the three major Feasts—Unleavened Bread, Pentecost (Shavuoth or the Feast of Weeks), and Tabernacles—are specifically listed in the covenant law of Yahweh, they question whether it is necessary to keep the Feast of Trumpets and the Fast of Atonement elsewhere legislated.

You will find that in Exodus 23:17, Exodus 34:23, and Deuteronomy 16:16, it is mandatory for all of the males of Israel to appear before Yahweh at the times of the three major feasts: Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. These are known as the **pilgrim feasts**. Not only are all males to appear, but also all members of the family are to attend.

Notice Deuteronomy 16:14. ***“And you [speaking to mature men and women] shall rejoice in your feast, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maid-servant, and the Levite, and the sojourner, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates.”*** The males are specifically commanded to appear before Yahweh, but the women and children—even strangers—are commanded to be there also.

At these three major feasts, there was a special assembly of all Israel. But we find no such dictate for Trumpets and Atonement. We do find that Yahweh directed these days

to be observed; they are holy convocations and they are listed in the feast days of Leviticus 23 and Numbers 29 (as shown previously). How can we harmonize this seeming discrepancy? Obviously, what Yahweh wishes us to understand is that all Israel shall gather for the major feasts, but that we can keep Trumpets and Atonement at home if we are unable to assemble with others. Those who are able to congregate are directed to do so, but the convocation is only for those who are able to attend. Trumpets and Atonement are holy days—no work is to be done on them. If one is unable to attend a local assembly for worship on those two holy days he is obligated to worship at home. **There is no discrepancy in Yahweh's Word.** One needs only to follow Yahweh's directions to their logical conclusion and the problem evaporates.



observed the holy days as we do today—by teaching, learning, and worshipping. He is our example. We keep this holy time that Almighty Yahweh has set aside in honor of Him as we bring the praises of our lips as our offering. We offer spiritual worship rather than the ceremonial offerings of the Old Covenant. During these holy days we learn to live together as a family and build fraternal relationships that will bind us together and make us better qualified to assist Yahshua the Messiah in ruling His Kingdom. The feasts of Yahweh hold the key to understanding the plan of salvation. Are you observing them? If not, begin right now and receive His blessings that are in store for you! ■

### Summary

The feasts of Yahweh, which are described in Leviticus 23, are to be observed during this New Testament era. Yahshua the Messiah observed them, as did the apostolic assembly. There is no mention that Yahshua ever sacrificed animals, and therefore we may say that He

## How to Keep Time by Yahweh's Calendar in the Heavens

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

From the many questions that we have received over the past years concerning the reason why the Assemblies of Yahweh occasionally observe the holy days of Leviticus, chapter 23, on different days than do the Jews, it is apparent that these questions present an opportunity for the author to write an in-depth article on this timely subject. Many of the people who have arrived at the threshold of the Assemblies of Yahweh have never questioned why they do things as they have always done them. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we seek to delve deeply into what the Bible teaches so that we may live our lives well pleasing to Yahweh, in close harmony with His Word. Unquestionably, this concept of sincere worship and reverence for the Almighty Father in heaven will yield a life which differs in many points from what is found in Judaism, or in the churches of nominal Christianity. The churches of these Christian groups in some respects do seek to restore the Narrow Way which was lost after Apostolic days. Nor can we shrink from humble, submissive obedience to the directives of the Most High when YAHWEH'S commandments are brought to our attention, or we shall soon

discover that He will deny blessings to us. The Father in heaven, who looks upon our hearts, knows if we are not being obedient to a Truth which He has revealed to us. The only method of Bible study which will ever bring doctrinal order out of the obvious confusion existing presently upon the religious spectrum in understanding the Scriptures is to completely HARMONIZE all of the passages on a certain subject and allow them to mold the doctrines which we believe. Such scriptural harmony is indeed possible. Both Old and New Testament Scriptures complement each other and will say the same thing if we allow them to do so. There are no unexplainable discrepancies, but unifying Truth will emerge only through consistency in research into the writings that were transmitted to us. The Holy Spirit of Yahweh will direct our sincere efforts.

Some, having failed in their attempts to find a scriptural basis for reckoning time, have turned to the Jews and accepted their calendar carte blanche. They have attempted to justify this stand by quoting Romans 7:2. But there is a scriptural answer to the calendar question, and calendar arranging is NOT an "or-

### The Jewish Calendar

However, since we observe the holy days of Leviticus chapter 23, some people have assumed that the Assemblies of Yahweh would look to the Jews to set the scriptural calendar, since they also observe these identical holy days. However, one might be surprised to learn that the orthodox Jews observe TWO DAYS CONSECUTIVELY rather than the SINGLE DAY which is legislated in the inspired Scriptures. The only exception is in observance of several holidays, which the rabbis have inaugurated under their own authority and volition (for example, Hanukkah), and, of course, in the scriptural fast of the Day of Atonement (which certainly no one wishes to extend unnecessarily).

There is, to be sure, a reason for everything, and the reason why the Jews have set TWO feast days to commemorate the ONE enjoined

*If you have not studied Yahweh's inspired method for calculating time and the annual calendar, you need to read this article.*

*Write today for this in-depth study of "Yahweh's Calendar in the Heavens." It is free of charge! Do not delay. Write to:*

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