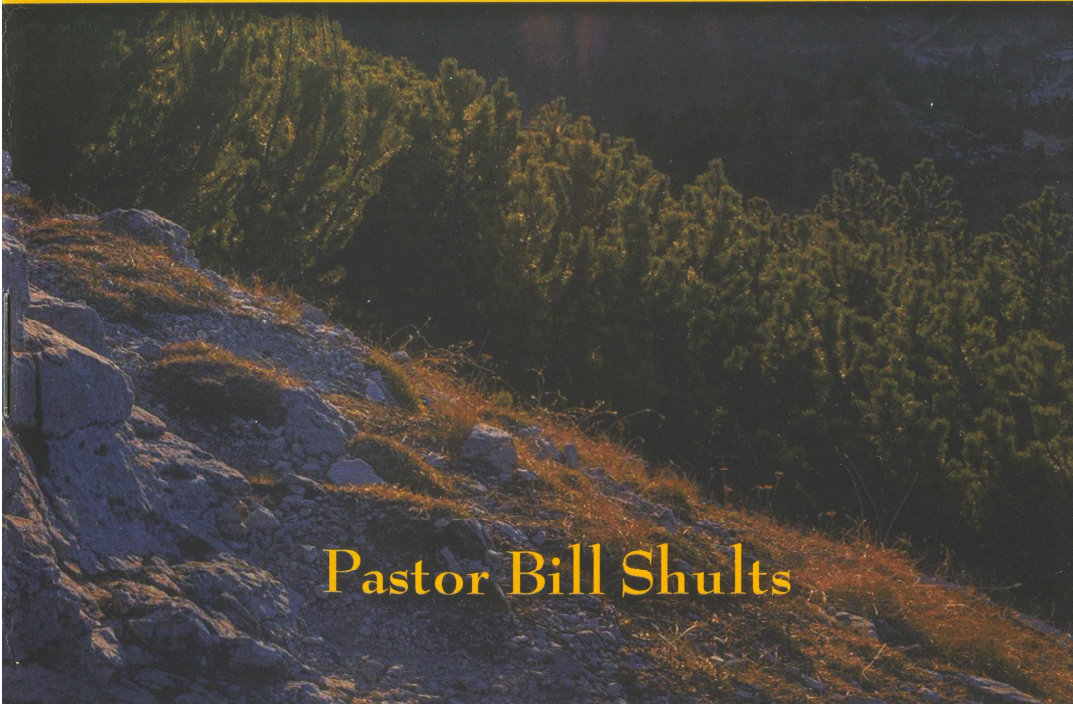


GOD'S HOLY DAYS

YOUR STANDING APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD



Pastor Bill Shults

God's Holy Days

Your Standing Appointments with God

An overview of the Holy Days found in Leviticus 23

“These are My feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.”

By Pastor Bill Shults

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Published in the United States of America

Printed by Allegra Print & Imaging 1029 Old Hickory Blvd,
Jackson TN 38305 (731) 664-1676

All Scripture Notations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. NIV by the International Bible Society,
Zondervan Bible Publishers Grand Rapids, Michigan 46506 USA

The Passover

The story of the Passover is the story of God's redemption of His people. The original story in the Book of Exodus is the story of God's redemption of the Children of Israel from the hand of Pharaoh King of Egypt. In the New Testament, the Passover is the story of God's redemption of His people, chosen out of every family of mankind, by the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ. This is the beginning of God's plan to redeem mankind back to Himself. This is a story and an event that needs to be a big part of every Christian life.

During the days of the patriarch Joseph, there was a very severe famine in the ancient near east. The children of Israel took refuge in Egypt to avoid starvation. After the death of Joseph the people of Egypt forgot that they were saved from starvation by Joseph son of Israel. Even to this day, the people of the world forget, how they have been saved from disaster by the Children of Israel. Joseph required the people of Egypt to save back 20% of their food crops during the seven good years so that they would have enough for the seven lean years. Egypt was the only place to find food in that famine, so Egypt became very rich. But, when the Egyptians forgot about Joseph they began to oppress the Children of Israel. The more the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites, the more God blessed them, so that they became a nation of people in Egypt.

The Egyptians enslaved them, and made them work all the harder to "wear them out." In the fullness of time, when God decided to deliver the Israelites, the Egyptians would not let them go, because of the economic power of having them as slaves. God demanded of Pharaoh to "Let My people go." But, Pharaoh would not listen to the Creator of the Universe, so God brought ten plagues on Egypt. We do not want to think about God intervening in the affairs of human kind, but we live in an age, when He

is about to do it again. How much of this story applies to the end time church is anyone's guess. But, the story is remarkably similar. Even under the duress of the plagues, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. Until the tenth plague, the death of the first born of Egypt. To forestall the death of the Israelite first born, the Israelites were to kill a lamb and put the blood on the door posts. The death angel would "pass over" the homes of the Israelites.

The Children of Israel were told to select a lamb without defect on the tenth day of the first month of the Hebrew calendar called Abib. They were to keep the lamb with the family until the evening of the fourteenth day, when they were to kill the lamb and put its blood on the door posts of their homes. Four days is just enough time for the children to make this lamb the family pet. Four days is just enough time for this lamb to climb into father's lap after dinner, and to begin sleeping with the children. It would be difficult to kill this lamb, but it would be necessary to kill this lamb to spare the first born people in the home. We must not overlook this element of the Passover sacrifice.

The lamb was to be slain on the fourteenth day of the month of Abib. There has been much speculation over whether this was the evening at the beginning of the fourteenth, or at the end of the fourteenth. The answer is really simple, the death angel is coming to slay the firstborn at midnight on the fourteenth, if you wait until the evening at the end of the fourteenth, your firstborn are dead. Part of the confusion comes from this being a two night celebration. The Passover on the fourteenth was commanded to be observed forever, and the night of the fifteenth was also commanded to be observed forever, "because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come" (Exodus 12:17). So we celebrate what we call Passover on the night of the fourteenth, the evening before midnight. And, we celebrate what we call the Night to be Much Observed on the evening of the fifteenth. For the modern Christian these are two entirely different, and yet extremely important celebrations.

