



One New Man Study – Lesson Five **The Feasts Of The Lord: Blessing Or Bondage**

TEXT: Romans 11:24-25 - For if thou were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? [25] For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

Lev. 23:4....these are the feasts of the Lord.....

God says that at the time of the fullness of the Gentiles, the Jewish people will be grafted back into their "OWN" olive tree.

Romans 11:24-25 - For if thou were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? [25] For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

Isn't it time the Body of Yeshuah started to look like the Jewish olive tree? Before Jesus came to earth, the only covenant, which provided atonement for sin, was between God and the Jewish people. If a Gentile wanted to follow God, he had to become a proselyte to Judaism. The prophet Jeremiah predicted a new and a better covenant that would wash away sins and allow us to KNOW GOD.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Behold, the days come, said the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah: [32] Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, said the Lord: [33] But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, said the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, said the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

But this covenant, fulfilled in Yeshuah is also "only" with the Jewish people - Jeremiah said the covenant was made not with Gentiles but "with the house of

Israel" and "with the house of Judah." So, in effect, the only way to have your sins forgiven and to know God is to participate in a Jewish covenant is based on the blood of the Jewish Messiah as prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures by the Jewish prophets. Yet, when a Jew looks at Christianity today, he sees LITTLE or nothing that appears to be Jewish. When a Christian looks at Judaism, he sees a belief system that differs radically from Christianity.¹ Jesus came to break down this middle wall of partition between the two groups and create from Jew and Gentile "ONE NEW MAN."

Ephes. 2:14-15 - For he is our peace, who hath made both (NIV - the two i.e. Jew and Gentile) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; [15] Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Today, nearly 2,000 years after Paul wrote these words there is an even greater wall of separation. The big lie the devil tells Jewish people is they can't be Jewish and believe in Jesus. By hiding its Jewish roots the church has reinforced this lie. It is time for Jewish people and Christians alike to see Christianity's Jewish connection.

A. Under The Law...

The first church observed ALL the biblical festivals. During the Millennium (the thousand-year-reign of Yeshuah on earth) we will observe the Sabbath (Isaiah 66:23) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:16-17). The question is "why have we put these celebrations on hold for centuries??"

Isaiah 66:23 - 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, said the Lord.

Zech. 14:16-17 - And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. [17] And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

One reason is that many resist anything that appears to put them "under the law." Paul makes it clear the law does not justify us. But does this mean the law has no value? Should we disregard the Ten Commandments? Of course not. Paul proclaimed, "Therefore the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY and just and good (Romans 7:12). Yeshuah explained this is Matthew 5:18:

¹ Roth, Sid. *The Last Lap*, Messianic Vision Press, Brunswick, GA. 2001, chapter 4

Matthew 5:18 - For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The key word is FULFILLED. This word is best understood by reversing the syllables of "fulfilled," to "filled full." Jesus is the full meaning of the Law. He did not come to eliminate the law but enable us to fill it full of its true meaning. Yeshuah was never upset with the Torah (first five books of the Bible). He said "do not think I've come to destroy the prophets OR the law, I've come to fulfill it." He DID object to the ways the rabbis in His day would cleverly overrule many portions of the Torah.

Matthew 15:3 - But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

And to all of this there is a point. Celebrating Jewish biblical feasts has NOTHING to do with obtaining salvation or righteousness. This was the mistake of the Judaizers in the book of Galatians. Repentance and the blood of Yeshuah save us. Nothing more or nothing less. However, observing the festivals of the Lord is a matter of BLESSING.

The Hebrew word for feasts is *mo'ed* that means "appointed times." Leviticus 23:2 make it clear that these are not only Jewish feasts; they are God's feasts. In other words, these are God's appointed times to meet with us. It's like an invitation from the President of the United States. If we missed our set time to meet with him, it wouldn't cost us our salvation, but it would cost a great time of blessing and honor. How much more of a blessing would we miss if we stood God up at His set appointment? God calls the feasts, "convocations," which in the Hebrew means "rehearsals." God says we should observe these rehearsals at His appointed times FOREVER (Lev. 23:14, 21,31,41). Since the festivals were clear shadows of Yeshua's first coming, they must hold significant keys to His SECOND coming and RETURN to earth. We should observe the feasts (fulfill them) as great celebrations. It is as if God is throwing a party and inviting us to attend.

