

**THE PATH TO ETERNAL
LIFE THROUGH GOD'S
HOLY DAYS**

**God's Appointed Times and
Their Meaning for Us Today**

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THE PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH GOD'S HOLY DAYS

Have you ever looked at the world around you and wondered why God created mankind and placed us here, and what our ultimate destiny is? This is one of life's greatest questions, and a very valid one! In order to truly answer that question, we must turn to God's holy word. As we dive in and uncover the clues He has left for us, we will begin to understand what His plan for us is.

God is wanting to expand His family, and He wants all of us to be a part of it. Jesus prayed to the Father, saying, "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am..." (John 17:24).

He also says, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).

Our ultimate goal is to be a part of God's family and to dwell in His house forever with Him!

But wait! It is not quite that simple. With great power comes great responsibility. His kingdom would not be a very enjoyable place if it were like the world we currently live in where everyone is seeking their own pleasure and focused on pleasing and serving themselves.

Before giving us an eternal spirit body and a place in His family where we can be in His presence, God has done a marvelous thing: He has created mortal man on this temporary earth,

“...to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not” (Deut. 8:2).

At the beginning of creation, God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the beautiful garden He had made. They dwelt in His presence until they sinned by transgressing His command.

Ever since that time, mankind has been kicked out of God’s presence and not allowed back in because God cannot dwell in the presence of sin. “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You” (Ps. 5:4). Also in Rom 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

The only way for mankind to inherit eternal life is by becoming part of God’s family and being brought back into His presence to dwell with Him. With this being our ultimate goal, He did not leave us wondering how to get there. He has established a process that we must follow and has given us a road map so that we know the way by which we may be saved. This map is His holy appointed times!

We will go through God's holy days (appointed times) as listed in Leviticus 23. As we go through them, God's plan of salvation for mankind will be revealed in fascinating detail.

Many people think these holy days are Jewish feasts, but God says these are, "...the feasts of the **LORD**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My feasts**" (Lev. 23:2). God is not a respecter of persons or genealogy. Regardless of our physical ethnicity or background, we must become part of spiritual Israel, since it was to them that His promise of eternal life was given (Gal. 3:26-29).

Everyone who has ever lived will be given an opportunity to learn of God's way, and the choice to choose to obey Him and become part of His family or not. God is not calling everyone and giving them their chance to know Him right now; that will come later. Yes, I know you may be wondering why I say this, but please bear with me. As we continue, we will see through God's holy appointed times that His plan for mankind is so much better than we ever realized.

Right now, during these first 6,000 years that mankind is on the earth, God is choosing a select few to be priests and teachers in His kingdom to help Him teach the rest of mankind about His ways in the future when it is their time.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 2:5).

One of the jobs that the priests had was to teach God’s law, “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 2:7). This will be one of our jobs as priests in His kingdom.

God chooses whom He is calling at this time (“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” – John 6:44); it is the most special and precious gift we could ever be given! There is no way we could ever earn it, nor does God give it to us because of our own merits or qualifications. “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹that no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Our journey begins when God calls us out of our former way of life and we humble ourselves, repent of our past deeds and accept that calling. It is a choice! God desires people who WANT and CHOOSE to obey Him. He is not going to force his way on anyone, as that would defeat the whole purpose for which He has put us here.

Not everyone has the desire to put God first. He calls a lot of people but very few truly accept that calling and stick with it to the finish line (Matt. 22:14).

The life we have been called to is a very difficult way that will demand more will-power and determination than we have. It is only after we have exhausted our strength, learned to trust and rely on God's strength, and resisted our human nature and its desires that we will be able to reach our goal. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:13-14).

1. THE SABBATH

The first holy day listed in Leviticus is the Sabbath. It is a weekly observance, whereas the following seven holy days are annual observances.

Lev. 23:3: “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; it *is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.”

(I must point out here that according to God’s word, days start and end at sunset. So the Sabbath goes from sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night.)

In the beginning God created the Sabbath day, blessed it and sanctified it (Gen. 2:1-3). God’s Sabbath has been ordained from the very beginning of creation. It is a sign between Him and His people forever (Ex. 31:13). It is holy time that belongs to God that He has set aside for us to leave behind the cares of the world, to spend time with, and have our attention on, Him.

