

Biblical Forensics ©

“Deliverance before Judgment” Part 26

In this segment, we will discuss the First of the Fall Feasts. It is the most significant day on the Hebrew calendar. The Feasts are described in Leviticus 23 and are considered Divine Appointments or Holy Convocations –(Leviticus 23:4). **The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled the Spring Feasts, not only to the day, but to the very hour and moment!** This is a significant realization to appreciate when examining how fulfillment will occur for the fall feasts. Why is this important?

While preparations were being made not only on the day before but also on the days following the Jewish Feast of Passover, Jesus Himself was **readying Himself to become the Passover Lamb**. His death and the way He died fulfilled some 25 prophecies alone.⁽⁹⁾ He was crucified at the time of the morning sacrifice and died at the time of the evening sacrifice. He was **in the grave on the Feast of Unleavened Bread** and He was **resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits**. First Fruits was a Feast the Jews had celebrated for over 1,000 years before Christ Jesus ever rose! Christians know the Feast of First Fruits as Easter. It was on the very day of the Feast of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon what was to become the beginning of the Church. Pentecost was celebrated for over 1,000 years before the book of Acts was ever written. The Jews were required by God to keep the Feast of First Fruits and the Feast of Pentecost back when the Torah was first written and given to them by Moses. (c. 1446-1406 B.C.)⁽¹⁾

The Biblical word “Feast” does not mean food. The Hebrew word for Feast is **“Moed”** and it means an Appointment.⁽²⁾ Divine Appointments of God intersect with history specifically to accomplish God’s will. They were called Holy “Convocations”, which in Hebrew is **“Miqra”**. This means an “assembly” but also implies a “Divine Rehearsal”.⁽³⁾ In Exodus, Israel was redeemed and established as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation; and **in Leviticus Israel is taught how to fulfill their priestly call**. They have been led out from the land of bondage in Exodus and into the sanctuary of God in Leviticus. They move from redemption to service, from deliverance to dedication. Leviticus centers on the concept of the holiness of God, and how an unholy people can acceptably approach Him and then remain in continued fellowship. **The way to God is only through blood sacrifice, and the walk with God is only through obedience to His Laws.** The word “holy” occurs ninety (**90X**) times in Leviticus, and the word “sanctify,” seventeen (**17X**) times. Leviticus falls into two major sections:

- Dealing predominantly with the sacrificial system of worship (chapters. 1-17)

- Dealing primarily with the sanctification of the people of Israel as a whole through ceremonial and moral holiness (chapters. 18-27)

The Jews had been assembling for the Spring Feasts as Divine “Dress Rehearsals” for over 1,000 years and were given these Laws of the Sanctified Feasts during the latter part of the Israelite encampment at Sinai.⁽¹⁾ These Feasts represented or typified shadows in preparation or anticipation for what was to come! -(Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1). As such, they were performed **only on the Divinely Appointed days to the exact hour**, representing when God would intersect with history by sending His Son, Jesus **so that all would know how to identify that He was the prophesied One!**

Most people, particularly the Roman, Orthodox, and all but a few Protestant denominations “spiritualize” the Bible, and in so doing they do not treat the Bible as a literal document.⁽⁴⁾ Additionally, they maintain the view that the Jews along with their promises, their mission, and their destiny were replaced by the Church. The term “Supersessionism” comes from two Latin words: super (“on” or “upon”) and sedere (“to sit”). Thus it carries the idea of one person sitting on another’s chair, displacing the latter. It appears that “Supersessionism” is based on two core beliefs:

- The nation of Israel has somehow completed or forfeited its status as the people of God and will never again possess a unique role or function apart from the church.
- The church is now the true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded national Israel as the people of God.

Their stance results in what is known as “Supersessionism” or “Replacement Theology”, which teaches that God has washed His hands of the Jews.⁽⁵⁾ This is a lie from the pit of Hell. Proponents of this belief reject a Pre-Tribulation Rapture largely because of their theological position. Unfortunately, they have become blinded by a veil of confusion. In Romans, chapters 9-11, the Apostle Paul tackles this issue. Generally speaking, as much as 80% of the larger Christian community presently do not fully grasp the doctrine of “Deliverance before Judgment”. They errantly misunderstand the Old Testament portion of the Bible, the Jewish faith, and what God’s purpose was in the first place for these Feasts or “Divine Appointments” or why they were instituted as outlined in Leviticus 23. Their errant theology will result in the forfeiture of the blessing of the Rapture. In a sequel series we examine the **“Sin and Consequences of Unbelief”**.

