



THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

WHY SHOULD ANYONE CARE ?

WHY SHOULD JESUS-FOLLOWERS CARE ?

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BECAUSE JESUS SAID THESE DAYS POINT TO HIM

Jewish Religious Activity without any Real Hope

My dad, raised in a religious Jewish home, tells how the family would spend all day on Yom Kippur in synagogue. He recalls the elders of the synagogue beating their chest with their fists. Kneeling, crying out, they pleaded, "Oh God, forgive us!"

Such humility. Such piety. Surely God heard and answered their plea?

When my dad approached an elder and asked that very question, "Did God hear us? Are our sins forgiven?"... the elder paused reflectively, then said, "If we live to next year, we know God has heard us." My dad expected a more encouraging answer after such effort put into a religious service.

*"God's hand is not short that it cannot save, nor His ear dull so He cannot hear,
but your sin has made a separation between you and your God."*

(Isaiah 59:1,2)

In the Bible, in Hebrew, "sin" means "to miss the mark." It means to head somewhere other than where God wants us to go. It means turning off God's way to go our own way.

God's intention throughout the Jewish Scriptures was to reveal, through the Jewish people, a personal Redeemer-Messiah who would take the punishment for Israel's sin and save not only Israel from sin's consequences, but the world as well (Isaiah 49:6). Getting back in right relationship with God through believing what God says [*"the punishment for our peace was upon Him (Isaiah 53:5)"*] - *THIS* is the point towards which the Jewish Scriptures aim.

If we don't arrive at the point God is aiming us towards, we've missed the mark. We are in sin.

The Way of the Rabbis ... or The Way, The Truth, The Life

Despite how holy and devout, despite how earnest and contrite the religious activity, in the end it is an act of pride to not listen to God and do things His way.

What is God's Way? When King David pleaded with God to make it possible for him to walk in the way of righteousness, and asked God to "*open up the Sha'are Tzedek - The Gates of Righteousness*"

God revealed the way through those gates to him. David wrote, “You [God] have become my Salvation (in Hebrew - “Yeshua” - Jesus - Psalm 118:19-24).

Speaking prophetically through Isaiah, God said of the Messiah, “Here is My Servant, Whom I uphold, my Chosen One, with Whom I am pleased. I have put My Spirit upon Him... to open blind eyes and set the captive free (Isaiah 42:1,7)” After Yeshua (Jesus) was immersed by John the Baptist, the heavens opened and God declared audibly, “This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17). Listen to Him (Matthew 17:5).” Jesus is the way (John 14:6).

Jesus said in John 5:39 of the Jewish Scriptures, “... these are those which speak of Me.”

Moses himself, the writer of The Law, told Israel that God was going to **raise up a prophet, like himself, to whom the people of Israel must listen or God would require a price (Deuteronomy 18:15)**. When Israel was scattered and like “sheep without a Shepherd” this Anointed One would show Israel God’s way. Once Israel broke the covenant (as God knew they would), **God promised He would make a New Covenant where the Law - The Word of God that shows us The Way to Walk - would no longer be on tablets of stone, but now living inside a person. (Jer 31:31-35)** showing us God’s Way.

The rabbis from the time of Yeshua until now make a big deal about DOING all of the *mitzvot* (obeying all the laws) in the Torah. However, **to observe the commands, the letter of The Law, and not take from those commands (and obedience of those commands) that the reason they are there is to reveal God’s Way, His Salvation - Yeshua... is to miss the whole point.** Paul, a Jewish rabbi - *an expert in The Torah (The Law)* - said that **the purpose of The Law is to bring us to Jesus** (Galatians 3:24).”

Sadly, the religion of the rabbis was set up to intentionally point people away from accepting Yeshua - Jesus - as God’s Way. About 55 years after the time of Yeshua, led by Rabbi Yochanan ben Zachai, in a place near modern day Tel Aviv, a school of rabbis crafted prayers and a system of Jewish religious activity. Their goal? Create a way to continue with the Jewish religion, only now without the Temple - it had been destroyed about 35 years after the time of Yeshua.