In ancient times God commanded the Children of Israel to eat the Passover in haste, dressed for departure, and anxious over the last plague on Egypt. While He wanted them to trust Him, He also wanted them to understand that the death of the Egyptians was the price He paid to redeem them from slavery. The next day, the daylight portion of the fourteenth, God had the Children of Israel “spoil” the Egyptians. They asked the Egyptians for gold and silver, garments and other things of value. The Egyptians gave these articles to the Israelites. God told the Children of Israel that this would be their wages for the years of slavery. Then at the beginning of the fifteenth, they marched out of Egypt to freedom in the Promised land. They went out with a high hand, with much singing and rejoicing at being freed from slavery.

They were also commanded by God to remove all of the leavening from their homes. They were to leave behind in Egypt everything that makes bread rise. They were to eat flat bread, made without leavening for seven days at the beginning of their journey. “For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat--that is all you may do” (Exodus 12:15-16). They were to make a completely new beginning as they left Egypt to go to their new homes in the Promised land. And they were to commemorate this new beginning every year throughout their generations forever.

There are many traditions associated with these days, such as crossing the Red Sea on the last day of Unleavened Bread, or the fall of Jericho on the same day in Joshua’s time. This is a very momentous time of year because all of the events associated with this time have to do with the miraculous deliverance of God’s people. Most of Christendom does not celebrate the mighty acts of God, so we are not looking for deliverance by our Creator. Jesus Christ is called the Savior of the world because He is. He is

our deliverer, He is the one to whom we should look. The world has deceived us to celebrate things that are pure fantasy, and to denigrate the things from God that are real. The Bible is one complete work from Genesis to Revelation, and all Christians should embrace it completely.

In the Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he told them to "for Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed, keep the Festival" (1 Corinthians 5:8), referring to the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. If there is any festival to be observed by Christians from the "Old Testament," the season of the Passover is the one. This whole season is about our deliverance from sin and death by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is about the prophetic fulfillment of God rescuing the Saints before the Tribulation. It is about coming into the new life in Christ, it is about going into the Promised Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ kept the Passover with His disciples on the night he was betrayed. The Jewish people had begun to celebrate the Passover on the night of the fifteenth, instead of the night of the fourteenth, as they do to this day. Jesus was able to keep the Passover at the correct time on the fourteenth in accordance with the commandment of God, and be the Passover sacrifice the very next day. The High Priest would sacrifice one lamb for the nation at the ninth hour on the afternoon of the fourteenth. Then the other Priests would begin to kill the lambs for all of the people to celebrate the Passover. From the gospel accounts we know that Jesus gave up His Spirit at the ninth hour and died. It is no coincidence that Jesus died at the precise time the High Priest was sacrificing the Passover lamb for the nation. Jesus died so that His blood on our hearts will cause the death angel to "Pass Over" us. But we are speaking here of eternal death. It is often asked: "What would Jesus do?" I am asking you "what did Jesus do?" Jesus kept the Passover with His disciples.

Every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Passover Lamb to make the atonement for their sins, is supposed to leave a

lifestyle of sin. That is once we confess Jesus as our Savior, then we must stop living in sin. Some Believers call this “victory.” They say the “we have the victory in Jesus.” The celebration that we call the Night to be Much Observed is the celebration of this victory in Jesus. We are commemorating our leaving a lifestyle of sin, and the steps that we have taken in our new life with Christ. Just as the Children of Israel left Egypt with a high hand, so we leave the clutches of the devil with exuberance and joy. God told the Children of Israel to “spoil” the Egyptians, and God has told us to prosper even as our soul prospers.

During the Days of Unleavened Bread the Children of Israel were told to put all of the leavening out of their homes and to eat unleavened bread for seven days. The Apostle Paul likened Jesus Christ to this unleavened bread during this festival. Leavening represents sin, and so we are showing God by our actions that we want to take the sin out of our lives, when we remove the leavening. By eating the unleavened bread we are showing God that we want to take into our hearts more of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is a symbolic act of a profoundly Spiritual truth. These celebrations have real deep meaning for every Believer in Jesus Christ. They totally focus on Jesus and His redeeming work on the cross. They continue on with His work of perfecting the Saints with His Holy Spirit. As we quoted the Apostle Paul, “Let us keep the Festival!”

There is more to the Passover, the Night to be Much Observed and the Feast of Unleavened Bread than I can explain in this article. I have invested years of study, countless hours of church, and decades of celebrating this special season of the year. Do you want a closer walk with Jesus? Do you want to truly know Him? Then you will have to walk like He walked, to live like He lived, to celebrate what He celebrates, you will have to explore the passion, the joy and the soberness of this Holy Day Season.

The Children of Israel had to take the Passover lamb into their homes on the tenth of the month, just enough time to fall in love

with the lamb. In the Temple times, when you brought your lamb to the priest to be killed, he would ask you: “do you love this lamb?” Jesus Christ is the lamb of God sacrificed for all the people who have ever lived, do you love this Lamb? Is your savior the love of your life? You see, you do not live so very long ago, you live today, the story of the Passover is the story of your personal deliverance from sin and death. The Passover is how to comprehend the depth of God’s love for you, and the passion of your Savior Jesus Christ. While we are on this side of the great tribulation, I am asking you to get serious about your love affair with Jesus Christ. I am asking you to learn from Him about this special Holy Day season. Jesus is the reason for this season. He is our Passover, and we need to celebrate these special days to honor Him. And in the words of the Apostle Paul, “proclaim the Lord’s death until He returns.”

“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been
sacrificed, let us keep the Festival”

(1 Corinthians 5:8).

Unleavened Bread

After the Passover, the children of Israel left Egypt. They took their kneading troughs and didn't have time to leaven their bread. They ate flat bread on their journey. In those days bread was leavened with the naturally occurring yeast from the air. The dough was left to "sour," as in sour dough bread. God commanded them to commemorate this event with the Feast of God known as the Days of Unleavened Bread. For seven days every year we are to eat Unleavened Bread, from the fifteenth day of the first month, until the 21st day of the first month.

