

# Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

Jan. 9, 2019

#1 Introduction & New Moon

When God was ready to deliver the 12 tribes of Israel from Egypt and make them a nation, He gave instructions for Abib [Nisan] to be the 1<sup>st</sup> month of their religious calendar.

Ex. 12:1-2 And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, <sup>2</sup> This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Matthew Henry "The Lord makes all things new to those whom He delivers from the bondage of Satan and takes to Himself to be his people. The time when He does this is to them the beginning of a new life."

Abib occurs 5x in the OT. Associated with barley harvest- Later changed to Nisan

First occurrence: Verifies 1<sup>st</sup> month = Abib

Ex. 13:4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.

God's Calendar:

1. God gave Israel a calendar that was tied to the rhythm of the seasons and the history of the nation. This unusual calendar not only summarized what God had done for them in the past, but it anticipated what God would do for them in the future.
2. The salvation work of Jesus Christ, the founding of the church, and the future of the people of Israel are all illustrated in God's Seven Feasts.

Month 1: Passover [14<sup>th</sup>], Unleavened Bread [15<sup>th</sup>] & First fruits [17<sup>th</sup>] are observed in Nisan.

Month 3: Pentecost is observed in Sivan, month 3.

Month 7: Feast of Trumpets [1<sup>st</sup>], Day of Atonement [10<sup>th</sup>] and Feast of Tabernacles [15<sup>th</sup>] are observed in Tishri.

3. God's calendar is a lunar calendar based on phases of the moon.

Gen. 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons [appointments], and for days, and years:

- Each month starts with a new moon, reaching a full moon in the midst of the 28 day cycle.
- Passover ALWAYS falls on a full moon - the 1<sup>st</sup> full moon of spring.
- Feast of Trumpets is 1<sup>st</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> month - Tishri - ONLY feast on a New Moon

Leviticus 23 is referred to as "God's calendar of redeeming grace or divine redemption."

These 44 verses [7 Feasts] tell of God's redemptive plan for the world He created.

Lev. 23:1, 2, 4 The LORD spoke unto Moses, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts [moedim] of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My feasts. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons [at their appointed time]

Feasts = Strong's # 4150 = moedim = appointed time, place, or meeting

In their seasons = Strong's # 4150 = moedim = appointed time place or meeting

Holy = Strong's # 6944 = qodesh= set apart; sacredness; consecrated

Convocations = Strong's # 4744 = miqra= an assembly; reading; rehearsal

Note: God told Israel to remember what He did for them in history >150x in Scripture. He set up these "appointments" to help His people commune with Him and remember His good works. Holy convocations = set aside appointed times = HIS appointed times

He is their Source, He set the times, He gave them meaning, and He is their ultimate Object.

1. These are God's feasts that He designed for the Jews to observe and learn about Him.

Note: When the Jews became formal and indifferent, the Lord said,

Isa. 1:14-15 YOUR new moons and YOUR appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

When His people lapsed into external and hypocritical observances, the very things God ordained, commanded and blessed became an abomination to Him. [Matt. 23]

Jesus called them the "Feasts of the Jews." [John 5:1; 16-18]

2. God revealed His plan for the ages through the details of His 7 feasts.

a. Feast in v. 2 = Moedim = an appointment, a fixed time or season, a cycle or year, a set time God is ordaining a "set time or exact or appointed time" when He has an appointment with humanity to fulfill certain events in the redemption.

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Jesus came to earth at the exact time ordained by God.

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: <sup>31</sup> Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

God has an exact time or set appointment when He will judge the world.

b. Feast in verse 6 = Chag = Festival = move in a circle, to march in a sacred procession

- God gave the festivals as cycles to be observed yearly so by observing them we can understand God's redemptive plan for the world, the role the Messiah would play in the redemption and how we are to grow from a baby believer to a mature Bible believer.

The feasts are a witness to God's divine plan and the Messiah's role in fulfilling God's plan.

3. These 7 feasts of God are His prophetic program to reveal what Christ is doing in the world.

a. These 7 feasts depict the entire redemptive career of the Messiah.

b. They commence at Calvary where Jesus voluntarily gave himself for the sins of the world.

c. They climax at the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom at the Messiah's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

4. The events of the NT, the vital future events involving the Church and Israel;

God's plan from chaos to eternity is ingeniously revealed through the nature of timing of these 7 annual feasts.