And they had to create a system of Jewish religious thinking that did not accept Yeshua’s claim to be the Anointed One sent from God. Remember, 55 years after the time of Yeshua when they developed this religious system, it would have been their fathers and grandfathers who were in the very Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling body) that condemned Yeshua and demanded Pontius Pilate crucify him. There is no way they could have not known about Jesus. Rather, they rejected The Voice from Heaven at Yeshua’s *mikvah* (baptism), the miracles Yeshua performed, the anointed, powerful teaching He gave, the crucifixion, the veil torn in two. They ignored the resurrection and the huge uproar in Jerusalem just 50 days after the Crucifixion when 3000 who believed and received Salvation - Yeshua - saw (and heard) the first disciples filled with the Holy Spirit and heard Peter preach.

Today’s modern Jewish religion, the religion of the synagogues and rabbis, is the direct descendant of the religious system created by Rabbi Yochanan ben Zachai and his school of rabbis. Even some of the prayer prayed in synagogues today are exactly the ones written by Yochanan ben Zachai and his associates. Although looking to the Torah, they did accept what it said about Yeshua being the Messiah. Sadly, also - today’s rabbis and those following the Jewish religion of the rabbis do not see or recognize Jesus as Messiah, Saviour and Lord.

The Prophetic Fulfillment of the Biblical Jewish Feast Day of the Spring occurred in the pages of the New Covenant

In these modern times, Jewish people observe the Biblical Feast Days of Rosh haShana (Feast of Trumpets) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) as best they can. Many of the laws in Torah are

specifically about how worship in the Temple is supposed to be conducted, especially on these Biblical Holy Days.

About 35 years after the time of Yeshua the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman general Titus. Now, for almost 2000 years, there has been no way for the Jewish people to keep the Feasts according to the literal dictates of The Law. God had provided another Way - His Way - Yeshua. That Temple was no longer needed. The rabbis and religious Jewish people keep being attentive to the signs God gave, but never accept The One to Whom the signs were/are pointing.

God designed Torah (The Law), especially the Biblical Feast Days, provide an outline indicating truths about this Messiah so that the Jewish people could recognize when God opened up the way of Righteousness.

There are 8 specific Biblical "Feasts of the Lord." One, The Shabbat - The Sabbath or Rest - occurs one day each week. The other seven occur once each year. Looking at the seven annual feasts - three occur in the early Spring, three occur six months later as Autumn begins. The remaining Feast stands somewhat alone, occurring in between these two groups of 3 Feast Days. God placed it seven weeks after the Spring Feasts, a little over four months before the Fall Feasts.

The three Spring Feasts were clearly fulfilled in the time of Yeshua. God said the Jewish calendar was to start with the month in which Passover occurs. This was to be "the first of months for you (Exodus 12:2)."

The year starts with Passover. A lamb's blood is shed and those who believe God, and hide themselves behind the blood are spared from judgment. Yeshua's blood was shed for our sins and if we believe what God says about Yeshua being our atonement, and call on the Name of the Lord, we are saved.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread starts the evening of the first day of Passover night and goes for seven days. For a week the focal point is bread that has not risen. The Unleavened Bread, called Matzah, is pierced and bruised and striped. Isaiah 53 says, "He was pieced for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities ... and by His stripes we are healed." Yeshua was literally bruised, striped (by whipping) and pierced through. He, the Bread of Life, had no leaven (which puffs up the bread). And He remained un-risen for a period of time.

The Feast of Firstfruits, God says, is to be the first day after the Sabbath in Passover. It is a celebration that God brings life out of the ground (which was dead in winter) from seeds (which are put into the ground and die). The Firstfruits Offering celebrates the first items displaying this abundant new life and is a sign that there is much more life to come from that which was dead. Paul wrote that Yeshua is the "Firstfruits" from among the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20) [Ever wonder why Paul used the plural - Firstfruits - to refer to one person? Because Firstfruits was known as a particular thing in 1st century Israel. Yeshua was buried quickly because the Sabbath was coming. Sabbath came. Sabbath went. And early the next morning (the 1st day after the Sabbath in Firstfruits) Yeshua was no more in the grave.

So the first three Feasts of the Lord occur in the first month of the year...according to God. God is saying - the starting point of our relationship with Him is the truth that without Him we are in slavery, but He has provided blood from The Lamb to pay the price to set us free. The True Lamb, however, did not remain dead but is alive. We need to see that resurrection power at work in our own lives. This leads us to the fourth Feast Day - Shavuot.