Unleavened Bread is bread made without things that make it rise. Common rising agents are yeast, baking powder, and baking soda. During the seven Days of Unleavened Bread God equates leavening with sin. "For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel" (Exodus 12:15). And so we are told to clean it out of our homes. And we are told to eat bread made with out leavening. One of the most profound Christian meanings of the Days of Unleavened Bread is the recognition that we must put sin out of our lives. It is not enough to "get saved." We must take our calling seriously and change our lives to conform to the Word of God. We begin this process the same way that the ancients did, by putting the leaven (sin) out of our lives. They left Egypt, (a type of this world system) on the Night to be Much Observed (NTBMO), and we must begin our journey back to God figuratively speaking on the same night. "Then Moses said to the people, 'Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast'" (Exodus 13:3). The NTBMO is the start of the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. This seven day festival is about the Christian purity that we must attain. Christ told us to

“overcome” sin, this Festival is a celebration of our need to overcome sin.

The Apostle Paul, in the book of First Corinthians, tells Christians that Jesus Christ is the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth. “Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). He further goes on to say that Christians are Unleavened (with out sin) because we are “in” Christ. He tells us to put away the leavened bread of malice and wickedness. In this same passage Paul tells us to Keep the Feast. The way to honor God during the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to put all of the leavening out of your home, and to eat Unleavened Bread. This symbolizes our willingness to put sin out of our lives. And our need to take the life of Jesus Christ into our lives. Since He is represented by the Unleavened Bread, we need to eat this bread everyday.

In John 6, Jesus told us He is the bread of life. “Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty’” (John 6:37). Bread that a person may eat and not die. We need to eat this bread, that is to figuratively take Messiah in. We need more of Jesus in our lives, we need more of His Presence, we need more of His Spirit, and we need more of Jesus’ message. Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus is the Bread that we need, He is the Word of God to lead us to the Father and He is our Savior to show us the way. So let us keep this Feast and honor our Savior and King.

FEAST OF PENTECOST

The word Pentecost is a Greek word which means count fifty; count fifty from what? Pentecost is fifty days from the wave sheaf offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Pentecost is when God gave the Ten Commandments to ancient Israel. The Feast of Pentecost is the feast when God gave the Holy Spirit to the early church. Many Rabbi's hold that God married ancient Israel on the Pentecost, when He gave them His Law. This would make Pentecost the Feast of the Wedding. It may well be the Holy Day when Jesus rescues His church from the Great Tribulation.

During the Days of Unleavened Bread, the first sheaf of cut grain was harvested. This sheaf had to offered to the Lord, before the harvest could begin. This would take place the day after the weekly Sabbath that falls during Unleavened Bread. "From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD. Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the LORD, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings--an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. The priest is to wave the two lambs before the LORD as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the LORD for the priest. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live" (Leviticus 23:15-

21). Pentecost is counted fifty days from the weekly Sabbath that falls during Unleavened Bread. It is also counted seven weeks from that Sabbath. Pentecost is always the day after the seventh day Sabbath, which is a Sunday. First God tells us to count fifty days, then He says to count seven weeks. This is why it is called the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuot. He gave two ways to count to make sure that we keep the right day. Many Jews keep Shavuot on Sivan six, because they count from the first Holy Day in Unleavened Bread. But we are told to count from the wave sheaf offering, which is not held on the Holy Day. There is a clear link between Pentecost and Unleavened Bread. During Unleavened Bread we are to avoid leavening, which represents sin during that week. The Law and later the Holy Spirit, are given to a people who are taking the sin out of their lives.

The Feast of Pentecost is the next step in the Plan of God for the Salvation of all mankind. Many Bible teachers call the Wave Sheaf offering the Feast of First Fruits. The Bible calls Pentecost the Feast of First Fruits. This Day, Pentecost, is also called the Feast of the Harvest and the Feast of Weeks. Why does God use so many names? Because He is teaching us so many things about this particular Feast, and what it means for us. Obviously I can't teach you everything that there is to know about this Feast in one short booklet. God is multi-dimensional, and His teaching is multi-dimensional. We are going to try and cover the basic's in this work.

This is an important feast. "Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in that month you came out of Egypt. No one is to appear before me empty-handed. Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field. Three times a year all the men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD. Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me

along with anything containing yeast. The fat of my festival offerings must not be kept until morning. Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God” (Exodus 23:14-19). “Celebrate the Feast of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD, the God of Israel.” “Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast, and do not let any of the sacrifice from the Passover Feast remain until morning” (Exodus 34:22-23, 25). God required all of the males to appear before Him every year during this Feast. Notice that yeast, or leavening, is not to be offered to God. Both of these passages are in Exodus and were given before the passage in Leviticus. Notice that the loaves of bread to be waved are baked with yeast. This is a reference to believers in the first resurrection, we won’t be perfect. These loaves are also considered Holy to the Lord.

The Ten Commandments were most likely given to Israel on the day of Pentecost. “In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt--on the very day--they came to the Desert of Sinai” (Exodus 19:1). Sivan is the third month on the Hebrew calendar. Just like He said that He would, God brought them to Mt Sinai in the desert. Here God will give them His Law. “Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. It was not with our fathers that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. The LORD spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain. (At that time I stood between the LORD and you to declare to you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said: ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on

the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day. Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.' These are the commandments the LORD proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me" (Deuteronomy 5:1-22). The Law of God was given to the Israelis in fire. Fire connects the giving of the Law with the giving of the Holy Spirit; both were given in fire.

Humanity has a problem with rightly respecting the God of Israel. He is so very good to us, while we are so very bad to Him. Why?

“For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said: ‘The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’ By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear” (Hebrews 8:7-13). The fault lies in the people. All of us, everywhere and throughout all time. The new covenant, He says, will be when He writes the Law of God on our hearts, and in our minds. How? How will God do that?

We have a heart problem. Is there any wonder that heart disease is the number one killer? “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ‘I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve” (Jeremiah 17:9-10). We have about forty thousand neurons in our heart, and when we harbor bad thoughts, depression, anger, and immorality; of course we are dying of heart disease. We need a new heart. One that will fear our God with all awe and reverence. One that will be full of His ways, one that will turn to Him in love and adoration. We always hear that God so loved the world, great! When is the world going to so love the Lord?