It seems almost as if these folks are reading an alternate Bible! More importantly, they are ill-prepared to teach others about what God’s Word really has to say concerning the Lord’s Second Coming, or the Pre-Tribulation Rapture which will occur seven years prior to His return. As a result of errant “Replacement Theology”, Satan and his minions have deceived the multitudes

who believe in Supersessionism or “Replacement Theology” and they have fallen prey to complacency with regards to the imminent return of the Lord at the End of Days!

As noted at the beginning, Jesus Christ fulfilled the first four of God’s Divine Appointments identified in Leviticus 23. He not only fulfilled the first four **“Moedim”** or Divine Appointments **to the day, but even more precisely to the hour and exact moment.** This is all detailed in the particulars of the first four Spring Feasts.

The next Feast to be fulfilled by Jesus will be the Feast of Trumpets (also known as Rosh HaShanah among other Hebrew names). This feast occurs in the fall of the year, between early September and mid-October, on the Jewish calendar. Last year, the Feast of Trumpets occurred on September 15-16, 2015. Of the “seven” Feast Days, all but one occur on a full moon and that Feast is the Feast of Trumpets. It occurs on the beginning of the new moon, with at least 3-degrees of luminescence. It is known in the Bible as the **“Unknown Day”**, and is referred to as one long-day, or 48-hours. This is the day Jesus was referencing when he said: *“But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father.”* –(Matthew 24:36). Jesus’ response to the disciples is grossly misunderstood by most of the Christian world today because it is a Hebrew *“idiomatic expression”* specifically pointing to the Feast of Trumpets. This is the only holy day marked by the new moon and is set apart for that reason as being special. While it says one thing, Jesus used it to denote something different.

Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets or Rosh HaShanah) is **the only festival that no man knows when exactly it will occur.** This is related to the fact that it **begins on the new moon.** The new moon was sanctified when two witnesses see the new moon and attest to it before the Sanhedrin in the Temple. This sanctification could happen during either of two days, depending on when the witnesses arrive. **Since no one knew when the witnesses would come, no one knew when the Feast of Trumpets would start.**⁽⁶⁾ Hence, the idiomatic expression: **“no one knows the day or the hour.”**

Eighty percent of the Christian community today totally misunderstands or overlooks this meaning completely. However, Jesus was clearly telling His followers what the precise “Feast Day” was and when to expect His return. At the time this segment was prepared, we could not know or tell when the Feast of Trumpets would occur because it is governed by certain agricultural details. Oddly, in this particular year (2016), the Jewish Feast of Passover is scheduled by the Jews on the Hebrew calendar to occur on April 23-24 after the Christian calendar date of Easter on March 27th. This is something that in theory cannot occur, because it violates the sequence of events and their intended meaning. The Jewish calendar shows the Feast of Trumpets for 2016 occurring on October 3-4, but it could occur as much as a full month earlier. It all depends on an event known as “the ripening of the barley”.

The Biblical reference to the barley being in 'Abib' is found in Exodus 13:4. Exodus 23:15 discusses this and what it means: ***“Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty.)”*** The **Biblical year** begins with the first New Moon after the barley in Israel reaches the stage in its ripeness called Abib.⁽⁷⁾ The period between one year and the next is either 12 or 13 lunar months. Because of this, it is important to check the state of the barley crops at the end of the 12th month. If the barley is Abib at that time, then the following New Moon is ***“Chodesh Ha Aviv”*** (***“New Moon of the Abib”***). If the barley is still immature, we wait another month, and then check the barley again at the end of the 13th month.

All of this may seem quite strange to Gentiles or even Christians, but it can be considered central to Jews and is based upon Exodus and Leviticus in the Old Testament Torah. Modern day Jewry deviates from the Biblical Feast Days and the requirements of the Bible. That does not in any way diminish the importance of the Feast dates. The point is that the ripeness of the barley determines the Biblical calendar and the sequential order of the Spring Feasts of the Lord as well as the Fall Feasts. The significance of this makes it twice as important especially now since Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost. I will have more on this as the barley season progresses toward its state of ***“Abib”*** ripeness for harvest and its established date.

