

Understanding the Fall Feasts

— Teaching Notes

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Part 1—Rosh HaShannah

Rosh HaShannah

- ❖ *Rosh HaShannah*, the Jewish New Year is the first of the three fall feasts.
- ❖ It translates as 'head of the year.'
- ❖ In scripture it is called *Yom Teruah*, the day of blowing.
- ❖ The Rabbis established this day as the Jewish civil new-year between the first and second centuries.

Yom Teruah

- ❖ The biblical calendar starts in the spring, the month of *Nissan*.
- ❖ It falls in either March or April depending on the lunar cycle.
- ❖ *Yom Teruah* is called a memorial of blowing trumpets and is a Sabbath day of rest.
- ❖ Most commonly used are the blowing of the ram horn – the *shofar* – which is blown 100-times throughout the day.

Why Understand the Feasts?

- ❖ But what exactly does this event signify?
- ❖ And, why is it so important for us as Christians to know about it?
- ❖ To understand the Lord's holy *Moadim* (also called convocations and assemblies) we must look at them as a single unit of Christ's atoning work for the nation of Israel.

Seven is Completion

- ❖ The Lord has divided His calendar into intervals of seven:
 - Seven days in a one week
 - Seven years is also one week

- Seven representing fullness or completion
- ❖ In Leviticus 23 are seven annual feasts and one weekly feast – The *Shabbat* or Sabbath.

The Spring Feasts

- ❖ The spring feasts are comprised of:
 - The *Korban Pesach* (the Passover Offering)
 - *Hag MaMatzot* (the Feast of Unleavened Bread)
 - *Reisheet Katzir* (the Feast of First Fruits)
- ❖ Fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits – the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread – is *Shavuot* (the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost).

Christ's First Advent

- ❖ These four convocations represent the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, as well as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.
- ❖ These convocations were fulfilled exactly to the day and hour at Christ's First Advent.

The Fall Feasts

- ❖ The fall feasts are comprised of:
 - *Yom Teruah* (the Day of Blowing)
 - *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement)
 - *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles)
- ❖ These three convocations prophetically point to Christ's Second Advent.
- ❖ They also will be fulfilled exactly to the day and the hour at the end of the age.

The Great Assembly

- ❖ Three-times per year all the men of Israel were required to come up to Jerusalem and assemble before the Lord.
- ❖ The word assembly in Hebrew is '*Kahal*' and in Greek is '*Ecclesia*.'
- ❖ This is the same word translated into English as 'church.'
- ❖ These assemblies occurred on:
 - Passover
 - Pentecost
 - Tabernacles

Why Understand the Feasts?

Again, why is it important for us as Christians to understand this event?

1. YHVH has a calendar and prophetic timeline, and it is our responsibility to align with His time and His purposes. Israel is YHVH's prophetic time clock.
2. While the feasts were given specifically to the nation of Israel as part of the Mosaic covenant, we learn from scripture that the early church actually celebrated the feasts.
3. The Lord spoke prophetically of a time when 'all' the nations would come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - "For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).
 - So, it is clear the feasts were not solely for the Jewish people.
4. The Feast of the Passover was ordained by YHVH during the exodus from Egypt before the giving of the Mosaic Covenant on Mount Sinai. Further, the Passover along with three other feasts – Pentecost, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles – are specifically referenced in scripture as eternal.
 - This implies that YHVH's holy convocations are neither established, nor can they be annulled by the Old Covenant. Just as YHVH's moral law is eternal, so is His law of atonement for it says, "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).
 - This is difficult to understand, yet scripture tells us that Yeshua was crucified before Adam was created, before Abraham was born, and before the nation of Israel came into existence.
5. The annual feasts and the Sabbath were given to the nation of Israel as a gift within the Mosaic Covenant. Israel's calling was to teach YHVH's law and reveal His light, His salvation to the nations.
 - Scripture says, "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God" (Romans 3:1-2).
 - "...for salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22).
6. The Lord warned the church to be watching with great expectation for His imminent return. Therefore, understanding the feasts and the timing for the Lord's return is crucial.