There is so much revelation about Yeshuah ready to be released as we worship God at these appointed times.

B. Passover

Looking at the Passover dinner gives us insight about the last days. The first New Covenant Passover was actually an "engagement dinner." It was not just to remember the Exodus from Egypt, but it was a promise of a future exodus from earth. In ancient Judaism an engagement was a binding as a marriage. After the engagement, the bridegroom went to prepare a room in His father's house for his bride. At the Last Supper, Yeshuah drank the third cup of wine "the cup of

redemption," which he called the "new Covenant in MY BLOOD." (Luke 22:20). In the text of marriage customs of ancient Israel, He was also making a kind of betrothal statement. Earlier He had laid the foundation for this by telling his disciples:

John 14:2-3; In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The custom in those days was for a bridegroom to pay a price, either in goods or services, to the father of the bride as compensation for the loss of her presence in their household. In drinking the cup of redemption, JESUS was saying to His bride, the church, "I WILL REDEEM YOU - I WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR YOU." In Yeshua's blood on the cross was the highest price ever paid for a bride. It released the Holy Spirit to assemble this new bride made up of Jews and Gentiles who become One New Man in Yeshuah.

The fourth cup of wine we drink at the Passover meal is called "the cup of praise," Yeshuah did not drink this cup on earth. After the third cup, He said,

Matthew 26:29 - But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

That day will come when the church, the One New Man Bride is caught up in the air to be with Yeshuah. We will share with Him in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - a heavenly Passover meal and drink that cup with HIM! Oh Glory to God.

1 Thes. 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev. 19:7-9 - Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. [9] And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

C. Blessing, NOT Bondage

There are hidden meanings of Jesus in these celebrations. There is purpose in these celebrations. There is a great opportunity for a great spiritual encounter with God in these celebrations. Many Gentile believers are readily quick to celebrate Easter and Christmas - two of the most pagan holidays we could ever

celebrate here in the west but are down right offended when put to the test of partaking of something that is more Biblical and spiritually uplifting than anything we can do two times a year. We should study each festival in the Scriptures. Then pray, "Holy Spirit, how can we glorify Yeshuah in a special way at this appointed time?"²

Yeshuah performed more miracles on the Sabbath than on any other day. When we celebrate the feasts we will feel God's pleasure. There are supernatural blessings connected with observing these feasts in liberty.

Isaiah 58:14 - Then shall thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Churches are beginning to use the seven biblical festivals as corporate worship events: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day Of Atonement and Tabernacles. We are to teach these festivals to our children. We need to set the Sabbath a part for family time. God may just use this time to restore families on this day of REST. In a world where everything centers on us being busy - we need to take a minute to PAUSE and rejoice in the Lord.

Exodus 12:26-27 - And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? [27] That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

D. The Unholy Merger

Prophets such as Jeremiah and Hosea forbade the Jewish people to merge paganism with belief in God.

Jeremiah 7:30-31 - For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, said the Lord: they have set their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to pollute it. [31] And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

Hosea 3:1 - Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

Jeremiah 2:13 says the people have committed two evils. They have

² Ibid.

forsaken God's vessel and made their own vessels that leak. In the early church, Jewish believers in the Messiah were forced by Gentile Christians to give up worship on the Sabbath and other biblical festivals under the threat of excommunication or death. As we saw in the previous chapter, these godly shadows and prophetic pictures of the Messiah's first coming, return, and Millennial Kingdom were replaced with pagan traditions.

In the early church, Jewish believers in the Messiah were forced by Gentile Christians to give up worship on the Sabbath and other biblical festivals under threats of excommunication and death. Christian Anti-Semitism has done a great deal of HURT to the Body of Christ throughout the years because it has kept us from the blessings of God. These feasts were shadows and pictures of Messiah's first coming, return and Millennial Kingdom. Instead of the church celebrating these feasts as such- they were replaced with pagan holidays and festivals.