The one thing to keep in mind is that **God is the One who schedules His Divine Appointments with man.** We don't dictate to Him when the Feasts will or should fit into our schedule or when they are correct and accurate based upon our perceptions. Remember that we can have scheduled “Divine Appointments” with God because **He has already put them in His Day-Timer, and He has revealed the days and times to all of us!**

Jeremiah 8:7-9 says, ***“Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but My people know not the judgment of the LORD.*** The “Feast of Trumpets” goes by many different names, each one conveying a different aspect of this “Divine Appointment”. This will be covered in greater detail because **the collective body of evidence suggests that the “Rapture of the Church” will take place on this feast.** The “Feast of Trumpets” is also known as “Yom Teruah”, which literally means “Day of Blowing”. This is the only Feast Day when the shofar is blown 100 times during the service. It is blown in a specific set pattern of three different sounds, blown 3 times each for a total of 9 blasts. This series of patterns is repeated 11 times for a total of 99 blasts. The 100th blast is set apart and is the blast that is known as the “Last Trump”!⁽⁸⁾

Those who deny the doctrine of “Deliverance before Judgment” are oblivious to what this segment means. Since they do not believe in the Pre-

Tribulation Rapture, the implication and significance of this, the first of the Fall Feasts, (known as the “Feast of Trumpets”) is missed and completely overlooked by most of the Christian community.

It has been said that, “The New Testament is in the Old concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed”. The theme of “Deliverance before Judgment” and the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is interconnected with the Old Testament teachings of the Lord. In a future segment, more will be revealed on the Fall Feast of Trumpets and its association with the Day of the Lord and the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. It is unfortunate that many internet websites attack this teaching despite the fact that they have minimal understanding of God’s Master Plan for Redemption. Because of this, they fail to grasp the difference between Israel and the Church. Without an understanding of this Biblical distinction, one can never hope to integrate all the nuanced details and specifics that confuse people and cause doubts concerning their own salvation.

After more than fifty years in ministry and having conducted a thorough study of Bible prophecy, I can say with confidence that **God’s plan includes “Deliverance before Judgment”**.

The Feasts of the Lord⁽¹⁾

The liturgical calendar also holds a significant place in the book of Leviticus. In ancient Israel there were seven annual religious festivals especially ordained by God:

1. **Passover** (“pesah” in Hebrew.) -(Exodus 12:1-28, Exodus 12:43-49; Leviticus 23:5; Numbers 28:16; Deuteronomy 16:1-8).
 - **Time:** The evening of the fourteenth day of Nisan (Abib), the first month of the Biblical year (March/April).
 - **Purpose:** (1) To commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. (2) To remind the children of Israel that God “passed over” their houses, i.e., spared the firstborn of the Israelites -(Exodus 12:27).
 - **Prophetic Significance:** (1) Christ is our Passover -(cf. John 1:29; John 19:36; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1st Peter. 1st Peter 1:18; 1st Peter 1:19). (2) The Passover is the foundation for the Lord's Supper -(cf. Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:1-20). (3) The Passover foreshadows the marriage supper of the Lamb -(cf. Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16-18).