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD...” (Is 58:13-14).

If we look at the account of creation in Gen. 1:1-2:4, we will notice how, unlike the first six days of creation, the seventh day has no beginning or end mentioned here. This is because the Sabbath is a spiritual creation; there was nothing physical created on that day. It is a type of God's kingdom — His holy habitation and abode that we are trying to enter into. It represents eternal life and our ultimate goal (Heb. 4:1-11)!

Knowing that our goal is the eternal Sabbath, we must accept the calling He has given us, humble and separate ourselves from the world, and purpose in our hearts that we will love and obey him. We are then ready to begin our journey to salvation through His holy appointed times.

Just as we as “living stones, are being built up a spiritual house” (1 Pet. 2:5), so God's appointed times are also built upon each other. God's whole plan of salvation is a building process, and just like building a house, everything must be built in the correct order upon the previous step for it to work the way it was intended.

2. PASSOVER / FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (1st Holy Day)

As we start this journey and process, just like building a house, the first step is to lay the foundation upon which everything else is built. That foundation is Jesus Christ and His blood that was shed for us, as is pictured by the first holy day in the year.

The story of Passover starts all the way back in Exodus when the children of Israel were being held as slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to deliver them and bring them out from under the hand of the Egyptians. Through the hand of Moses, God brought nine plagues on Egypt, completely destroying their country. But the ruler of the land still would not let them go. So God brought one more plague on Egypt, the tenth and final one: the death of the firstborn (Ex. 3:1-11:10).

Leading up to the last plague, God gave the children of Israel a list of instructions that they had to follow EXACTLY if they wanted their firstborn to be spared. If they did not follow the instructions in the right order and at the right time, their firstborn would die also.

Ex. 12:1-11: “Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

²This month *shall be* your beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

³Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: “On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight [lit., between the evenings].¹ ⁷And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the LORD’s Passover.”

¹ The first evening is when the sun begins to go down after it passes its zenith at noon. The second is when the sun disappears at sunset. So the mid-point between the two evenings is the 9th hour (by biblical time keeping), or approximately 3:00 PM.

The children of Israel did follow the instructions they were given (Ex. 12:28). They killed the Passover in the afternoon of the 14th day of the first month and put the blood on the door posts.

Everyone who entered the house would then have to pass through the bloody doorway and would symbolically be under the covering of the blood and thus protected from the death angel. At midnight, as the Egyptians were dying in their sin at the hand of the death angel, those who were saved by the blood were eating the lamb in their houses.

The lamb that was sacrificed on the 14th day of the month and whose blood on the door saved the firstborn was a type that was pointing ahead to Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us. He followed perfectly the pattern that God had laid out back in Exodus!

Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10th day of the first month and was inspected daily for faults by the Jews; in the same manner, the Passover lambs were set aside on the 10th and inspected daily for blemishes. On the 14th, through inspired words, Pilate pronounced Jesus faultless, a perfect lamb. He was then crucified from the 3rd (approx. 9:00 AM) to the 9th hour (approx. 3:00 PM), when He died at the exact same time the Passover lambs were being killed. His death takes away the death penalty for us! Through His blood our sins have been

washed away and we are no longer under the death penalty. It is not enough for us to just accept Jesus and come under His blood; we must also partake of Him! Just as the children of Israel ate of the Passover lamb in that night (on the 15th day of the first month, since the day begins at sunset), so we also must partake of our Passover lamb, Jesus Christ. If we do not partake of Him, we have no part with Him (John 6:51-56).

The night before Passover, Jesus knew He was out of time to spend with His disciples before His death as the Passover lamb that year. The last meal with His disciples having been completed, He instituted the bread and wine as symbols of His body and blood that He was about to give for us (1 Cor. 11:23-26). After His death on the 14th day of the first month and after sundown, at the beginning of the 15th, we partake of the unleavened bread and wine that pictures Him, our true Passover lamb that died for us.

The 15th day of the first month is a holy day and the first day of a seven-day festival called the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Ex. 12:14-20: “So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁵Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened

bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. ¹⁷So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁸In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. ²⁰You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.”

