

January

February

March

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
3	4					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

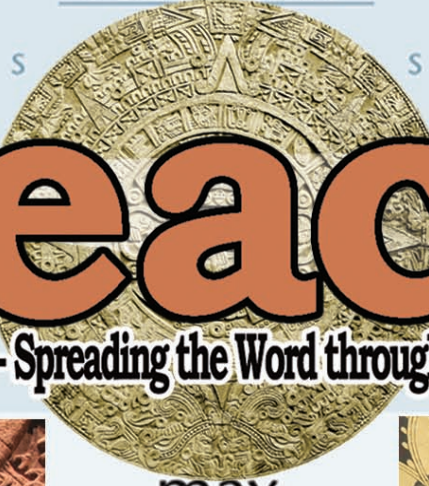
**YAIY**



# Beacon



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May



Are any of these calendars better to use than Yahweh's calendar?



July

September

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
		1	2	3	4	5
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



s	m	t	w	t	f	s
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



s	m	t	w	t	f	s
		1	2	3	4	5
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



s	m	t	w	t	f	s
		1	2	3	4	5
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Volume 9 Number 2



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by Elder David Brett

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Our mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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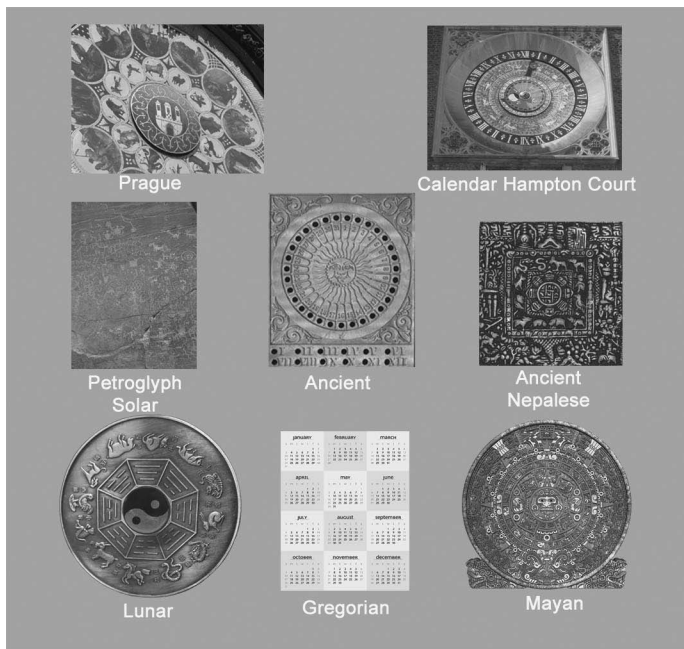
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# Beware of Pagan Calendars - Updated



When considering the intricate movement of the solar system, and the seemingly consistent patterns produced, it looks like a working clock of Biblical proportions. There is no question that the spherical pattern of rotation, which is even noted at subatomic levels in creation, can produce a reliable means of telling time.

Days, weeks, and months are easily observed to move in this pattern of rotation. With the going down of the sun, or more technically, the spinning and rotating of the earth around the sun, we see a new day begin. Biblically, this is the start of a 24 hour day. The end of a day is also at sunset.

The Bible tells us from creation that the weekly pattern is made up of 7 days (each having a nighttime and daytime), with the 7th day being designated as holy from the other 6 days (Gen. 2:2-3).

The months are also a set pattern, in which we find either the 29th or 30th day as the complete rotation of the moon (with its phases, having come around the earth). The visible crescent, just past the astronomical new moon or conjunction (molad) phase, is viewed in the western sky just after sunset. There is basically a 29 ½ to 30 day pattern to follow.

## An Exact Year?

While the day, week, and even the month are known through visible observation (as kept by the ancient Israelites of the Bible, into New Testament times), to figure the year by using the celestial bodies is as complex a task as can be. Peter James, a writer of ancient history and archeology, and Dr. Nick Thorpe, an archeologist in prehistory, wrote in *Ancient*

*Inventions* (1994), page 488-499:

“At a very early date, mankind would have had at its disposal accurate knowledge of both the moon’s phases and the length of the year — enough to devise a workable calendar, one might think. However, that’s where the real difficulties began. The intrinsic problem with all calendars is that our superficially harmonious solar system is actually a complete jumble.