5. They are grouped into spring and fall feasts. These separate groupings are significant; the timing between the feasts is important.

a. The spring feasts picture events of Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> coming into the world.

- He first came as the Lamb of God.

- b. The fall feasts picture the future events of Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming into the world.
  - He will come as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
6. We are now living between the spring and the fall feasts.

### The Feast Of Trumpets Introduces The Autumn Festivals

1. They represent the culmination of the present age of man.
2. They represent the beginning of an incredible time during which God will play a much more direct part in world events.
3. The Autumn Feasts relate to Kingdom/political issues rather than the High Priestly/religious matters that we saw Messiah address in the spring feasts during His first coming 2,000 years ago. Then we saw Him ride into Jerusalem on a donkey as the 'Suffering Servant'. But when Messiah returns this next time He will come as the Conquering King.
4. Previous festivals constitute personal responses to the workings of God in the people He calls.
5. Feast of Trumpets heralds the intervention of God in the affairs of humanity on a global basis.
6. This feast represents a dramatic turning point in world history.

### Overall View of Fall Feasts

Tishri 1      Feast of Trumpets  
 Days 1-10    Days of Awe or Affliction = Prepare For Day Of Atonement  
Scriptural Reference?: This is a man-made name for a period of time.  
 Tishri 10     Day Of Atonement or Yom Kippur  
 Tishri 15     Feast of Tabernacles

1. Yom Kippur is the Day of Israel's national repentance as a nation.
2. It is connected to Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.
3. Tishri 15 is the Feast of Tabernacles, Booths or Sukkot which will be fulfilled with Jesus Christ setting up His Millennial Kingdom.

Feast of Trumpets:

1. Always begins on Tishri 1 - the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> month
2. It is the ONLY feast on day 1 and marked by a new moon.

Genesis 1:14: "Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;"

Ps. 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knows his going down.

The moon is the light that marks the seasons.

- ❖ Seasons = Strong's #4150 = appointed time or place
- ❖ God describes His feasts in Lev. 23:2 with the same Strong's word. = appointed times

On the Hebrew calendar, a new month always begins on the evening that a sliver of the new moon appears.

Question: Why would God place one of His feasts on the day of a new moon and a new month?

What is the Significance of the New Moon in the Bible? [New Moon = day 1 = Rosh Chodesh]

1. The new moon is a critical component to God's calendar.  
It marked the beginning of a new month [Hebrew calendar is lunar-based].
2. The observance of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each sacred month was an intrinsic part of the worship system that God gave to Israel.
3. The observance was part of God's plan for the spiritual nourishment of His people.
4. It encouraged His people to maintain awareness of His calendar and His awesome plan for humanity.
5. The New Moon was observed by God's people during the Old Testament times, the apostolic times and will be observed by all mankind after the return of Jesus Christ.

#### The Scriptural Precedent For The New Moon

Gen. 1:14-16 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: <sup>15</sup> And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

1. Set times or seasons or Feasts = moedim = Strong's #4150 (appointed times)

Ps. 104:19a "He made the moon to mark the seasons [Strong's #4150]; The moon is set apart as the main marker of the seasons, while the sun is to mark the day.

1. The moon marks the feasts, God's divine appointments.
2. The moon that reflects the light of the Sun confirms throughout the month as it waxes and wanes that the created order is not chaotic.
3. Its visible rebirth each month is very orderly and precise, but not absolutely predictable. Therefore, each month has a degree of expectancy about it.

#### The Ordination of the New Moon

1. The months in the Sacred calendar are established as lunar months.
2. Therefore, the sighting of the new moon was ordained to establish the beginning of the monthly cycle and the first day of the month.
3. The New Moon is a precise astronomical event and can occur on different days because of the rotation of the earth.
4. The determination of the New Moon must be determined from the time in which it occurs in Jerusalem to ensure the uniformity of religious worship throughout the world, given increased communication.

❖ This is based upon Scripture which places Jerusalem as the throne of God.

Jer. 3:17a At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD...

Isa. 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Zech. 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

Zech. 14:8-21 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem;

II Chron. 33:4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be forever.

5. Before the time of modern calendars, the new moon, rosh chodesh, was vitally important as it was the official announcement of when the new month had begun. Because God gave commandment to observe the feasts and festivals in their given times it was vital to keep accurate count of when the new month began to celebrate the festivals correctly.