One may ask well are you saying we should give up Sunday worship? No, not at all. The key is not we abandon Sunday as a day of worship, but that we should repent of the Anti-Semitic attitudes of the early church leaders who established Sunday worship. Some say "well the Bible tells us to worship on Sunday." No it doesn't. It does say that some gathered on the first day of the week to give tithes and alms giving. The reason this was done is because off necessary business could not be conducted on the Sabbath. Most Christians worship the Lord only on Sunday but the Lord has selected EVERY day to be the day of the Lord. THIS is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24). Since Sunday is usually a day we do not have to work, it is a convenient time for corporate worship. However, that doesn't make it the Sabbath.

E. Celebrating In Joy And Freedom

Hosea 3:4-5 - For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: [5] Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.

This is the set time to favor ZION - Psalms 102:13:

Psalm 102:13 - Thou shall arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come.

True repentance, or a brokenness in spirit; a change in behavior by the church, will release the Jewish revival. The Jewish people need Jesus just like we Gentiles need Jesus. What would demonstrate true repentance on behalf of the Gentile Christians for the Anti-Semitism of the church and forcing the Jewish

believers to reject their biblical festivals? Reconciliation meetings have been a good start, but we need to go deeper. Not much has changed. Israel is not saved. What about a step of repentance by restoring the Jewish roots of the faith?

Some congregations will worship only on the Sabbath, which is also known as the Shabbat. The biblical Shabbat begins on Friday evening at sundown. Other congregations will worship on Shabbat and Sunday. Instead of a Sunday morning service and a Sunday evening service, how about a Friday evening service and a Sunday morning service? This is not a call to rigid tradition. We don't need to make Shabbat any more a legalism formula than we do Sunday. The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27). The objective is worshipping our Jewish Messiah, WHO IS THE SABBATH!³

For more on the feasts, we have an online study available. These are just some thoughts from an on-fire for Jesus Gentile who has recognized we as the Church need to come back home to the Jewish roots of our faith. Israel's salvation depends on it! Shalom.

Lesson Five Study Questions

Fill In The Blanks

1. God says at the fullness of the times of _____, the Jewish people will be grafted back into their own _____ tree.
2. The first church observed all the biblical _____.
3. The Feast of _____ celebrates Israel's exodus out of Egypt; it's a type of our redemption in Messiah.
4. The Feast of _____ celebrates the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai 50 days after the third day of Passover; the Holy Spirit fell on this feast day.
5. The Feast of _____ is celebrated with booths and palm leaves signifying the rest only Messiah gives. It's a type of the millennial reign of the future when the Lord will "dwell" among His people once again.
6. Under the New Covenant, the only way to have your sins forgiven and to know God is to participate in a _____ covenant that is based on the blood of the Jewish _____ as prophesied in the Jewish _____ by the Jewish _____.
7. Celebrating Jewish biblical feasts has _____ to do with obtaining salvation or righteousness.
8. The custom in those days was for a _____ to pay a price, either in goods or services, to the father of the bride as compensation for the loss of her presence in their household.

³ Ibid.

9. Prophets such as _____ and _____ forbade the Jewish people to merge paganism with belief in God.
10. True _____, a _____ spirit among our people and a change in _____ by the church, will release the Jewish revival
11. Yeshuah performed more miracles on the _____ than on any other day.
12. Some congregations will worship only on the Sabbath, which is also known as the _____.
13. Christian _____ has done a great deal of HURT to the Body of Christ throughout the years because it has kept us from the blessings of God.
14. The fourth cup of wine we drink at the Passover meal is called "the cup of _____."
15. Jesus is the full meaning of the _____. He did not come to eliminate the law but _____ us to fill it full of its true meaning.

Matching:

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| 1. Feast of Passover | A. Day of atonement; |
| 2. Feast of Pentecost | B. Jewish New Year |
| 3. Feast of Unleavened Bread | C. Celebration of deliverance |
| 4. Feast of First fruits | D. Mourning for temple's destruction |
| 5. Feast of Tabernacles | E. Celebration of resurrection |
| 6. Feast of Purim | F. Giving Of The Law |
| 7. Feast of Hanukkah | G. "When I See The Blood" |
| 8. Fast Of The Fifth Month | H. Type of Yeshua's sanctifying power |
| 9. Rosh Hashanah | I. Type of Messiah's rest/indwelling |
| 10. Yom Kippur | J. Miracle of menorah for 8 days |