The Coronation of Our King

- ❖ *Yom Teruah*, the Day of Blowing aligns with the seventh in the book of Revelation:
 - “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”” (Revelation 11:15).
- ❖ This event signifies the coronation and revealing of our King, Yeshua.

Part 2—The Days of Awe

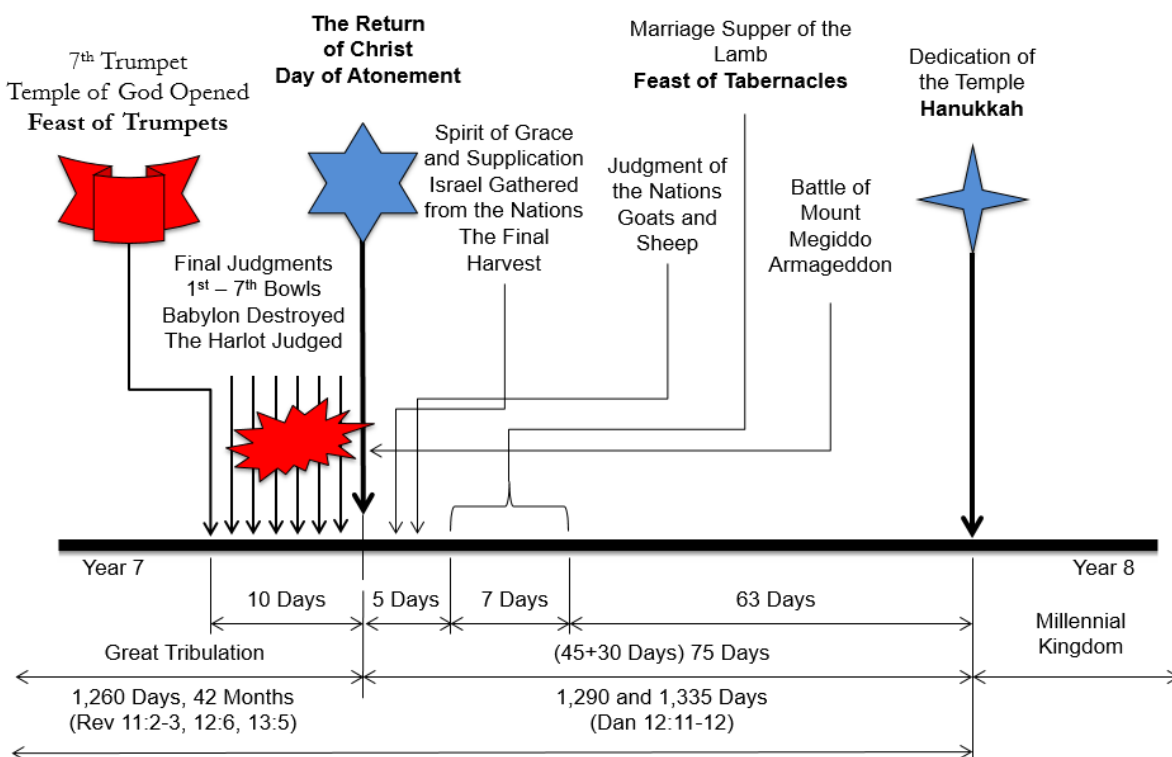
The Days of Awe

- ❖ Between *Rosh HaShannah* and the Day of Atonement are ten-days called the Days of Awe.
- ❖ The Jewish rabbis teach that during this time:
 - The heavens are open,
 - The books of life and death are being scribed, and
 - GOD is discerning and judging the hearts of men for the coming year.

Yeshua’s Seven-Year Ministry

- ❖ *Yeshua’s* ministry in Israel lasted for 3 ½ years, when nearly 2,000 years ago the spring feasts were fulfilled exactly to the day and the hour.
- ❖ GOD’s dealing with Israel concludes with another 3 ½ years at the end of the age, for a total of seven-years.
- ❖ This last period is called the time of Jacob’s trouble, or the great tribulation.
- ❖ It represents GOD’s final judgement against the nation of Israel for her rejection of Him as King and Messiah.
- ❖ But the Lord is also judging the nations during this time for how they have treated the Jewish people, His heritage.