“One revolution of the earth on its axis makes a day, but 365 of these revolutions are not equal to the time it takes for the earth to orbit around the sun (i.e., one year), which amounts to 365.242199 days. Likewise a lunar month is not a round figure — it is actually 29.53059 days. And, while there are roughly twelve lunar months in a year, they add up to only 354.36706 days — eleven days short of the solar year.

“Try taking all these factors into account in one system and you will have quite a headache. Devising a calendar that works has thus been one of mankind’s longest quests.”

## Egypt’s Year

Egypt was known to have had at least two calendars at one point, and they were used side by side. It has been noted that they kept both calendars due to the reverence they had for venerable objects of worship. They would just continue to update them, as needed.

The first Egyptian sun calendar of 360 days (12 X 30 day months) ran into problems with the seasons getting out of alignment. They helped the problem by adding on five days each year.

Adjustments like this seem to be the practice of most

every civilization trying to come up with an accurate calendar.

Noted as a “slipping calendar” in *Ancient Inventions*, by Peter James and Nick Thorpe (1994), page 493, “...the Egyptians, like other ancient Near Eastern peoples (including the Sumerians, Babylonians and Jews), made regular calendar reforms to keep things in step.”

## Chinese New Year, New Year, New Year...

The Chinese are known for some amazing accomplishments in medicinal herbs, firework displays to scare away evil spirits, as well as calendar calculations, even though it took a few tries to get a fairly accurate calendar to work:

“In ancient China, the surviving ‘oracle bones,’ used by the rulers of the Shang Dynasty to foretell the future...show that the Chinese had a Lunar calendar similar to that of the Sumerians...Later on, the importance of having a reliable calendar grew after it became tied to astrology, and one of the emperor’s prime responsibilities was to ensure that the calendar was running accurately. Accordingly, around a hundred calendrical reforms were initiated by the imperial court,” *Ancient Inventions* (1994), by Peter James and Nick Thorpe, page 490.

## Enter the Zodiac

Societies, while coming up with some viable calendars through trial and error of determining the movement of the sun, moon and stars, were chained to the belief that they could foretell the future, while giving homage to the sky deities they worshiped.

In the *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, by Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988), page 223, we find,

“The earliest known account of the use of astrology comes from ancient Sumer, a region in the lower Euphrates river valley. The Sumer-

ian Gudea cylinders contain an account of a dream of King Gudea in which the goddess Nidaba came to him holding a tablet inscribed with a map of the heavens. The dream indicated that it was a propitious time for Gudea to build the Eninnu temple.

“Astrology flourished in ancient Babylon under the influence of priests. It was integrally linked with the serious study of celestial phenomena. The superstitious Babylonians were intensely concerned with omens, so it is understandable that they would attempt to find omens in the observable movements of the sun, moon, planets, and stars. To the best of our knowledge the Babylonians originated the zodiac. They also drew up a monthly calendar of days that were propitious and days on which activity should be reduced to a minimum for fear of incurring the anger of one or more deities.”

Eclipses were eagerly predicted because of their bad omen against kings. It is said that substitute kings would be placed in office during those times to prevent any harm to the real king. Comets were also seen as bad omens for the people.

Both the pre-Israelite nations of Egypt and ancient Babylonians could divide the heavens into a type of zodiacal chart to find bad omens and other signs, via the elliptical pattern of the sun, etc. Does the Bible point to such a known chart?

We know that Job had knowledge of certain star constellations (Job 9:9), otherwise Yahweh would not have addressed Job in the following way:

*Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? (Job 38:31-32).*

With the exception of Orion, in some charts today, it seems the ancient zodiac charts lack the three

constellations that both Job and Yahweh mention.

Historically, Babylon had stockpiles (thousands upon thousands) of clay cuneiform tablets, which seems impressive, but doesn’t really tell us what the ancient Israelites did.

It is noteworthy to point out that the earliest zodiacal charts from the Sumerian culture had six divisions of constellations, with two seasons, spring and fall. Babylonian charts had 18 and 12 divisions, at different times, but seemed to keep with the seasonal patterns of twos.