Leavening, here, is a type of our sin and old way of life. Removing it from our lives during these seven days is a type of getting rid of the former person we used to be and living our life in a completely different manner in service to our God. After we come under the blood of Jesus at Passover, we now belong to our God, not ourselves.

1 Cor. 6:19-20: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you

were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Since we now belong to God, we cannot do whatever we feel like — we must obey Him!

3. THE LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (2nd Holy Day)

The next holy day in our journey is the last day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. It occurs on the twenty-first day of the first month (Ex.12:16-18).

Leading up to this day, the children of Israel, having been set free from Egyptian bondage by Passover, began marching towards the Red Sea. After they left, Pharaoh decided that even though all the Egyptian firstborn had been killed, he still wasn't ready to let Israel go from being slaves. Therefore, he took his whole army and pursued them, quickly overtaking them as they camped by the sea where they were trapped with nowhere to escape.

That night, God performed yet another miracle for Israel. He protected them from the Egyptians with a pillar of smoke and fire as a barrier, while He made a way of escape for them through the sea. In order to gain complete victory over the Egyptians, God allowed them to pursue the Israelites while they crossed the sea that night on dry ground. By the next morning, on the 21st day of the first month, Israel was on the other side but the Egyptians were still in the midst of the sea. When

morning appeared, God caused the sea to return and cover the Egyptians, thus killing them (Ex. 14:5-31).

The crossing of the sea on this holy day and the death of the Egyptians here is a type of baptism (1 Cor. 10:1-2). Baptism pictures a new beginning — the “old man” we once were is dead and buried in the waters of baptism just as the Egyptians were drowned in the sea. When we come up out of the water we are a completely new creation. It is a perfect ending to the Days of Unleavened Bread. As we walk in our new way of life, we are washed clean and the old way is completely gone.

Baptism is such an important event for us and not one to be taken lightly! It is arguably the most important decision we could ever make; it is a marriage covenant with the Eternal. By this covenant we are betrothed to Jesus Christ.

At Passover we agreed to this covenant by partaking of the bread and wine (representing Messiah’s body and blood). We agreed to give up our former way of life and become a new creation in Him (represented by baptism and the Last Day of Unleavened Bread). Our past sins were washed away and we became a new creation. Future sins that are committed in ignorance and truly repented of are not imputed to us, so that we can be in our Savior’s presence and live forever with Him.

In exchange, we swear by an oath to be faithful to God, to obey Him, to love and to serve Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and all that we have. It is a promise to give our entire life to Him. We are giving up our right to ourselves and what we want to do in order to serve our Savior and King.

Since we are under Messiah's grace and free from the death penalty for breaking the law, does that mean we don't have to put in effort to keep it, including the laws in the Old Testament?

We find the answer to that question in Romans 6:1-23. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion

over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting

life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

When we make this covenant with our God at baptism, it is for life! There is no turning back. For if we willfully turn back and break our oath to God, there is no more blood to cover us, and we will die in our sin under the death penalty (Heb. 10:26-29).

Baptism, which is pictured by the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, is a very important step in our journey. It is not possible without the foundation of Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

As we build this building and continue on our journey, it is imperative that we do so in the order that God has laid out for us.

4. PENTECOST / FEAST OF WEEKS (3rd Holy Day)

The 3rd annual holy day we come to is Pentecost (Feast of Weeks).

Deut. 16:9-10: “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. ¹⁰Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.”

Lev 23:10-11, 14-16: “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. . . . ¹⁴You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ¹⁵And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. ¹⁶Count fifty days to the day after the

seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.”””

Here in these scriptures, we are told to begin our fifty-day count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day the wave sheaf was offered up. So, how do we know which Sabbath to begin our count from? Was it a weekly Sabbath or an annual Sabbath (holy day)?

To answer this question, let’s go back and read the first part of Leviticus 10:11 again. “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, and reap its harvest...’”

So, the answer to our question would be found when the children of Israel entered the land. Josh. 5:10-12: “Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept [prepared] the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight [lit., evening] on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹**And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover,**² unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹²Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.”