God will fix our heart problem, if we will only yield to Him and

get out of His way. “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:19-20). We must cry out to God and let Him be God. Our new heart and this new Spirit that He wants to give us is not a license to sin. Rather, it is a call to return to Him. “Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29) We need a heart that cries “Abba”, daddy! We need a heart that loves our God and wants to please Him. How will He do it?!? How DID He do it? Father God has already accomplished this for us through Jesus Christ.

After the Passover with His disciples, Jesus told us what was coming. “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:16-17, 26). Yeshua told us that He would pray for us to receive this. And, receive it we did.

This out pouring of the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost. “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them

speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.' Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'" "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:1-18,21). Some people try to apply this to the Millennial reign based on verses :19-20. "I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord" (Acts 2:19-20). While these verses apply to end times, the Apostle Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applied the passage to the here and now. This outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the hearts and minds of the Believer is how God is going to write His laws on our hearts. This is how He is going to give each one of us a heart of flesh. He pours the Spirit of Jesus into us until we desire to keep His laws. He pours the Spirit of Jesus into you until you think like Him, love like Him, and worship like Him. Has the infilling of the Holy Spirit given you a heart to obey Him? Has it caused you to

eagerly want to please Him? Do you crave His Spirit more than life itself?

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’--but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment: ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:6-16). Receiving from God the hidden wisdom, receiving the Mind of Christ are both beyond our comprehension. We just have to let Jesus work His will in us. He has already stated, and we read it, that His will is to put His Law, His thinking into our minds, and into our hearts. This is the ultimate cure for our heart disease.

God has revealed His precious hidden wisdom to His servants. “See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are

entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?" (Deuteronomy 4:5-8). Why is the Law of God, still hidden? Because the hearts of men are stone, we reject God and His Law. He gave us His great Law to make us knowledgeable, wise, and bring us near to God His Spirit will give us a heart of flesh to serve Him. It will give us a mind to serve Him. It is no coincidence that the Law of Moses and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were both given to men, on the Feast of Pentecost. The Law of God is how we must live as servants of the Most High. The Holy Spirit is how we turn from our ways to His way.

Many Rabbi's consider Pentecost the day that God married Israel. The idea of getting married under a canopy comes from the canopy of cloud under which God married Israel. "Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts" (Hosea 2:2). There has to be a marriage before there can be a divorce. God redeemed Israel from Egypt, which can be taken for the bride price. God gave Israel His Law, which can be perceived and the gifts given to the bride. There was also a covenant dinner after the giving of the Law. "Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank" (Exodus 24:9-11). Does this presage the marriage of Jesus Christ to His Church? Is there an application to the Rescue of the Saints?

The application of Pentecost for the end times is about God's recreation of mankind into the Children of God. Jesus Christ is the first of the first fruits. "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The wave sheaf offering honors Jesus as the first human being resurrected into the God Family. The resurrections of the dead begin with Jesus Christ and ends with the Great White Throne Judgment. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power" (1 Corinthians 15:22-24). There is an order to the resurrections. God has a plan for everyone.

The Apostle Paul is thinking about Pentecost, when he wrote this letter. "But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me" (1 Corinthians 16:8). Perhaps he is working on his Pentecost message. The resurrections of the dead are in his mind. "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). The resurrection of the Saints takes place during the Rescue of the Saints. "According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). We get transformed along with all of those who preceded us.

What will this transformation be like? “As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:48-49). Our transformation will be like the one that Jesus underwent. From a body of mud, into a glorious body. The Apostle Paul talked about this in many of his letters. “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29). This concept is echoed by all of the New Testament writers. Pentecost concerns the resurrections of the saints, which also means it is a celebration of the Rescue.

God Almighty gave us His great Law on Pentecost. God Almighty sent us the baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. God Almighty married ancient Israel on the Pentecost when He gave them His Law. The Apostle Paul links Pentecost with the resurrection from the dead and the Rescue of the Saints. What a great day to celebrate and praise God.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:1-4).

Teshuvah: the Season of Turning

Rosh ha Shannah, or the Day of Trumpets is on the first day of the seventh month, also known as Tishri. The ancient Jewish Sages decided that in preparation for this feast, and Yom Kippur which follows, to dedicate the entire sixth month, or Elul. The season of Teshuvah is the sixth month of Elul to prepare oneself for God's judgment on the Day of Trumpets. The Fall Holy Days are extremely important, so we need to give them adequate preparation. We are all being judged annually on the Day of Trumpets and we can all seek mercy on the Day of Atonement. During the month of Elul, we prepare by first taking a hard look at ourselves to see how we measure up to God's law. We examine ourselves to see where and how we are falling short. We look over our finances. God has commanded us to bring an offering when we come before Him during the Holy Days. So we need to see how we have prospered so that we can bring an appropriate offering to Him. And it is a good time to think about the upcoming new year and make decisions about how we will live over the year.

The Day of Trumpets, or Yom Teruah, is the day of Judgment. The prophetic teaching that goes with the Day of Trumpets is about the coming Great and Terrible Day of the Lord, the time of God's judgment on this world. Jewish legend holds that Adam was created on the Day of Trumpets. It is highly likely that Jesus Christ, the second Adam, was born on the Day of Trumpets. Therefore, it is highly probable that the Day of Trumpets is the day of judgment. The Apostle Peter said that judgment starts with the household of God. The Apostle Paul said that if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. Twice a year at Hungry Hearts, we go through a deep personal introspection. Once before the Passover, and again during Teshuvah. Repentance is acknowledging our transgressions, telling the Lord that we are sorry for our actions, asking for forgiveness because of

His sacrifice, and then resolving to obey.

The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year. It is more holy than even Passover. We should not treat our observance of this day lightly. It is my humble belief that the season of Teshuvah has more to do with being properly prepared for Yom Kippur than it does for Rosh ha Shannah. Yom Kippur has to do with the ultimate resolving of our sin problem as well as the possibility of accessing your God. Whether it is the resolving of our sin because of the blood of Jesus, or being able to get a touch from Him, we need to be prepared. That preparation starts with repentance.