The next Feast Day on God's calendar is the Feast of "Shavuot" (Hebrew for "Weeks"). God told the Jewish people to count off seven weeks, plus one day. You may know the Holy Day as "Pentecost" (from the Greek and Latin meaning "50th". Seven weeks, with seven days in a week = 49 days plus one... thus ... Pentecost - 50th.)

In Scripture, God told the Jewish people to observe this day by (1) assembling in Jerusalem, (2) preparing two loaves of bread with leaven and waving them before the Lord, and (3) the first grain to ripen in Israel is the barley... this crop represented the Firstfruits of the grain crops in Israel. There

is also a “Firstfruits” aspect to this holiday, thanking God for this first harvest, an indication there will be more harvests to come. Finally, Exodus 19 tells us that the Israelites were at Mt. Sinai around the time of *Shavuot* and received The Law (The Word of God) accompanied by wind and fire on the mountain.

This Biblical Feast Day - Shavuot- Weeks - Pentecost - is the last one to be fulfilled in the pages of the New Covenant.

The parallels are these ... on Pentecost, in Acts 2, we read that there were Jewish people in Jerusalem who had travelled there from a multitude of different nations (listed in Acts 2:8-11). The two loaves with leaven represent humankind (with leaven) - Jew and Gentile. These were lifted up and presented to heaven, and were no longer earth-bound. This is who the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.

In parallel with the wind and fire of Mt. Sinai Acts 2 reports there was wind and fire as the disciples received the Holy Spirit. They received the promise of the New Covenant - The Law Within Them - The Word or Breath of God in their hearts.

Peter stands up to preach the Good News and 3000 Jews get saved that day. This is the first harvest of human souls and shows the hope that more can be saved from among the other tribes of mankind.

So the first four Biblical Feast Days point to Yeshua’s first coming.

Prophetic Meaning Not Yet Fulfilled for the Fall Feasts

Following Pentecost is Summer where the bulk of crops are planted, grow, are watered. Sowing, watering, growing up... even in some areas wheat and tares together. Much of Yeshua and Paul’s teaching dealt with living in this season.

But, as Paul wrote, God did not want us ignorant concerning The Last Days (1 Thessalonians 4:13), and Jesus answered some questions about the last days.

Before these two, the Biblical Jewish Holidays were given and the final three - all occurring within two weeks of each other in the Fall - speak prophetically about the return of Messiah Yeshua.

First note there is a break in time between the Spring and Fall Feasts. Likewise, there has been 2000 years since the last prophetic fulfillment (Shavuot / Pentecost).

In case we stopped paying attention to the things of God, the first Fall feast is the Feast of Trumpets, or better, the feast of the Shofar (a ram’s horn blown like a trumpet.) Trust me, if you hear the call of the shofar, it gets your attention!

You will commonly hear this holiday, the first of the Fall Feast, called “Rosh ha Shana” which means, literally “Head of the Year”.. thus New Year. Although God said that the month of Passover is to be the first of months, rabbinic legend holds that Adam was created on Rosh ha Shana. Thus, God’s year begins in April, but man’s year (or the civil year) begins in Sept/Oct, the first of Tishri on the Jewish calendar. This is when the number of the year changes on the Jewish calendar, marking how many years have passed since the creation of Adam. In 2010, on Sept 8th at sundown, Rosh ha Shana begins and the year changes from 5770 to 5771.

However, this is not the name God gave to this date, the 1st of the month of Tishri (the 7th month if you start with Passover being in the 1st month). In Numbers 29:1 God calls it “a day of blowing of Trumpets” - in Hebrew *yom (day)teruah (raising a cry - the sound from the ram’s horn sounds like crying out)*.

Aside from a small animal sacrifice, there is nothing given in Scripture for Israel to do on this day than to take a break from whatever they've been doing, and sound and listen to the cry of the ram's horn -in Hebrew - the Shofar.

Why was this significant to Moses and the first generation of freed Israelite slaves? Two reasons:

1. The Ram's Horn was a reminder of the ram (which is a male sheep) that was the substitute sacrifice for Isaac. Note that Scripture highlights the horns saying the ram was caught in the thicket by its horns. Thus the ram's horn - the shofar - has definite connection to this story.

FRIENDS ... I DO NOT HAVE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS ARTICLE IN DETAIL.

