

The Fall Feasts Of Yahweh

As we approach the Fall Feasts of Yahweh, Rosh Hashanah (Feast Of Trumpets), Yom Kippur (Day Of Atonement) and Succoth (Feast Of Booths), they all are solemn reminders of various Biblical truths.

The Feast Of Trumpets is not the Jewish new year as is widely taught in traditional Judaism. Rather it is simply and plainly the Festival of Trumpet blowing ,where Bible believers are instructed by Adonai to refrain from all normal work by celebrating an annual Sabbath and by participating in a holy gathering (Lev. 23:23-25).

According to the Biblical calendar Nissan (April) is the new year. Not Rosh Hashanah! If the traditional Rabbi's are incorrect about the Jewish calendar, could it also be that they are wrong about the Jewish Messiah's identity? According to scripture, several animal sacrifices must be made on the Feast of Trumpets (Numbers 29: 1-6), along with the holy assembly and the cessation of all customary work.

Traditional Judaism teaches that Hashem created the world on Rosh Hashanah. Again this is without scriptural justification. Another interesting traditional Talmudic teaching is that the blowing of the shofar (rams horn) sends Satan into confusion and defeat. Again while this is an entertaining thought, it has no biblical basis. Traditional Judaism teaches that Rosh Hashanah commences ten days of introspection, soul searching and confessing of sin, ending on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), known as the Days Of Awe. Observant traditional Jews are encouraged to not only ask forgiveness from Yahweh, but from other people as well. The Talmud teaches that there are certain sins that only people can forgive. This Talmudic teaching is somewhat biblical, with Israel's greatest Rabbi, Messiah Yahshua making reference to this principal in Matthew 5:22-24.

What is quite true is that HaAdon Yahshua fulfilled the four spring feasts of Leviticus 23 at His first advent and will surely fulfill the final three fall feasts at His return. The rapture of the Kehila, the bride of Yahshua, to heaven from earth, will I believe take place on this solemn day, the first of Tishri, the seventh month of the Biblical calendar. In Matthew 24:31 in the Brit Chadashah, Yahshua makes clear reference to the catching away of the saints and associates the pre-wrath rapture with the first day of Tishri and the sounding of the rams horn. First Thessalonians 4:16-18 states that Yahweh will command His own shofar to be sounded on Rosh Hashanah to signal the beginning of the glorious and dreadful Day of Yahweh. In First Corinthians 15:52, Rav Shaul not only references the rapture to the Feast Of Trumpets, but he also teaches us that the first physical resurrection of bible believers takes place on this special annual Sabbath once the shofar is sounded. This year Rosh Hashanah takes place on October 2,1997.

The Day of Atonement is considered the holiest and most awesome day of both biblical Judaism as well as traditional Judaism. It is always celebrated on the 10th day of Tishri. On this day Jews of all backgrounds and beliefs attend the local synagogue, to ask Yahweh for forgiveness for sins committed during the past calendar year. Most traditional synagogues are so full of people that tickets have to be purchased in advance, just to assure that members obtain sufficient seating. Traditional Jews believe that this is the day when Yahweh determines once and for all who will live and who will die in the upcoming year. According to the Talmud every Jew will be sealed in one of two books at Yom Kippur. Either the Book of Life or the Book of Death, with no names remaining in the Book Of The In-Between, which was full of names at the beginning of Rosh Hashanah at the first of Tishri. Yom Kippur begins with the singing of Kol Nidrei a public renoual of all vows made during the prior year and closes with one final prayer service called Neleh, when heavens gates begin to close to all Yom Kippur prayers. Traditional Jews remain in synagogue most if not all of the day. This is the day where the man made salvation formula is invoked by Jews to Yahweh. *This formula simply stated is good deeds, plus prayer, plus repentance = salvation.*

This custom is a sad man made substitute for biblical atonement. According to Lev. 23:26-32, Numbers 29: 7-11 and most importantly Leviticus 16, this day was the national day of atonement for all the children of Israel through the sacrifice of the bull and the goat. The blood of atonement was used to cleanse the priests, the altar, the people, the priestly garments and all the holy items of temple sacrificial worship. Leviticus 17:11 speaks of the blood of atonement as the only divine means for the atonement of the human soul. The Book Of Hebrews talks much about the blood of Yahshua as the only eternal means of atonement, as well as the blood that conclusively removes sin forever, in the life of a believer. His blood ushered in the new and everlasting covenant between Yahweh and man. Yahweh never switched His requirements or criteria through which a man's justification can take place. A modern day traditional Jew who willfully rejects Yahshua has no means of blood atonement for his sins and is forced to buy into the spiritually bankrupt salvation system of traditional Judaism, instituted by Rabbi Jochanan Ben Zaki at the Council of Yavneh, a Jerusalem suburb, in 70 AD. Needless to say that Hashem never approved of this plan, rather He allowed the Beth Hamikdash (temple) to be destroyed so that people would turn to the Jewish Messiah for forgiveness. The temple's destruction was predicted by Yahshua and certainly did not catch Yahweh by surprise. It was at Yavneh that a false counterfeit man made formula, was issued to the Jewish people in light of the rejection of Yahshua by Israel's leadership. Rabbi Zacki and all his cohorts sold the Jewish people a new bill of goods along with a new formula for forgiveness instead of embracing and teaching the New Covenant of blood atonement that Hashem gave our people in Torah. While prayer, good deeds and repentance are all very admirable traits they cannot replace Hashem's eternal requirements for a blood sacrifice as commanded by Torah. An interesting side note about Rabbi Zacki is that upon his deathbed, he was greatly troubled and confused about his right standing before Yahweh. If the creator of modern day traditional Judaism had no assurance of salvation and acceptance by Yahweh,

why should any Jew searching for Yahweh follow his lost example? Rabbi Zacki's confusion at his deathbed scene is even recorded in the Talmud.