Teshuvah is a season that we observe in the fall and in the spring, but it is also a lifestyle. There are recurring seasons in a lifetime which require deeper personal introspection. Teshuvah can mean simply returning to God. I use it for more than the ordinary admission of wrong that we make daily. I use Teshuvah for a serious self examination of personal transgression of God's Law. There are seasons for this in a year, we earlier listed prior to both Passover and Atonement. There are personal seasons within a seven year cycle. They may come from either something that we've done wrong, or from a need to get close to God. Fasting is supposed to be a "Teshuvah" in order to get close to God. There will be seasons over a lifetime after a calamity, or a major mistake, or in a time of great need to seek comfort from God. Teshuvah is the key to any and all of these. We can't approach a perfect God before we see how imperfect we truly are.

This willingness to come completely clean with God about our failings is how to build a stronger relationship with Him. If you want more Presence from God in your life, it does not come from being great in your own eyes. It comes from realizing how miserable we are in His eyes. The Lord already knows our failings. He knows who we are and what we do. We need the admission of failure to bring ourselves back to reality. We need the dose of reality to honor God as the magnificent, benevolent and holy God

that He truly is.

This Teshuvah, this realization of our state of misery in the eyes of God, is how to tap into the well of God's joy. The depth, the intensity, the seriousness of our repentance during our seasons of Teshuvah is a direct measure of the intensity of our joy during both Tabernacles and the NTBMO. There are seasons to repent and they are followed by season of extreme joy. Where does this joy come from? It comes from the spiritual release that we obtain as a result of being forgiven. Forgiveness brings joy. God requires repentance first. The more "real" that we get with Him, the more "real" He gets with us.

Considering the coming judgment of this world by the Lord God of Israel, considering the sin, wickedness and depravity that are increasing in these Last Days, should we not repent before the Lord? Should we not acknowledge our sin and wickedness to Jesus Christ and ask for mercy, while He is of a mind to grant mercy? For those of us who claim to be Christians, don't our misdeeds reflect poorly on the Lord? Teshuvah starts with being honest and frank with ourselves about our poor job of representing Jesus Christ. Teshuvah starts with heartfelt repentance towards the Living God. Without repentance, without returning to the Lord with humility, then the rest of what we are teaching you is meaningless.

The Jewish people do something that they call tashlich to repent before God during or just before Rosh ha Shannah. They sometimes throw bread into a body of water, or they write their sins and tie them to a stone and then throw it into a river or stream. Making a sin list and burning it before the Day of Atonement is how we do it at Hungry Hearts Ministries.

When we break God's Laws and Commandments, we are creating an invoice due for the penalty of our sins. That is when we steal something, we owe God the bill due for stealing. When we tell falsehoods, we owe the bill due for lying. Every time we sin,

we are adding up penalties against ourselves. This bill is due and payable in our own blood. In order for Jesus Christ to pay this bill due with His blood, we have to repent of the items on the bill. We did not sin in general, we can not repent in general. We sinned by doing specific things, and we must repent of those specific things. The Apostle Paul wrote about this with the phrase: “the handwriting of ordinances.” This is not referring to God’s Law being nailed to the cross, it is referring to the bill due and payable for our sins being nailed to the cross. That happens after we repent, not before. I recommend making a written list of our sins during the first week of Teshuvah. We burn these just before the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur.

It is not that hard to make out a sin list, rather the difficulty comes in facing up to them. It is not hard to remember the things that we have done, it is not hard to write them down on a piece of paper. How much different they look on the page, than they did in our minds before we did them! It is so easy to sin, it all seems so reasonable when we do it, but when we write that list, our sins seem so unreasonable, so petty, so stupid. That is the point. Facing up to them with the Lord Jesus Christ is a powerful tool to stop doing them. It is also a powerful tool to receive the forgiveness and mercy that we so desperately need. The Day of Atonement is the commemoration of Jesus Christ paying for our sin debt with His blood. What better time to burn our sin lists in preparation to fast on Atonement.

**“Repent for the Kingdom of God
is near” (Matthew 4:17).**

The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets is on the first day of the month of Tishri. This makes the day a New Moon, or Rosh Chodesh in Hebrew. Trumpets is the start of the secular year. Nisan 1 is the start of the sacred year. I don't know why Jesus did it that way, but it works. The sacred year starts in the Spring just prior to the Passover and the secular year starts on Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets is the only Holy Day on the New Moon.

Trumpets is the at the conclusion of Elul, which is the season of repentance, or Teshuvah. Our Jewish brethren do what they call tashlich; they throw the list of their sins into a body of running water, and others throw pieces of bread into the water for their sins. At Hungry Hearts, we just pray together for forgiveness and then burn the sin lists. We do this just prior to the start of Trumpets.

God judges the world on Trumpets. "Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance" (Psalm 82:8). He does this through Jesus Christ. "This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares" (Romans 2:16). If we're going to be judged, maybe it's a good idea to work with the judge to get ourselves into good standing. "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him" (John 5:22-23). We need to go to Jesus Christ in prayer to find out where we lack and what we can do about it. We need to find out His plan for our lives and work with Him to achieve it.

We are very blessed to live in these United States. We have, or have had, an abundance of everything. What have we done with it? Have we kept the Sabbath holy? Do we tithe? Do we support

our local church? With all of the blessings in this country, we owe Jesus everything. If we won't obey now, while we enjoy all of these good things, what then will be our fate?

We have homes to live in, cars to drive, food to eat, clothes to wear, etc. On the Feast of Trumpets we praise Jesus for everything with which we've been blessed. "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:8-12). All that we have is a precious gift from Jesus; what then, is the condition of our blessing? Does the care and condition of those things which we have convey to the Almighty that we are deserving of them? Does the condition and upkeep of the things in our realm of control, convey to the Almighty that we are deserving of better?

On the evening portion of Trumpets we bring the year past to Jesus Christ for judgment as our king. "My Lord the King, this is what you gave me, and this is what I've done with it, this is how I have cared for Your precious blessing." We need to praise God for all of His rich blessing in our lives. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" (Matthew 25:19-21). This man was excited about

what the Lord had given him, and was eager to show his worthiness to receive it. In addition, we bring our goals from the year just completed for judgment in the same manner. We bring to Jesus Christ our King everything worthwhile thing that we have done over the year, most especially those things which we have done in His service for His kingdom.

