

WHY & WHAT is the Feast of Tabernacles?

1945, the world had just ended a second world war. Dictators greed for more- more,- me- me,- I/We will rise to the top and rule. You might recognize those thoughts also from the evil engulfed heart of the satan.....

*Isaiah 14:12... How did you come to be cut to the ground,
conqueror of nations?*

*13 You thought to **yourself**, '**I** will scale the heavens,
I will raise **my** throne above God's stars.*

***I** will sit on the Mount of Assembly far away in the north.*

*14 **I** will rise past the tops of the clouds,*

***I** will make **myself** like the Most High.'* [CJB] me, me, me,- my, my, my

At the end of WWII on April 19, 1951, USA General Douglas MacArthur recognized the KEY in his final Post War speech before a joint session of Congress;

“Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. From the very start workable methods were found in so far as individual citizens were concerned, but the mechanics of an instrumentality of larger international scope have never been successful. Military alliances, balances of power, Leagues of Nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be ‘by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out, this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all the material and cultural developments of the past 2000 years. **It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.**”

Do New Agers have the answer? How about astrologers, and other such sorcerers? What about the vast Smorgasbord varieties of churches that generally look, feel and sound like they have the answers of the Bible, but tend to polish and change scripture to fit into their theological box,- I wonder- will the messiah recognize them as the “the Way” he started on earth?

Mankind has not and will not be able to fix the world!

The True and ultimate fulfillment of the new age will come when Yeshua returns to rule on the earth as the Bible states. This blog focuses in on this

true new age of Christ's reign, backed by biblical scripture that speaks of it. It is in fact the GOOD NEWS, which is what Gospel means, the "good news of the kingdom of God", what Yeshua proclaimed....

Matthew 4:23 Yeshua went all over the Galil teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom,... [CJB]

What kingdom was Yeshua [Jesus] proclaiming? It seems common christian thought jumps directly to going to heaven when you die. As warm and fuzzy nice as that sounds, that is NOT the kingdom Yeshua came to proclaim.

Now, please read on and you will clearly understand. Are you familiar with Yeshua's millennial rein?

We use the word millennium, but the term millennium does not appear in the Bible, but is modern term to represent a period of time of 1,000 years.

I'm sure there are many different human views as to *when* that time starts, but this blog is not about picking a date, only Father Yehovah knows that time, and we are wise to let God be God, and just focus on being ready!

Notice *Luke 21:25*

*...nations will be in anxiety and bewilderment at the sound and surge of the sea, 26 as people faint with fear at the prospect of what is overtaking the world; for the powers in heaven will be shaken. 27 And then they will see **the Son of Man coming in a cloud with tremendous power and glory.** 28 When these things start to happen, stand up and hold your heads high; because you are about to be liberated!"* [CJB]

Prior to those words in the previous verses, Yeshua explained the time of trouble that the world would be going through, but the message he wanted them, and us today to hold to, (as the time he spoke of was in the future) was to hold strong with our heads up knowing that we, and the world is about to be liberated,- SET FREE!

Isaiah prophesied also about that time, and why we could hold tight to the hope...

*Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass **in the latter days**, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; **and all nations shall flow unto it.** 3 And many*

*peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; **and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths**: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. 4 And he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; **nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.** [ASV] **Can I get a HalleluYAH ?!!!!!!!***

Mankind since Cain and Able on and on, have tried to figure it out, how to have THEIR OWN cake and eat it too, and finally after millenniums of trying and failing, mankind will come to our knees and accept that the “tree of knowledge of good and evil” (our OWN knowledge) that we have been striving with since Adam, will not provide what God instructed us to do... *Genesis 3:22 And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever—* [ASV]

Yes, we have achieved knowledge beyond conception, and we will continue to know even more, BUT all of that “knowledge” even expanded on a million times over, will NOT change the inner person,- which is the heart and the 3 characters of the “human” heart: “Me, Myself, and I”. Yeshua will return WITH the “Tree of Life”. **HE** is the Way to Life,....

*John 14:6 Yeshua said, “**I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life**; no one comes to the Father except through me. 7 Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know him — in fact, you have seen him.”* [CJB]

The world we live in has all kinds of holidays and special celebrations. **God** instructs us to keep several “feasts” or appointed times in scripture. With something this meaningful, we must **follow God’s way** to have a feast in observance of this upcoming time. These feasts are recorded in scripture that the ancients kept/observed...

*Leviticus 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, The set **feasts of Jehovah, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my set feasts.*** [ASV]

But you may be thinking, these feast were assigned to Jews, not to us today.

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Is this true, or just assumed to be true because the modern day churches say so? Where in the bible does it say this, or a more direct question: what did the early church, the followers of Yeshua do? Did they keep these times?

Before getting too far into this answer, first stop and understand an important point. God “chose” Israel, but WHY? Are God’s blessings only for the Israel/Jews?...

*Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou art a holy people unto Jehovah thy God: Jehovah thy God hath chosen thee to be a people for his own possession, above all peoples that are upon the face of the earth. 7 Jehovah did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all peoples: 8 but because Jehovah loveth you, and because he would **keep the oath** which he swore unto your fathers, hath Jehovah brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

If we stop there, it seems that God only loves and cares for Israel, but we need to keep reading.....