2. **Feast of Unleavened Bread (“matsot” in Hebrew)** -(Exodus 12:15-20; Exodus 13:3-10; Leviticus 23:6-8; Numbers 28:17-25; Deuteronomy 16:3-8).
 - **Time:** It began on the fifteenth day of Nisan (Abib) and continued for one week (March/April).
 - **Purpose:** To commemorate the hardships of Israel's hurried flight from Egypt -(Exodus 12:39). The absence of leaven symbolized complete consecration and devotion to God.
 - **Prophetic Significance:** (1) Unleavened bread is a type of Christ -(cf. John 6:30-59; 1st Corinthians 11:24). (2) Unleavened bread is a type of the true church -(cf. 1st Corinthians 5:7, 1st Corinthians 5:8).
3. **Day of Firstfruits (“Bikkurim” in Hebrews)** -Leviticus 23:9-14
 - **Time:** On the day after the Sabbath of Passover week (March/April).
 - **Purpose:** To dedicate and consecrate the firstfruits of the barley harvest.
 - **Prophetic Significance:** (1) Firstfruits is a type of the bodily resurrection of Christ -(cf. 1st Corinthians 15:20-23; 1st Corinthians 15:2) Firstfruits is a guarantee of the bodily resurrection of all believers -(cf. 1st Corinthians 15:20-23; 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18). (3) Firstfruits is a type of the consecration of the church.
4. **Feast of Pentecost (or Weeks: “shabuot” in Hebrew)** -Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:9-12
 - **Time:** The day after the seventh Sabbath after the Day of Firstfruits (May/June).
 - **Purpose:** To dedicate and consecrate the firstfruits of the wheat harvest.
 - **Prophetic Significance:** The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church occurred on the Day of Pentecost -(Acts 2). The two loaves, representative of the Jew and Gentile, contained leaven because sin is found within the church.
5. **Day of Trumpets (“Rosh Hashanah” in Hebrew)** Lev 23:23-25; Numbers 10:10; Numbers 29:1-6
 - **Time:** The first day of the seventh month (Tishri), the sabbatical month (September/October).
 - **Purpose:** To usher in and consecrate the seventh month as the sabbatical month.

- **Prophetic Significance:** In the New Testament the blowing of the trumpet is associated with the return of our Lord (call to assemble) -(cf. Matthew 24:31; 1st Corinthians 15:52; 1st Thessalonians 4:16).
6. **Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur” in Hebrew)** Leviticus 16; Leviticus 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11
- **Time:** The tenth day of the seventh month (Tishri—September/October).
 - **Purpose:** To make annual atonement for the sins of the priests and the people, and for the tabernacle (temple).
 - **Prophetic Significance:** The Day of Atonement finds its ultimate fulfillment in the crucifixion of Christ -(cf. Hebrews 9). It represents the redeeming work of Christ more adequately than any other Old Testament type.
7. **Feast of Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering; “Sukkot” in Hebrew)** Leviticus 23:33-43; Numbers 29:12-38; Deuteronomy 16:13-17
- **Time:** The fifteenth through twenty-first of the seventh month (Tishri), with an eighth day added as a climax to all the feasts (September/October).
 - **Purpose:** (1) To commemorate God's deliverance and protection during the wilderness wanderings -(Leviticus 23:43). (2) To rejoice in the completion of all the harvest -(Leviticus 23:39).
 - **Prophetic Significance:** The Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows the peace and prosperity of the millennial reign of Christ -(Zechariah 14:16).

Israel's Other Sacred Times⁽¹⁾

Besides the Annual Feasts, Israel's time was marked by these other sacred events.

- **Sabbath:** Every seventh day was a solemn rest from all work -(Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:12-17; Leviticus 23:3; Deuteronomy 5:12-15).
- **Sabbath Year:** Every seventh year was designated a “year of release” to allow the land to lie fallow -(Exodus 23:10, Exodus 23:11; Leviticus 25:1-7).
- **Year of Jubilee:** The 50th year, which followed seven Sabbath years, was to proclaim liberty to those who were servants because of debt, and to return lands to their former owners -(Leviticus 25:8-55; Leviticus 27:17-24; Ezekiel 46:17).
- **The New Moon:** The first day of the Hebrew 29- or 30-day month was a day of rest, special sacrifices, and the blowing of trumpets -(Numbers 28:11-15; Psalm 81:3).

- **Dedication:** (Lights or Hanukkah) An eight-day feast in the ninth month (Chislew) commemorating the cleansing of the temple from defilement by Syria, and its rededication -(John 10:22).
- **Purim:** (Lots) A feast on the 14th and 15th of the 12th month (Adar). The name comes from Babylonian Pur, meaning “Lot” -(Esther 9:18-32).

Pastor Bob

Notes:

1. Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts—Revised and Updated Edition
2. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongs=h4150>
3. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=kjv&strongs=h4744>
4. http://www.garriss.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/interpretation_errors.pdf
5. <https://www.tms.edu/m/tmsj20d.pdf>
6. <https://www.raptureready.com/soap/taylor82.html>
7. <http://biblehub.com/topical/a/abib.htm>
8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=452IzbKGtel&list=RDEjU7XW5zpRc&index=24>
9. <https://bible.org/article/messianic-prophecies>