During the day time on Trumpets, we bring to Jesus Christ our King, our plans, hopes and dreams for the year beginning for His approval and blessing. We bring the goal list that we made over Teshuvah and ask that He enable us to achieve them. We bring our hopes for financial gains, improvement at work, improvements in our homes and cars, etc. We also make our offerings of praise for the many blessings in our lives.

We wrote about the ancient nation of Israel marrying God Almighty on Pentecost so very long ago. As we cited from Hosea, God divorced ancient Israel because of her unfaithfulness. The Church of Jesus Christ, was betrothed to Jesus on the Pentecost recorded in Acts chapter two. It seems likely that the wedding supper of the Lamb will be on the Feast of Trumpets before to the return of Jesus to rule over this earth. “Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.’ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God!’” (Revelation 19:6-9). This is recorded in the book of Revelation before the return to rule, which starts in verse 11. How much time takes place between the wedding supper of the Lamb and His riding out of Heaven in verse 11?

In Deuteronomy there is a law that a newly married man is given one year to bring happiness to his wife. “If a man has recently

married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married” (Deuteronomy 24:5). It seems that the wedding supper of the Lamb takes place on the Feast of Trumpets one year prior to Jesus’ return to rule on the Feast of Trumpets.

Because of this, we rehearse our marriage ceremony with Jesus Christ. Our Bible is our ketubah, or marriage contract. We have had a mikvah, or water baptism. We were betrothed and have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are in the process of making ourselves ready, by coming to Him for judgment. We report to Him every year the condition of our gifts from Him. We are learning year by year what pleases Him and are changing our lives to do so.

The Feast of Trumpets is an important feast at the conclusion of Teshuvah and just before the Day of Atonement. It is the preparation for the Day of Atonement and the connection between our repentance during Teshuvah and receiving the atonement from Jesus on Yom Kippur. We come before Jesus Christ as our King, offering to Him our praise, a monetary offering, the results of our efforts and also our hopes, dreams and goals for the New Year. We come before Jesus Christ as our husband to be, longing for our marriage to Him and then presenting ourselves for the wedding.

The Feast of Trumpets is also called Yom Teruah, or the day of trumpets. Teruah is the alarm blown from the shofar. It is sounded in the day of battle. This is a link to the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord. “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come” (Joel 2:1-2). We live just prior to this time. Jesus Christ is about to intervene

on the world stage and subdue His enemies. (This is another really good reason to submit yourself to Jesus on the Day of Trumpets.) In the prophetic terms, Passover celebrates Jesus' redemption of mankind, Unleavened Bread celebrates our purification from sin, Pentecost celebrates our infilling of the Holy Spirit and subsequent ability to live holy lives, the Day of Trumpets, would then celebrate the return of Jesus Christ to rule and reign over this earth.

Many people miss the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord. But the Bible writers do not. "The great day of the LORD is near--near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like filth. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth" (Zephaniah 1:14-18). This is the crisis at the close. This is the war fought at the return of Jesus Christ to rule. This is the war which Jesus puts down to usher in the Messianic age. The Saints will return with Him to serve in His Kingdom.

The armies of the earth turn to fight Jesus, because they are already assembled fighting each other. Jesus doesn't persuade them to surrender, He conquers them. The Lamb has been here, the Lion is on the way. "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe

dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, 'Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.' Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh" (Revelation 19:11-21). He is returning soon to rule this earth. This is the meaning behind the Day of Trumpets. Jesus Christ is our King, our Judge and the Husband of the Saints.

Hungry Hearts practice is to bring our year past to Jesus for Judgment; bring our year coming for His approval; and then rehearse our wedding. We want to honor Jesus as our King, our Judge and our Husband to be. This is a really great Holy Day, one rich with meaning and substance. This is a Holy Day which makes a real improvement in our lives and in our relationship with Jesus.

The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur is on the tenth day of the seventh month, or Tishri. It starts at sundown on the ninth day and runs until sundown on the tenth day. “The LORD said to Moses, ‘The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God. Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath’” (Leviticus 23:26-32). Deny yourselves is taken to mean fasting. Why is such a holy, Holy Day observed with fasting? This is an indication to us of the holiness of the observance. On this day atonement for all Israel was made; it still is. The Day of Atonement is worthy of a whole book because of its significance and meaning. We bring a fuller examination in our book *Your Standing Appointments with God*.

Chapter 16 of Leviticus is the description of the ceremonies God commands for the Day of Atonement. These are a human representation of God Almighty accepting Jesus’ blood for our sins. It further typifies placing the responsibilities for those sins squarely on the head of satan the devil. The letter to the Hebrews explains Jesus Christ as our High Priest in terms of Leviticus chapter 16. This is a lot of heavy information. We will only briefly describe some of these things.

The Tabernacle of Moses had an enclosed court which contained the Altar of Sacrifice, and the Laver of Washing. This had to do

with the killing and offering of animal sacrifices, as well as washing up from those activities. The tent was divided into the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. In the first room, or Holy Place, was the Table of Showbread, the Menorah, and the Altar of Incense. The Priests would eat the bread set out before the Lord, tend to the lamps on the Menorah and offer incense and prayer at the Altar. Inside of the Most Holy Place was the Ark of the Covenant. The High Priest was only allowed inside the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement. When God Almighty spoke to Moses, God was behind the veil on the mercy seat, while Moses was outside of the veil.

The High Priest had to offer a sacrifice for himself and his family, before he could offer the sacrifice for the nation. The High Priest would go behind the veil once for his own sin and then again for the sins of the nation. "Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. He is to cast lots for the two goats--one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering" (Leviticus 16:6-9). For the nation, the High Priest would take two goats and cast lots, one goat for the sin offering and one goat for azazel (scapegoat). The goat for the Lord would be killed and its blood sprinkled on the Altar of Incense and on the Ark of the Covenant. The High Priest would lay hands on the azazel goat and would then confess over that goat all of the sins of the Israeli's. Afterwards the goat would be taken and pushed over a cliff. In Leviticus it prescribes taking the goat into a solitary place and releasing it, but the goat kept coming back into the camp. That is why they began to push it over a cliff.

