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CELEBRATING
JESUS
IN THE
BIBLICAL
FEASTS



DISCOVERING THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU AS A CHRISTIAN

EXCERPT

Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts

Preface

In the Hebrew Scriptures God provided a written record of pictures of the Messiah to enable the Jewish people to recognize Him when He appeared. Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be this Messiah and proved it by fulfilling in Himself the very Scriptures and pictures that pointed to the Messiah. Yet, even though many Jews believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the powerful Jewish leadership in Jerusalem, the establishment, rejected him for themselves and the nation of Israel.

Ironically, the Gentiles embraced Jesus. As the apostle John wrote, “He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. But as many received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:11 - 12).

These Gentile followers of Jesus experienced a spiritual new birth and became part of a company of people that would be called Christians. These non-Jewish believers did not replace the Jewish people in God’s plan of redemption. Instead, became part of the commonwealth of Israel with Abraham as their spiritual father.

The Great Divide

As the Christian Church (called out ones) became more “Gentilized,” Jews and Christians began to go their separate ways. It wasn’t long before the Church was flooded with unbelievers who embraced the Christian faith but never received Jesus personally as their Lord and Savior. Their hearts did not change. These people brought their hate with them into this new Christian faith.

About the same time, some of the early Church fathers developed a faulty theology that created an anti-Semitic mentality in the Church that further divided the Christian world from the Jews. These early anti-Jewish declarations laid the foundation for the tragic future of Jewish-Christian relations that would see the Church lose sight of its Jewish roots and persecute the Jews down through the centuries.

God is doing a New Thing

But in these last days, God is doing a marvelous thing. He is breaking down the walls of hate and misunderstanding that have divided the Jews and Christians. God is calling the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland and to their covenant God. He is preparing them for the coming of the Messiah. At the same time, God is stirring in the hearts of Christians a holy love for the Jewish people and awakening them to the Jewish roots of their Christian faith.

Many Christians are realizing that the origin of our faith is Jerusalem, not Athens, Rome, Geneva, Wittenberg, Aldersgate, Azusa Street, Springfield, Nashville, Tulsa, etc. As a result, Christians around the world are reaching out to the Jewish people in their communities, singing songs from the Hebrew Scriptures, rediscovering their Jewish roots and celebrating the Sabbath and the Feasts of the Lord as fulfilled in Jesus. It is clearly God’s appointed time to reconcile Jews and Christians in preparation for the coming of Messiah.

Celebrating Jesus in the Feasts

Because of the prophetic season in which we are living, millions of Christians around the world are realizing that it is proper, good and pleasing to the Lord to celebrate Jesus in the the Feasts. There are a number of benefits Christians are experiencing by doing this. Some of these are:

1. A Better understanding of the Bible
2. A Rediscovery of the Jewish roots of Christianity
3. A Fuller comprehension of God's plan of redemption
4. A renewed passion for Jesus
5. Greater insights into God's prophetic seasons
6. Clearer and more powerful teachings through visual aids
7. A Discovery of the biblical Church calendar
8. A love for the Jewish people and understanding of the role of Israel in Bible prophecy and current events
9. Spiritual growth and bonding among family members

What believer would not want these benefits? You can realize them in your own life and congregations by celebrating the Feasts of the Lord as they find their fulfillment in Jesus. This is not something Christians have to do but something we get to do as a way of identifying with Jesus our Jewish Lord. It is a blessing not a burden.

When Christians celebrate Jesus in the Feasts, they are not "putting themselves under the Law" or trying to be Jews. They are simply expressing their desire to return to the biblical roots of the faith. These desires come from the Spirit of God who birthed them in the heart of the believer. Responding to these desires is wholly a matter of God's grace and not in any way a matter of legalism. Christians who are discovering the biblical Hebraic roots and want to celebrate them or not and should not glory in the pictures but the person.

Paul said, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning ..." (Romans 14:4). By celebrating Jesus in the Feasts, we can learn more fully what Jesus has done for us and how to walk with Him in our everyday lives.

I am able to say this from my own personal experiences. In 1974, the Lord awakened me spiritually to an awareness that the Hebrew Bible, what we Christians call the Old Testament, was a picture of the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Believe it or not, the Lord showed this to me in the book of Leviticus. God's word leaped off the pages of the Bible and spiritually exploded in my heart. It was alive with His very on life and power inside me. I experienced an immediate, dramatic, lasting change in my life, and I have not been the same from that moment on.

With this revelation burning in my heart, I began to see that the Bible was more than just a collection of unrelated stories. There was a master theme that told one central story through its pages. This central story was that God had taken the initiative to enter into a blood covenant with us through Jesus. God enabled me to see this story in every book of the Bible. The Bible was no longer a dusty old book. It was the living Word of the living God, and it was alive in me. I wrote about this in my book, "The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread."

When the Lord showed me Jesus in Leviticus, He opened my spiritual eyes to see how Jesus was pictured in the biblical Feasts of the Lord. This incredible revelation has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. My discovery of Jesus in the Feasts has helped me understand the Bible and God's plan of redemption; it has helped me know how to walk with God; it has renewed my passion for Jesus and the many other benefits I just mentioned. The Lord so overwhelmed me with His presence and this insight that I had to share it with others. I left my career at that time and have devoted my life to telling everyone what the Lord had showed me.

I began immediately to teach on the blood covenant and the Feasts of the Lord as pictures of Jesus. It was in the early 1980's that I wrote my book on "Jesus in the Feasts of Israel." Since that time, the book has had many printings and touched the lives of thousands of readers. Now that more Christians are discovering these wonderful truths for themselves, it seemed like a good thing to release an updated version of this book. I am grateful to my friends at Destiny Image Publishers for sharing this vision to bring this important work to a new generation of readers.

As you read this book, I pray this powerful blessing into your life from Numbers 6:24-26, "The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

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