Revelation Timeline



The Day of The Lord

- ❖ The culmination of this time period is called 'the Day of the Lord.'
- ❖ The Day of the Lord is comprised of three separate but uniquely interconnected convocations.
- ❖ The fall feasts will be prophetically fulfilled exactly to the day and the hour during at the end of the age.
- ❖ The Day of the Lord begins at *Rosh HaShannah*, the Day of Blowing, *Yom Teruah*.
- ❖ The next ten-days leading up to the Day of Atonement, the Days of Awe are marked with powerful signs and wonders in the heavens:
 - "Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place" (Revelation 6:14).
 - "Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail" (Revelation 11:19).
 - "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle" (Revelation 14:14).

- “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete” (Revelation 15:1).
- “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).
- “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).

YHVH’s Judgments

- ❖ In the book of Revelation we see that God’s judgements are symbolically pictured as:
 - A scroll that has seven seals of judgment,
 - Seven angels blowing seven trumpets of judgement, and
 - Seven angels pouring out seven bowls of judgement.
- ❖ Seven is the number of completion.
- ❖ If all the celestial objects are extinguished, then the only light revealed to the earth is the light of GOD coming directly from His throne.
- ❖ This is why the nations cry out:
 - “...hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (Revelation 6:16).

An Open Heaven

- ⚡ “Now it came to pass ... as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God” (Ezekiel 1:1).
- ⚡ “And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it” (Ezekiel 1:26).
- ⚡ “Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking” (Ezekiel 1:28).

YHVH's Redemption

- ❖ GOD's judgments always have a redemptive purpose of bringing people to repentance and salvation.
 - "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).
 - And that GOD "will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

Part 3—Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur

- ❖ Apart from the Sabbath, *Yom Kippur* is the most holy day to the Jewish people.
- ❖ It is considered to be a Sabbath of Sabbaths.
- ❖ It is a day of fasting and afflicting of our souls.
- ❖ Even if the day falls on a regular Saturday the Jewish people are required to fast.
- ❖ The rabbis teach that on this day we are judged by GOD, and that He determines our fate for the next year.
 - Will our names be written in the book of life, or will they be blotted out?
 - Will we live this next year, or will we die?

The Battle of Har Megiddo

- ❖ During these ten days there is also a great battle called Armageddon.
- ❖ The battle takes place in the Jezriel Valley which is a plain that leads from the Mediterranean Ocean up to Jerusalem.
- ❖ The nearby mountain is named in Hebrew Har Megiddo, and hence the anglicized translation to Armageddon.
- ❖ All the nations will approach this last remnant of the Jewish people in Jerusalem with evil inclination to destroy them.
 - "For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:2).

Christ's Second Coming

- ❖ *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement represents the day when *Yeshua* physically returns to the earth to save His people, Israel from these nations:
 - "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east..." (Zechariah 14:4).
- ❖ It is also the day when the Lord makes atonement for His land and His people [Israel]:
 - "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." (Deuteronomy 32:43).

All Israel Shall be Saved

- ❖ And, it is the day when the entire remnant of the Jewish people is saved and comes to salvation in their Messiah, *Yeshua*:
 - "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).
 - "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB; FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."" (Romans 11:26-27).

The Church Intercedes for Israel

- ❖ On the Day of Atonement, the church cries out from heaven and intercedes for Israel:
 - "Gather the people [Israel], Sanctify the congregation.... Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people [Israel], O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people"" (Joel 2:16-18).

The Restoration of Israel

- ❖ *Yeshua* returns to the earth with the armies of heaven – which are His angels and the church – and He destroys the nations that have come up against Jerusalem:

- “Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle” (Zechariah 14:3).
- ❖ The Lord takes back His inheritance, Israel.
- ❖ He forgives and removes all her sins.
- ❖ He joins her with the church and the remnant of all the nations.
- ❖ And He establishes His earthly kingdom in her midst from Jerusalem.