Some scholars hold that the Apostle Barnabas was the writer of the letter to the Hebrews. Barnabas was a priest who became a follower of Jesus. He would have known more about the Priestly

service than the Apostle Paul. In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer clearly lays out the scriptural basis for Jesus Christ to be the High Priest.

He then goes into great detail about the sacrifice of Jesus. “When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant” (Hebrews 9:11-15). This writer shows the superiority of the sacrifice of Jesus to any animals that may be offered. “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:1-4). After we receive the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, we no longer feel guilty because we aren't. This is another reason to really examine ourselves in repentance during Teshuvah. We take our shortcomings to Jesus so that we may receive complete forgiveness.

This process of examination, asking for forgiveness, receiving

Jesus' sacrifice and observing the Day of Atonement leads to something greater. Many have been content to observe the day and let it go, moving on to the Feast of Tabernacles. The writer of Hebrews however, explains that our ability to have a "right now" "first name basis" relationship with Jesus comes from the ceremony for the Day of Atonement. "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:19-22). We don't have to hope for what was behind the veil, we can go to Jesus in person. Our relationship with Him doesn't have to be at arms length. We can become "at one" with Him.

In the book *Your Standing Appointment with God* we go into much greater detail on all of these things. The Day of Atonement is more important than the Passover. The Day of Atonement is intimately linked to the Passover, because it uses Jesus' sacrifice from the Passover to make the Atonement for us. The Day of Atonement is the explanation of Jesus' sacrifice and the celebration of it. Observance of the Day of Atonement is how we can make the fullest use of our Savior's love for us.

**“It is the Day of Atonement, when atone-
ment is made for you before the LORD
your God” (Leviticus 23:28).**

The Feast of Tabernacles

God told the Children of Israel to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in Leviticus 23. They were instructed to dwell in booths (Tabernacles) in order to know that God made them dwell in booths for forty years in the wilderness. There is a connection for the people of God to dwell in the wilderness. As modern, twenty first century Christians we have this same connection to the wilderness. Look at Hebrews 11:13-16: “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” We must say the same thing; that here in this wilderness of sin, which is modern life, that we have no home. Observing the Feast of Tabernacles is one way of declaring that you do not belong to this world of sin and decadence. That you have a heavenly home coming, built by the Father of lights, in whom is no shadow of turning. We admit that we are a stranger in this world of lust and wickedness. From the time of Adam, God has promised a messiah, or savior who would “restore all things.” Who would return mankind to the kind of love relationship with God that was begun with Adam. The celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles is all about the restoration of all things by the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

This restoration of the relationship between man and God has been talked about by every prophet ever sent. The restoration between man and God is the Gospel that Jesus brought, when He was here with us on this earth. “Repent, then, and turn to God, so

that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets" (Acts 3:19-21). Even the Apostle Peter proclaimed that this restoring of all things that would come through, by, and because of Jesus Christ. This restoring of all things will happen when Jesus returns to rule this earth. His rule over all men is called the millennial reign, because it lasts for a thousand years. "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4). He will return; He will rule; His return is not a fantasy story.

Jesus will rule over this earth, that is not a myth. "In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:2-4). "Mountain" in these prophecies refers to the government, or Kingdom of God. God's (Jesus') Kingdom will be established above every other government on earth. He will rule the earth. Jesus will make all of the decisions. And Jesus is rightly qualified to make them. His law will be supreme over the earth. All nations will be subject to His jurisdiction. Jesus will decide the disputes between nations. Jesus will establish perfect

peace, happiness and prosperity over the entire planet. He is the only person who knows how, and has demonstrated that He knows how by living a perfect life.

And since He died to purchase every man for God, He alone has legal title to each one of us; therefore, He can decide every dispute. The knowledge of God will go out into all of the earth. The laws of God will be the laws of every nation. “They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious” (Isaiah 11:9-10). The result of this total immersion of the people of earth into the knowledge, ways and laws of God will be peace and harmony.

Without all of the wars and murders, without all of the crime and deceit, without all of the military spending, the world will be able to achieve uniform prosperity. All nations will be blessed, all peoples will enjoy the fruit of their labors, and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree. “Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken” (Micah 4:4).

The peace and plenty, the happiness and joy will be complete with the Savior of mankind ruling the earth, so much so, that even the fierce countenance of the animals will be changed. “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest” (Isaiah 11:6-8).

This is the time which we celebrate, when we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. God in His infinite wisdom has us celebrating these things before they occur. When we really turn our lives

over to Jesus and honor His Holy Days, the days that show forth His plan and purpose, then we are helping to usher in His reign. We are declaring for all time that we want Him to rule over us; that we are finally ready for His ways and not our own. “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away” (Isaiah 35:5-10). This is why the Feast of Tabernacles is called the season of our Joy. In Jesus’ Kingdom there will be no more disease, no more lame, happiness and joy spread all over the globe. Who doesn’t want to celebrate a time coming like this?

Jesus is really serious about rejoicing during His Feast of Tabernacles. He even went out of His way to give us instructions on how to have a good time during the Feast. “Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name--there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD. And there rejoice before the LORD your God, you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns, who have no allotment or inheritance of their own” (Deuteronomy 12:11-12). God would show them a place to worship before Him. He wants us to be together, to celebrate with others. He wants us to declare to each other just how good that

He has been to each of us. “Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns--and you are to rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you put your hand to” (Deuteronomy 12:18). We are to come to this place to rejoice. The Feast of Tabernacles is the time to celebrate. The Feast of Tabernacles is the time to praise God for His goodness in our lives.

Where, and most importantly when should we celebrate? Just anytime that we choose? No, special favor from God is poured out when we celebrate when He chooses. To receive the special blessings from Him, we must assemble when He chooses, and rejoice before Him with gladness. “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own” (Deuteronomy 14:22-27). Here the Lord God is telling how we are to pay for all of this rejoicing. We are to lay up money and goods for ourselves to bring to the place, to bring to indulge ourselves and to bless others. God wants us to have a good time at His feast, and this is how we do it. Save up the money to go keep His Feast Days. God sets up the places all over the world where people are gathered to keep His Feasts.

“Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. Be joyful at your Feast--you, your sons and daughters, your men-servants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns. For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete” (Deuteronomy 16:13-17). The rejoicing, the gladness, the enjoyment is to be experienced at the Feast of Tabernacles. God wants an eight day party during this Feast. Why? Because it is celebrating the rule of Jesus Christ! He wants eight days of plenty and joy to show this wicked world that there is going to be a thousand years of plenty and joy when the Son of the Living God rules this earth. “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills. I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,’ says the LORD your God” (Amos 9:13-15).

There is also an important Christian component to this Feast that is often overlooked. The Tabernacle is a symbol that our life in the flesh is temporary; that we have a better home coming. People who are born again Christians are going to rule with Jesus when He returns. Those who gladly know Jesus now, will receive a better reward. “And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’” (Revelation 5:9-10). Born again Christians are going to rule and reign with Jesus Christ for the entire Millennium. We get

this ability from the Holy Spirit that lives within us. Right now we have this treasure in jars of clay. “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7).

Now, Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit, He always had this treasure. “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God’” (Luke 1:35). Jesus had this treasure even while He lived in a jar of clay. The Apostle John described Jesus incarnation as a man in John 1:14. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). This word translated “dwelling” really means tabernacle in the Greek. Jesus, the Word of God, “tabernacled” with man. He came to link, forever, the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles to His Gospel and His Kingdom. He came down to this wilderness of sin and dwelt among us in a “Tabernacle.”

One time Jesus showed His Disciples a view of the Kingdom of God on the mount of Transfiguration. “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah’ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched

them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead'" (Matthew 17:1-9). The word translated shelters is again, Tabernacles. The link is secure, this Festival of God is the celebration of His coming Kingdom.

Do you believe the Gospel? Do you believe that Jesus will return to rule this earth? Then, if you truly believe, then worship Him during this Feast of Tabernacles. Experience the joy of the Lord. Follow His instructions, bring your full provision to this Feast and celebrate before Him for His goodness.

“If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:15-16).

The Last Great Day of the **Feast of Tabernacles**

The Feast of Tabernacles is the celebration of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Feast of Tabernacles lasts seven days, the concluding service is the eighth day. In God's perfect plan of redemption, what is the next step after the millennial reign? It is the resurrection of the rest of the dead. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29). God Almighty will raise all of the rest of the dead. At that time, they will have an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. This time period is also known as the Great White Throne Judgment. This time period will last about one hundred years. At the end of that time God will renew the surface of the earth with nuclear fire.

The Apostle Paul taught us that there is an order to the resurrections of the dead. "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:23). Five hundred were resurrected at Jesus' death. Is it possible that they constituted an escort committee when He ascended into heaven? There is a resurrection of those who died in Christ along with the rescue of the Saints. "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). And, there is a resurrection of the dead at the conclusion of the Millennial reign of Christ. "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books" (Revelation 20:12). This takes place after the Satan is released and resolved.

In Ezekiel 37, we have a detailed account of the resurrection of Israeli's throughout all time. "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know.' Again He said to me, 'Prophesy over these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.' So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD, Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.' So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off. Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,' declares the LORD" (Ezekiel 37:1-14). Many of these people were not only

hostile to the God of Israel, they were downright evil. Nonetheless, God is going to bring them back into their land and give them a space of time to live. Does this correspond to the Great White Throne Judgment? It would seem so, since God is not a respecter of persons; then He would need to do this for all human kind, not only the Israeli's. This then, would be a vast undertaking.

How can every human being live on this planet all at the same time? It will require that the oceans are emptied. "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea" (Revelation 21:1). How long will God give humanity to come to Him in repentance or face the ultimate penalty? "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed" (Isaiah 65:20). Why is a man who fails to live out his days accursed? Is it because this is the final act? "Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). Does it come down to this last chance for human kind?

Is the conclusion of the Great White Throne Judgement the Lake of Fire? How will this affect the planet. In the prophetic writings there are several "days of the Lord." The Apostle Peter records one of them. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up...because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!" (2 Peter 3:10, 12). Nuclear fire is what "melts" the elements. God Almighty will renew the surface of our planet with nuclear fire, just prior to bringing the New Jerusalem. When the Father of Lights comes to earth it will have been cleansed with fire.

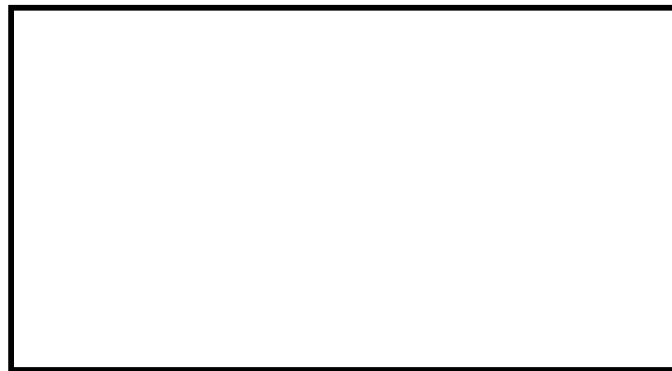
There are a lot of spectacular things involving the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. It is much more important than merely the closing assembly, even though we hold a closing assembly. It is a major part of God's plan for the salvation of human kind. It offers a hope and a promise of mercy and grace that only the True and Loving God could hold out to a sinful people. What a truly holy God we serve.

“But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming”
(1 Corinthians 15:23).

Hungry Hearts Ministries conducts Spirit filled Sabbath Services in three cities, holds a Feast of Tabernacles celebration during Sukkot, publishes a Sabbath magazine, publishes books on Bible topics from a Sabbath keeping world view, posts Sermons online and supports Spirit filled Sabbath churches in India and Kenya.

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GOD'S HOLY DAYS

YOUR STANDING APPOINTMENTS WITH GOD

Learn About the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, The Day of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Understand why these celebrations are important to you.

What do these days mean for Christians today?

Where are these celebrations observed?

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