² “Passover” here is in reference to the 15th day of the first month, the first holy day. The Passover ceremony began on the afternoon of the 14th with the killing of the lambs, but concluded with the eating of the lambs “in that night.” Since sundown starts a new day, this service concludes on the 15th; therefore “the day after the Passover” would be the 16th.

Here, we see that they harvested and ate the produce of the land on the day after the first annual Sabbath of “Passover.” As we just read in Leviticus 23:14, they were forbidden to do so until the day they brought the wave offering. There is no other scripture that tells us when they offered up the wave sheaf. The command was for when they entered the land; therefore, without this scripture in Joshua 5:10 telling us that it was the day after the annual Sabbath of Passover that they offered the wave sheaf, we would have no idea which Sabbath to count from.

The reason we are commanded to count from the day after the first annual holy day is that it is a clue that God has given us to better understand what this day is about. Pentecost is inextricably linked to Passover and the blood of the covenant! Why does God give us this connection, and what is the significance of the wave offering that had to be offered before they could eat of the produce of the land?

To answer these questions, let’s back up a bit to the Passover in Egypt. The firstborn, who were spared because of the blood at Passover, then belonged to God. They were bought with a price as a type of us when we come under the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:20).

Num. 3:11-13: “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
12^cNow behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from

among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, ¹³because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD.”

Here, we can see that not only were the firstborn sanctified to God by the blood, but God then chose the Levites instead of the firstborn because they were the only ones who followed Him during the golden calf incident (Ex. 32:1-29).

Num 8:10-11, 13-19: “So you shall bring the Levites before the LORD, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites; ¹¹and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD, like a **wave offering from the children of Israel**, that they may perform the work of the LORD....

¹³And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them like a **wave offering to the LORD**. ¹⁴Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine. ¹⁵After that the Levites shall go in to service the tabernacle of meeting. So you shall cleanse them and offer them, like a **wave offering**. ¹⁶For they are wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel. ¹⁷For all the

firstborn among the children of Israel are Mine, both man and beast; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them to Myself. ¹⁸I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel. ¹⁹And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary.”

Notice how in verse 11 it says, “and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD, **like a wave offering from the children of Israel...**”

A wave offering is a gift that you are giving to God. As in this case, it was like a gift from the children of Israel to God, that God then turned around and gave to Aaron the high priest, who was a type of Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Since God owns everything, what could we possibly have left to give to Him? The answer is simple: ourselves! That is what God is interested in. He wants us to become part of His family; He wants our hearts and souls. So on the day after the Passover, having been redeemed by the blood of Christ, we offer ourselves as firstfruits to God.

The wave sheaf offering was taken from the firstfruits of the harvest and pictures us, the firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Getting back to the meaning of Pentecost and why it is tied to Passover, let's continue to follow the children of Israel after the crossing of the sea. They began their journey as a new nation toward the mountain of God. On the day of Pentecost they stood before the mountain of the LORD and He gave them His law (Ex. 19:1-23:33).

In the New Testament, on the day of Pentecost God gave His Holy Spirit to the disciples. "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

This day pictures not only the giving of the law at Mount Sinai (God's conditions of the covenant and how we are to serve and obey Him), but also the giving of His Holy Spirit to aid us in keeping that law. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their

minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jer. 31:33).

Without God’s spirit we cannot please God. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7).

In our journey, once we have made our covenant with God and been washed clean, in order to continue and uphold our oath, we need God’s Holy Spirit. Without it we would get dragged back to our former way of life by our human nature and end up breaking our covenant.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26). It is this helper that enables us to overcome our human nature and take on God’s nature, which we must have if we are going to be a part of His family.

This third holy day, the day of Pentecost, picturing the giving of His Holy Spirit, is a crucial step, but would not be possible without the two holy days preceding it. Without the atoning of the blood and the cleansing by baptism, there could be no giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You” (Psalm 5:4).

In Acts 2:38, Peter summed up the first three holy days when He said, “Repent [Passover], and let every one of

you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins [Last Day of Unleavened Bread]; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit [Pentecost].”

These first three holy days, revealing the process we must follow to become pure like our Savior and eligible for His kingdom and family, have events in human history that have corresponded to each of them.