BELOW ARE MY NOTES FOR THE INTERVIEW I AM ABOUT TO DO IN 4 HOURS ON THE THE JOHN AND KATHY SHOW... I WILL COMPLETE THIS TEACHING IN DETAIL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

ALSO PLEASE GO TO ANOTHER LOCATION ON OUR WEBSITE -www.shaaretzedek.org

On the home page in the grey box at the top... read "the rest of the story" which tells more about the development of rabbinical Judaism and focuses on Yom Kippur from a Jewish believers vantage point.

NOTES FOR JOHN AND KATHY SHOW - SEPT 2010 - ROSH HA SHANA

1. Rosh ha Shana vs. Yom Teruah
 - a. rabbis say - beginning of year - "In the Beginning" rearrange into "1st of Tishri" - world, specifically Adam created on Rosh ha Shana
 - b. Thus need to give an account each year of what we did with the place - TWO BOOKS - last Ten Days to tip the balance
 - c. Tashich - go to river toss coins or bread to be buried / carried away
2. Prophetic Meaning of the Day, then go back and talk about the Shofar
 - a. Feasts speak of Jesus (John 5:39)
 - b. Spring Feasts - fulfilled; Pentecost Fulfilled
 - c. Season of planting, watering growing, and some harvest (no Feasts Days)
 - d. Three Feast Remain, all within two weeks of each other in the Fall - Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles
3. Trumpets - first Feast not tied to agriculture or other historical event
 - a. only a few things to do - mainly, take a break from your normal activity; and sound / listen to the sounding of the shofar

what is it calling our attention to?
 - b. Reminders of past -
 - i. In Jewish tradition it is an act of coronation of a King, birthday of earth, and hail the King who made this earth
 - ii. Read in synagogue the binding of Isaac (connection with Ram's horn), for us we can see the substitute sacrifice of Jesus.. Connection to Passover

- iii. when there was a long trumpet blast on Mt Sinai - then Moses came up to get The Law the Word God spoke or breathed. Connection here to Pentecost... both the time the Law was given ... and in Act 2 when Holy Spirit was given
- iv. How have we done with the past ... express sorrow for short comings, the shofar sounds like a wail, a broken cry... shofar is always bent, never straight or upright, we come bent over, humbled before God

c. Attention to Future

- i. Many tie Feast of Trumpets to Rapture... but Rapture is ONE trumpet, and it is the LAST Trumpet. Yom Teruah is the sounding of many shofars many different ways ...

Plus, Rosh ha Shana is NOT a gathering Feast Day ... Passover.. Pentecost ... look what happened... God gathered Jews to Jerusalem and said, "See... look at what I am doing in your midst"

Jewish people blow a final shofar blast at the close of Yom Kippur ... but I don't think that is the final shofar

But The final shofar on a Feast Day on God's calendar year is the Shofar sounded to call people to the final assembly in Jerusalem of the year - Feast of Tabernacles

- ii. So if it is not prophetically speaking of the Rapture... what is it doing... its not complicated... the shofar is calling out - remember what God already did, what happened on the other days you assembled before him... and be warned there is a final meeting with him

The Israelites knew they could not come into God's presence without blood sacrifice and repentance... God has already provided the blood... are you prepared in your heart to repent of your sins?

- iii. its calling attention to the fact the end is near ... the King is getting ready to return... are you ready... when the king comes He will Judge the earth

On the last Holiday fulfilled, the great command from Peter was "Repent ye therefore that times of refreshing might come"

The shofar asks did you ever humble yourself and repent? If not, do so now the judgment is coming quickly. God is giving one more day to humble yourself - Yom Kippur is in Ten Days... where God give the command... in our English Bibles it says "afflict your soul" it means to bring yourself low.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

If yes, are you still humble before God, you obeyed and hid behind the blood of the Passover Lamb, do you remember that it is only by faith in His mercy we are saved

If yes, you have repented, are you telling others, are you sounding the alarm for other to God ready?

Ezekiel 33 - the warning for the Watchmen on the Wall

- d. Sound of the shofar that is played with excellence ... LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM.
(30 seconds play, 25 seconds voice over, then pull out music)
- e. blown in warfare Israelites, and then Gideon;
- f. assemble the people, or tell them to advance
- g. As an instrument of praise - Psalms
- h. it announces the presence of the Lord - on Mt. Sinai, as David danced before the ark
- i. to announce the year of Jubilee - cancelling of debt, setting free slaves
- j. Blown by God to announce His final coming to earth - Zechariah, Matthew, Thesselonians