The Day of Atonement prophetically points to the soon coming day of Israel's national salvation. We see in the Davar Hashem that in the very near future, the Jewish nation will experience a national day of salvation, preceded by a very special national day of atonement and repentance. There is a special Yom Kippur in the not too distant future, which all traditional Jews who survive the great tribulation and the Day of Yahweh, will all repent, be saved and apply Yahshua's holy sinless blood to themselves through faith (Romans 11:26-27).

In Zechariah, Adonai gives us an amazing glimpse into this special and still future Day Of Atonement in chapter 12 verses 10-14. Not only will Yahweh pour out the Ruach Hakodesh (the Spirit of grace and supplication), all Israel will see the pierced hands and feet of our Messiah (verse 10).

The most striking verses are found in Zechariah chapter 12 verses 11 through 14. These verses teach us that Israel's national day of salvation and teshuvah (repentance), will be widespread from Jerusalem to Meggido to all the points of the land of Israel. This national atonement will include all of the twelve Jewish tribes as well. In verses 12-14, *Yahweh teaches that all Orthodox and Lubavitcher Jews, will also accept Messiah Yahshua*. These scriptures teach that Jewish men and women who are accustomed to worshipping apart (Orthodox), will mourn and sit shiva (mourning) separate from each other, when they recognize the nail scarred hands of Israel's Messiah. I believe all this will soon take place on the tenth day of Tishri in some year in the very near future. A startling reference to a national Yom Kippur when all Israel is cleansed and sanctified before Hashem through the Messiah Yahshua is found in Daniel 12:11&12. While verse 11 confirms the three and a half years of Yahweh's wrath (1,290 days) found throughout scripture, the very next verse (12), tells us that the Jews (Daniel's people) who survive and who come to the 1,335th day *are the one's who are truly blessed*. Why will Yahweh add 45 days to the end of Daniel's 70th week? I believe that the first fifteen days are to cleanse the defiled tribulation temple from the residue of the abomination that causes desolation and that the remaining thirty days are the traditional Jewish time frame for corporate national mourning. This thirty day mourning period will start on the tenth day of Tishri and last thirty days. This concept has biblical precedent, when the children of Israel mourned for Moses the redeemer of the first covenant, for thirty days in Deuteronomy 34:8. I believe that these thirty days will be a time of great inward introspection and meditation on the death of the Yahshua, as Yahweh's Spirit is poured out, in order to reveal Yahweh's Son. How about that! This year Yom Kippur takes place on October 10, 1997.

The final and last of the fall feasts is the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. This feast takes place on the fifteenth day of Tishri and lasts for seven days. The children of Israel (including messianic Jews), are commanded to dwell in booths for seven days in order to recall their wilderness wanderings after the exodus from Egypt, as well as to remember Hashem's coverings of protection. The first day is an annual Sabbath, wherein Yahweh forbids any customary work and requires a holy gathering to worship Him. The seventh day of the feast is called Hoshana Rabbah, which means the great salvation. It was on this day that the ceremony of water drawing from the pool of Siloam and the pouring out of the same water on the altar in the temple on Mt. Moriah was held. It was at this ceremony at night on Hoshana Rabbah, that Yahshua made His great proclamation that He and He alone, was the fountain of true living water (John 7:37-39), in fulfillment of Isaiah 12:2-3. In modern times the traditional rabbinical celebration is pretty much the same as the biblical messianic celebration, with a few minor exceptions. The eighth day is called Shimini Azereth and was commanded by Hashem as a day of burnt offerings and Sabbath rest. The number eight in scripture speaks of new beginnings and the main reason that it was given to national Israel by Elohim, was to point the Jewish nation to the future millennial rule and reign of HaAdon Yahshua on David's throne from Jerusalem. Yahshua's earthly rule will be the dawn of a new day in humanity, a day in where not only peace will be established, but a day in which the knowledge of Yahweh will encompass the earth even as the waters do now (Zechariah 14:9).

The Feast of Booths *will be a millennial requirement to all the nations (Gentiles)* of the world. They must not only keep the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days meticulously in accordance with Torah specifications, they also are commanded to appear in person before Yahweh of Hosts (Yahshua), in Jerusalem to pay Yahshua homage and reverence during this feast (Zechariah 14:16). Any family or nation that does not send representatives or conduct a personal pilgrimage to the new millennial Jerusalem, will suffer famine and lack, back in their own country (Zechariah 14:17). Verses 20 and 21 of Zechariah 14 teach that by the millennial rule of Yahshua, the tribulation temple and all of the previously defiled vessels of sacrifice, will be cleansed by Yahshua Himself. Only saved born again Jews and Gentiles, will be allowed to enter this recleansed millennial temple. No Canaanites or unregenerate people will be allowed into the rededicated temple.

This final Feast of Yahweh is a true and concise prophetic picture of our future glory with Yahshua in Jerusalem, living and dwelling eternally under the presence and the shadow of the Almighty. Since Gentile believers will be celebrating the Feast of Booths forever, do you and I have any legitimate excuse for not starting to celebrate this feast right now? This year Succoth begins on October 15, 1997, the 15th day of Tishri.