*9 Know therefore that Jehovah thy God, he is God, the faithful God, who keepeth covenant and lovingkindness **with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations**, [ASV]*

Seems at least like a hint that those that love God, **defined by keeping His COMMANDS**, might also receive God’s faithful promises? Let’s look at this special covenant God refers to....

*Genesis 12:1 Now Jehovah said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto the land that I will show thee: 2 and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing: 3 and **I will bless them that bless thee**, and him that curseth thee will I curse: and **in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** [ASV]*

Ah, so there is a simple thing to see here,- that ALL people who are a blessing to Israel, will **also** be blessed. WHY? Why? Abram showed faithfulness which God SWORE a very special oath to, that He would bless him and his generations, **AND ALL peoples** who bless Israel, BUT WAIT- there’s more,- **who love him (God) and keep his commandments.**

So, Israel becomes a “called out people” and thus,- **AN EXAMPLE for ALL PEOPLES OF THE EARTH!**

The structure here, is that Israel would be this chosen people to **represent** “obedience” to the ways of love, life, and happiness, and therefore the vast blessings from the creator of the universe, so that IF all peoples of the earth will also do,- we will ALL likewise be blessed!

God wanted Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” for us to see and follow [Exodus 19:6].

Israel was “to be” a “model” mankind. Well we know that Israel lacked an important ingredient that we TODAY have available to us, and thus they failed time and time again. Even though we too today who have access to this special element, fail and stumble, this special element never abandoned us, and helps us to get back up and back on course, even interceding in prayer on our behalf when we feel too lost and weak to know what to pray for ourselves. This special element.....

God's Holy Spirit. We'll look more at this in a moment, but let's continue to find more witness for non-Jews keeping God's feasts...

*Exodus 12:48 And when a **stranger** shall sojourn with thee, **and will keep the passover** to Jehovah, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and **he shall be as one that is born in the land:***

Well that is a bit more than a hint, by keeping this we can be **as one that is born in the land.**

Now for those that accept what Yeshua did for us on that special passover, the passover has a new and special personal meaning. Christ has become “our” passover. By Christ, the curse of death will passover us, so it is certainly a special time many many followers of Yeshua keep every year. Passover is generally speaking, a no-brainer for most christians and messianic's. Pentecost is also one of those feast times that began with old testament reasons and meanings, but is easy to see the “new testament” meanings for us today,- that special element I mentioned earlier introduced to the new church in Acts; God's Holy Spirit.

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The not-so-obvious feast to Christians is the Feast of Tabernacles (sukkot) [Lev 23:33-36] listed as one of the 3rd festival times (Spring, Summer, Fall) [Ex 23:14-17].

This feast is also called: *“the feast of ingathering”, at the end of the year, when thou gatherest in thy labors out of the field.* [Ex 23:16 ASV]

So most are not farmers today, what significance can/does this have for us today who are non-Jews?

Well, for Israel it was a commanded time to offer thankfulness and praise to God by bringing an offering from our year-end harvest, or for us today, the “ingathering” of our blessings of the year. Again consider Exodus 23:16 *at the end of the year, when thou gatherest in thy labors out of the field.* We non-farmers may not have crops to give thanks for, but we all have blessings, whether monetary or spiritual. Ok you say, but where are “WE” “Non-Israelite” people commanded? AND, what is the “new covenant” significance for us today? <— — Great Important Question.

When Messiah returns, the nations will at first be angry and try to fight against, but will fail [Zechariah 14:1-15]. Then notice what comes after that... *Zech 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of **all** the nations that came against Jerusalem **shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.*** [ASV]

Hmmmm, so here we peoples of the earth, ALL peoples at the end of the age of man as we know it, will be there going up to (literally and/or figuratively) to WORSHIP THE KING, and to KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

That's a huge significance, a huge reason for a festival. A time to offer PRAISE & WORSHIP to the God of ALL MANKIND before His very physical presence.

So after reading Zechariah 14 and specifically verse 15, let's re-read....

*Isaiah 2:2 And it shall come to pass **in the latter days**, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; **and all nations shall flow unto it.** 3 And many peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; **and he will teach us of his***

ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. 4 And he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; **and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

These two prophecies of this great event, is the BEGINNING of the 1,000 year reign of God's kingdom here on earth, so the new covenant significance is clear,- the one who ushered in the new covenant IS the KING of KINGS who we will be worshipping during the feast of tabernacles.

More new testament reference...

Revelation 19:16 And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

*17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, "Come, gather together for **the great feast God is giving**,... [CJB]*

*Rev 20:1 Next I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for **a thousand years**. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, locked it and sealed it over him; **so that he could not deceive the nations any more until the thousand years were over.***

We want to gather together to prepare, to learn, to understand, to praise and worship the King even now,- to be ready for this time.....

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is anyone **who has a part in the first resurrection**; over him the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be cohanim [priests] of God and of the Messiah, **and they will rule with him for the thousand years.***

It is truly a wonderful blessing to understand these things now, to go up from year to year wherever we gather together now,- to learn the lessons of God's kingdom here on earth, and how we can MAKE OURSELVES READY!

I'll see you at the feast!

Robert Bates

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