- **Passover:** God freed the Israelites from Egypt through the blood of the Lamb; also about 2,000 years ago, Christ freed all of His people through His own blood.
- **Last Day of Unleavened Bread:** God baptized the Israelites in the Red Sea, just as we are baptized today when we make our covenant with God.
- **Pentecost:** God gave the Israelites His law at mount Sinai, and in the New Testament, He wrote His law on the hearts and minds of His people by the giving of the Holy Spirit.

The remaining four holy appointed times do not point to past events as memorials. Instead, they show us what God’s plans are for us, if we follow His process laid out in the first three, and the role we will get to play in His plan for the rest of mankind. They point to future events that have not happened yet.

God's plan of redemption for mankind is a week-long process that concludes with the never-ending Sabbath. "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Pet. 3:8). To God, His plan seems as one week, but to us it is not seven days but seven thousand years, with the last thousand years being the millennium, where God's kingdom reigns and will continue to reign forever. It is the never-ending Sabbath.

Another parallel that God has given us is the first seven months of the year in which all of His holy appointed times occur. The first three holy days fall in the first and third months, while the last four are all in the seventh month. The seventh month is also a type of the Sabbath. Mankind has been on the earth for almost 6,000 years; we are right at the end of the sixth day, but we have not reached the start of the seventh day yet. Even though we are not there yet, through God's word we can still see what will happen during the thousand-year period of the seventh day.

5. THE DAY OF TRUMPETS (4th Holy Day)

On our journey, the next holy day we come to is the Day of Trumpets. “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation”” (Lev. 23:23-24).

This day is the beginning of the “seventh day” of God’s plan, and starts a chain of events that ushers in an eternal kingdom—Christ’s reign that will never end! “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven” (Mark 13:26-27).

This fourth annual holy day, the Day of Trumpets, pictures the first resurrection, in which we as firstfruits to God finally get to enter His rest and be with Him always (Rev.20:6).

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵²in a

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:50-53).

On this day He will gather His people, transform them into spirit (whether dead or still alive), and take us into His Father’s house where we will stand before God’s throne in heaven (Rev. 14:1-4). What an awesome day that will be!

We will have the name of our God placed on us and God the Father will preside over our wedding ceremony with His Son. We, as the new bride of Christ and priests in His kingdom, are now ready to follow Him wherever He goes (Rev.20:4-5). But our story does not end here; this is only the first of God’s three harvests that He has planned for mankind. We still have three more holy days to go.

6. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT (5th Holy Day)

As we continue our journey, we come to the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement. “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁷Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. ³⁰And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. ³¹You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ³²It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your Sabbath” (Lev. 23:26-32).

On this day we are commanded to fast; we are not permitted to eat or drink. Why does God give us this command? What does it mean, and why are we commanded in verse 32 to “afflict [our] souls,” and then at the end of the verse, commanded to “celebrate” this day? Celebrate the day on which we are commanded to

afflict our souls? That seems like a very bizarre command, but as we will see, there is a very good reason for it!

God uses fasting as a way to humble us. When we fast, we realize just how weak we as mortal humans really are. Left on our own without either food or water, in a mere few days even the strongest of us would be dead. It brings back into our focus how temporary we really are, and how desperately we need our Savior.

Just as I mentioned in the beginning when we started our journey, in order to accept the calling God has given us, we must humble ourselves. In order for God's Holy Spirit to work within us, we must be teachable, which is not possible until we have humbled ourselves.

The definition of atonement is "to be at one," to be "reconciled." This day is about God humbling and drawing people to Himself. Ever since creation, mankind has been rebelling against God, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Rom 8:7).

In order for mankind to be reconciled to God, there must first be humility, which leads to repentance. Mankind has exalted themselves against God. They have, to the best of their abilities, removed Him from their lives and elevated themselves into His place. In order for them to return to Him and to be willing to accept His way of life

and live by His laws, they must be humbled and brought to the conclusion that on their own they are nothing.

God will bring this about with a forced fast, among other plagues, in preparation for His return. It will be a time of great tribulation. “Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. ¹⁵Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty. ¹⁶Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? ¹⁷The seed shrivels under the clods, storehouses are in shambles; barns are broken down, for the grain has withered. ¹⁸How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment” (Joel 1:14-18).
“The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone will be exalted in that day” (Is. 2:17).