Lev. 23:1-2 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Appointed festivals

Lev. 23:4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. Appointed time

- ❖ God is very clear that His festivals are to be celebrated not because they are for man but because they are His appointed times. God declares His feasts holy.
- ❖ Since God is the One who instituted them, it is a reasonable act of worship and obedience to observe them when He designated it.

6. The beginning of the month, rosh chodesh, new moon, was known not by astronomical calculations but by: Testimony Of Messengers appointed to watch for the first visible appearance of the new moon.

➤ As soon as the first sliver was seen, it was announced throughout the whole country by signal fires on the mountaintops and the blowing of trumpets [silver trumpets].

➤ Later, they reported the sighting to the calendar court authorities of the Sanhedrin.

*Encyclopedia Judaica, Vol. 12, p. 1039*

7. Today, the rabbinical calendar is based on calculations set up by Rabbi Hillel II in the mid 4<sup>th</sup> century. Around this time, the Sanhedrin (the high court of ancient Israel) ceased to exist. Hillel felt that the New Moon could not be declared visually without a Sanhedrin to affirm its sighting, so he decided it must be calculated.

8. "By the middle of the fourth century, the sages had established a permanent calendar and the public proclamation of the New Moon was discontinued" (*Ibid*).

9. Rabbis now know that Hillel's calculations were/are off, sometimes as much as two days, which means the festivals are not celebrated on the correct day. But they have decided to wait until a Sanhedrin is established again to change it.

Astronomical conjunction. A lunar conjunction is when the sun, moon and earth are directly in line. Because the sun is behind the moon, no sunlight is reflected from the lunar face. The moon is a total blackout during a conjunction. You cannot see a moon that is completely black or dark. It would be lunacy sending out new moon watchers on the night of a conjunction to look for a moon they cannot see. To visually confirm the new moon there must be something to identify. They needed to see the first thin crescent of a moon as it began its building or waxing phase.

1. Going by the calculated lunar conjunction contradicts the command in Deuteronomy 16:1:
  - "Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover..."
  - "Observe" = shamar = Strong's #8104 = look narrowly for, search, to keep watch, preserve
  - *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* includes the definitions "mark, watchman, wait, watch, look narrowly."
  - Month = chodesh = Strong's #2320 = new moon, a month

2. The command is to look for, wait for, watch and mark the new moon.

Throughout the Bible these New Moon festivals were often forgotten and fell by the wayside, at other times they were joyously reinstated, and other times they were performed in a dry and empty way that grieved God. But it is interesting that God wanted His people to note the beginning of each month. The moon was at its very thinnest, all fresh and new, starting a new cycle, and a new month.

### God's Warning Regarding Moon Worship

Deuteronomy 4:19: "When you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them."

Some cultures have attributed divine qualities to the sun and moon and built altars to them and worshiped them. But the moon is a creation of God, just as the earth is, and not worthy of worship or praise. When we turn our focus from the Creator to the creation, we are guilty of idolatry. [Romans 1:25].

Consider: God is LIGHT.

I John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Creation: God created LIGHT for the earth on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of creation.

- Light is pure, holy and reveals all. Nothing can be hidden from God's light.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Creation: God separated the water in the sky from the water on earth.

3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Creation: God created vegetation; all the plants

4<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation: God created the stars, sun and moon.

Note: The earth experienced 3 cycles of day and night without the benefit of the sun or moon. Vegetation was already growing and blooming before the sun could give them life!

Truth: They actually derived their life from God.

Rev. 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

The glory of God will be the illumination just as in the beginning.

Truth: The moon's purpose is to reflect the light of the sun.

- ❖ We have no light of our own. We were created in the image of God to reflect His brilliance and glory [Genesis 1:27].

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Eph. 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

- ❖ During the new moon stage, the moon lines up between the sun and the earth, until the moon is dark.
- ❖ As Christians, we reflect less Sun light when the world comes between us and God.
- ❖ It only takes a little of the world to greatly reduce the amount of light we reflect.

As bright and beautiful as a full moon appears, it has no brilliance of its own.

It relies entirely upon the sun for its light.

A full moon reflects the maximum amount of sunlight.

1. Without the sun, it is merely a hunk of dark rock.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

1. We were created to be reflectors of His light in this world. When we shine in the glory of God, we are not to be worshiped.

Phil. 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

- We are to point people to Jesus by committing ourselves to reflect His light [John 8:12].
- When we are turned to face the majesty of Almighty God, when we surrender to Him and seek Him with all our hearts, we reflect His glory