Part 4—Sukkot

Sukkot

- ❖ Five days after *Yom Kippur* is the festival of *Sukkot*, the Feast of Tabernacles.
- ❖ This is the last of the three fall feasts.
- ❖ There is a fourth mysterious celebration that comes immediately after *Sukkot* on the eighth day.
- ❖ Eight spiritually represents something new that GOD is doing.
- ❖ It is a new beginning and a new creation that comes with a new covenant, for the sons of Israel are circumcised on the 8th day.

A New Beginning

- ❖ The Feast of Unleavened Bread then starts on the 15th day of the first month, which is the beginning of a new week.
- ❖ The Feast of First Fruits falls on the Sunday after the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Sunday also being the beginning of a new week.
- ❖ The feast of Shavuot, Pentecost then falls on the 50th day after the Feast of First Fruits – which is seven full weeks and one day – and the beginning of a new eighth week.

A Mystery

- ❖ The Feast of Trumpets falls on the 1st day of the seventh month.
- ❖ This feast falls on a new moon which cannot be seen, so the exact timing of this convocation is a mystery:
 - Paul said, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in 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” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
- ❖ On the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement.

- ❖ And then on the 15th day of the seventh month is the festival of *Sukkot*, the Feast of Tabernacles.

Another Mystery

- ❖ In the same pattern as the Passover, it begins on the 15th day of the month, which is the beginning of a new week.
- ❖ Similar to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, this feast also lasts for seven days.
- ❖ On the eighth day is another holy convocation representing something new and mysterious.

The Marriage Celebration of The Lamb

- ❖ The Feast of Tabernacles represents the marriage celebration of the Lamb where all the nations come up to Jerusalem to worship the King:
 - “And in this mountain The LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 25:6-8).

The Church and Israel United

- ❖ This last feast completes GOD’s work with respect to the nation of Israel and the church.
- ❖ This great assembly, this great Ecclesia is now the fullness of every tongue, tribe, people and nation.
- ❖ The church and Israel are united as ‘one’ people of GOD, and the remnant of the nations are joined with Israel to rebuild the earth.
- ❖ This is the mystery of the eighth day following the seven-day marriage celebration of the Lamb.

Simcha Torah

- ❖ In the Jewish traditions, the eighth day is a holiday called *Simcha Torah* that celebrates the conclusion of the annual reading cycle of the Torah, and the beginning of a new cycle.

- ❖ To us who are in Christ, this celebration represents:
 - The coming of our Messiah Who is the word of GOD made flesh, and
 - Celebrates the beginning of the Messianic age and the millennial kingdom.

The Church to Establish His Kingdom

- ❖ GOD's pattern is seven yearly feasts – three in the spring, three in the fall, and one towards the middle to remind us of His first and second coming.
- ❖ One weekly feast – the Sabbath – to continually remind us that one day soon we will enter His eternal rest.
- ❖ The church must recognize what GOD is prophetically fulfilling with respect to the nation of Israel,
- ❖ The church must also understand how she is called to establish GOD's earthly kingdom – the center of which is the nation of Israel and GOD's holy city, Jerusalem.
 - "For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined" (Isaiah 60:12).

The Church to Rebuild Israel

- ❖ The church has also been called to restore and rebuild the nation of Israel.
- ❖ During this third and final assembly, GOD will call the gentiles, the nations to bring all the Jewish people back to their land and to Jerusalem.
 - "Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders" (Isaiah 49:22).
 - "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you" (Isaiah 60:10).

The Kingdoms of The Earth

- ❖ It is the church who rebuild GOD's kingdom and restore His heritage, Israel.
- ❖ And for this, the church has been promised the kingdoms of the earth as an inheritance:
 - "I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me" (Isaiah 45:3-4).

One New Man

- ❖ The church was never intended to be separated from Israel.
- ❖ It was always GOD's plan for the gentiles to be grafted into 'true' Israel – the natural descendants of Abraham – who by faith have received their Messiah, and with the gentiles are joined together as 'one' cultivated Olive Tree, and are 'one new man' in Christ Yeshua.
 - "...For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth"" (Revelation 5:9-10).