God commanded the children of Israel through Moses to perform a special ceremony for the Day of Atonement. Only on the Day of Atonement each year, the High Priest was to take two kids of the goats from the people and cast lots for them, one lot for the LORD and the other for the scape goat. The goat for the LORD was then offered for the sins of the people. The High Priest was to enter the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle, and later the temple, first with the blood of a bull as a sin offering for

himself, and then the blood of the LORD's goat as the sin offering for the people. After making an atonement with the blood by sprinkling it on the mercy seat inside the veil, he then had to take the blood back out to the altar and make an atonement for it. After he had done so, he would lay his hands on the head of the scape goat and put the iniquities, transgressions and sins of the people onto its head. The goat would then bear them, and was then taken to an uninhabited place by the hand of a fit man and released (Lev. 16:5-22).

This ceremony is a very important clue that God has given us to better understand the meaning of this day and what He is going to do in the future. The goat that the LORD's lot fell on, and whose blood was taken into the Most Holy Place by the High Priest, represented our savior Jesus Christ. He came down and was offered up as a sin offering for the people. After He was resurrected, being seen forty days, He ascended into heaven carrying His own blood on the 27th day of the second month as our new High Priest.

“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴how

much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:11-14)?

In the future, on the Day of Atonement, Jesus Christ will return to earth with His vesture dipped in blood, with His new bride following Him on white horses, thus completing the rest of the ceremony (Rev. 19:11-16). He will carry His blood back to the altar (the Mount of Olives) to make atonement for it. “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. ⁵Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You” (Zech. 14:4-5).

By the time this Day of Atonement arrives, the nations will be in ruins, yet a lot of the people on earth still will not humble themselves. Instead, they will gather together to fight against Christ when He returns with His bride. All of those who try to fight against Him instead of humbling themselves and repenting will be killed (Rev. 19:19-21).

The second part of the ceremony involving the scape goat will be completed at this time. Satan is captured and bound by an angel (representing a fit man), and cast into the bottomless pit (representing a place not inhabited) for a thousand years so that he cannot interfere with Christ's reign. He will be released for a short period after the thousand years are up, but during these thousand years there will be peace (Rev.20:1-3).

During the Millennial reign of Christ, the people who made it through the great tribulation, repented and humbled themselves, will finally have the opportunity to truly learn God's way. They will be taught by Jesus with the help of His new bride.

“... I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ... ¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ ¹⁴And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb who is in the midst of

the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 7:9, 13-17).

This is God’s second harvest and corresponds to the Levites, whose job is to help the priests.

During the great tribulation, the earth will have been completely destroyed, but with Christ reigning, “they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations” (Is. 61:4).

The earth during this time will become beautiful, as in the day God created it.

We are commanded to fast this day because it is a day of humbling and reconciliation. Wait a minute! According to the order of the holy days and their meaning, wouldn’t we as the firstfruits to God already be spirit beings and be with Jesus Christ (as we can see in the meaning of the Day of Trumpets)? If that is the case, why do we, as the future bride of Christ, still have to fast on this day? The answer to that question is quite simple, actually.

“Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?’ ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will

be taken away from them, and then they will fast””
(Matt. 9:14-15).

Remember that this holy day is pointing ahead to a future event that has not happened yet; we are still human beings with our human nature. As long as we are in this state, we still need reminders to bring our focus back to where it should be.

Even as physical humans, we still feast on this day (not physically, of course, but spiritually)! This day is a day that we can have our entire attention on God and His word without even the distraction of physical food. Just as it will be in the future when this day does come to pass, as spirit beings, our focus will be on the spiritual, not the physical. When we are with our Groom, it will not be a fast, but a spiritual feast!

Therefore this day is a day of fasting and humbling, both for us as the people of God since we are still physical and awaiting His return, and also when, in the near future, the rest of the world will be humbled through a forced fast in order to be reconciled to God.

We are commanded to celebrate this day because on this day the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our LORD, Jesus Christ, and we will reign on earth with Him for a thousand years. The Devil will be bound and unable to deceive or harm anymore until after the

1,000 years are complete. It will be a time of restoration and rebuilding in preparation for the next holy day.

As we continue on our journey, right before we come to the next holy appointed time, there is an event that takes place and leads into it. At the end of the thousand-year period, the people living under Christ's rule will still have to make the choice to accept God's way of life or not. Satan will be released for a short time to try to deceive them, forcing them to choose. The people who are not committed to God will end up falling for Satan's deception and will follow him to fight against Christ one last time. They will be destroyed along with Satan this time, and they will be no more forever (Rev. 20:7-10).

7. THE FIRST DAY OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES (6th Holy Day)

After those who fight against Christ are destroyed, we come to the fifteenth day of the seventh month, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: “The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it””” (Lev. 23:33-35).

On this day, Satan and his followers already having been destroyed, God will resurrect into physical bodies all the people who lived and died, but were never called and never had the chance to learn of His ways. They will be brought up into a world that has been completely rebuilt with cities for them to dwell in and will be given one hundred years to make their own choice to be a part of God’s family or not (Is. 65:17-25).

This hundred-year period is pictured by the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles. During this time, we as priests to God (the firstfruits), along with our helpers, the Levites (the people who came through the great tribulation and washed themselves in the blood of Christ), will help our

Savior to teach all these people to live His way (Deut. 31:9-13).

At the end of the one hundred-year period, all of them will stand before God and will be judged from His law by their actions. Those whose names are written in the book of life will be given spirit bodies and will become a part of His family. All those who still refuse to accept God's way of life will be destroyed (Rev. 20:11-15).

In Ex. 34:22 God refers to this feast as "the Feast of Ingathering" because this is the great and final of His three harvests.

"You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. ¹⁴And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates" (Deut. 16:13-14).

"And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴²You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths” (Lev. 23:40-42).

Why are we commanded to dwell in booths? Let’s take a look at the clues God has given us.

First, God named this event the “Feast of Tabernacles.”

A tabernacle is a tent or temporary dwelling; a booth is also a temporary shelter made out of leafy branches.

These symbolize a very temporary dwelling. On the first day, it is bright and green; it looks fresh and is very beautiful. By the seventh day, it is all dried out and withered; it doesn’t look very good anymore.

This is just like us as physical humans. When we are created we are fresh and full of life, ready to take on the world. By the time we are approaching the end of our lives, our physical bodies no longer look the way they used to—they are old, worn out and withered because “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away” (1 Peter 1:24).

This is a feast of temporary dwellings and pictures the completion of all of the physical creation.

Just as God created everything physical in the first six days of creation, so with the sixth holy appointed time, at the end of the seven-day feast, the physical creation will complete the purpose for which God created it.

When the last of the people are judged before the great white throne, there will be no more need for the physical

creation because the people who accepted God's way of life will be spiritual at that point. All of the people who did not accept this way will be destroyed. Since the physical creation will have completed the purpose for which it was created, it is not needed anymore and will be burned up and completely destroyed (2 Pet. 3:10).

At this point, the only thing that remains is all of God's people: His spiritual priests, Levites and congregation. All of them will be one with Him at this time; God's family will finally be whole. Mankind will have finally returned to God's presence and will live forever with Him (Rev. 21:6-8).

8. THE LAST GREAT DAY

(7th Holy Day)

After the destruction of everything physical on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, we have the last and final day of the holy appointed times. It takes place on the twenty-second day of the seventh month and is the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

“For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it” (Lev. 23:36).

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ ⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And

He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful’” (Rev. 21:1-5).

This day pictures a new beginning and the conclusion of God’s plan of salvation for mankind.

God will dwell with mankind in His holy city. “Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Rev.21:25-27).

This day is a new beginning for mankind as members of God’s family. There is no need for the sun or the moon and there is no night there because this day will never ever end! It is our goal: God’s holy Sabbath rest (Rev. 22:5).

“As it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him’” (1 Cor. 2:9).

And so we shall ever be with Him!

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a

thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ... ¹⁸but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:9-14, 18).

Since we can see through God’s holy appointed times the plan God has for those who love Him, it makes everything in this life seem so small and insignificant in comparison.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the

shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1-2).

“¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ ³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:18, 35-39).