Assyria, further north, had three. Egypt’s civil year seems to also have had three, based upon the Nile’s annual water levels of flooding, absence, and flow.

Some ancient zodiacal charts have been found with 13 animal type constellations within them. The animals were all worshiped, just as the sun and moon were.

The question we need to ask is: “Did the Babylonian and Egyptian reckoning of the spring (vernal) equinox stem from Yahweh’s directive found in Genesis?” Vernal equinox is defined as, “the time when the sun crosses the plane of the earth’s equator, making night and day of approximately equal length all over the earth...” — *Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary*.

After all, Babylonians and Egyptians were using the lights of the sun, moon, and stars just as Genesis 1:14 said. Yahweh said they would be for “signs and for seasons and for days and years.”

Yahweh also directed the seventh day as a day of rest in the book of Genesis, but then no other details are given until the book of Exodus. Are there more details about the Biblical calendar (the one Yahweh wanted Israel to use) later in Scripture?

Could Yahweh have chosen a slightly different means for Israel since they were to be separate

from the other nations, including the one they just came out of, who were using these types of pagan calendrical systems?

*And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which Yahweh thy Elohim hath divided (given) unto all nations under the whole heaven, Deuteronomy 4:19 KJV.*

## Ancient Pagan Societies

It's no secret, ancient societies, stemming long ago from Sumra (alternative spellings: Sumer or Sumur) and Akkadian civilizations, literally worshiped the sun, moon, and stars.

Ur, located in the lower area of Sumra, at the northwest end of the Persian Gulf Sea, is the city of the moon deity where Abram was originally called out from. It was also known later, at least by the Egyptians, as "The city of the Sun," *The Armana Letters (EA 67 Notes)*, by William L. Moran.

"Annunaki (the gods of the high sky)" is referenced in the *Babylonian Code of Hammurabi*.

Pagan worship of the heavens along with foretelling the future (divination, astrology) was prevalent in ancient times. It was so bad that the Pharaohs (kings) of Egypt, themselves, were being worshiped as deities from the start of their reign.

Regrettably, even among Israel, there were those willing to prophesy falsely and accept false idols as their elohim (mighty ones) in direct opposition to Yahweh, (Isa. 47:13, Ezek. 8:6-16, and all of chapter 13).

## Astronomers/Astrologers

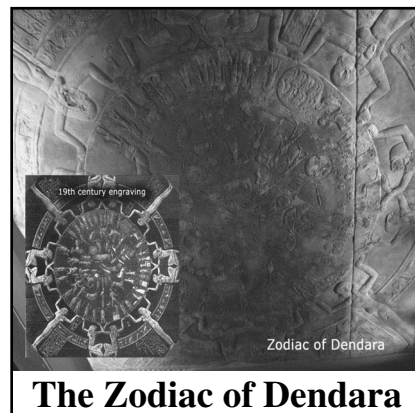
The religious people of those societies, other than Abram (whose name became Abraham), were made up of astrologers, rather than astronomers alone. In a sense, they

were scientists, priests, astrologers and astronomers, all rolled up into one.

The mathematical achievements made by the Babylonians were impressive. They even had the basic 60 minute hour timed out. In fact, they used 60 (sexagesimal) as a standard throughout their math calculations, just as we would use 10 (decimal) in ours. They would have known of the vernal equinox, too.

Egypt also had capabilities with water clocks and sundials. They were even able to position large cut stones perfectly, both horizontally and vertically (by means of plumb lines and other string techniques), to make the pyramids. They evidently positioned them to be in line with certain star constellations, and the sun itself. The airshafts going into the pyramids all point to specific stars. They knew the planetary movements and they are said to have had the ability to determine the vernal equinox accurately. They could do this with Obelisks. Four-sided upright granite Obelisks were strategically placed in certain locations to honor the rising as well as the setting of their sun deity.

It has also been observed that they eventually put in stone what is called the Zodiac of Dendara (found on the wall of an Egyptian temple — see photo) which was evidently used as horoscopes are today. It's now housed in the Museum of Louvre which is located in Paris, France. These "Easter-n" pagan ways go back to Babylon



The Zodiac of Dendara

and the ancient Sumerians.

## The Return from Babylon

Ezra and Nehemiah, after returning to Jerusalem from Babylon, taught Yahweh's law and kept the 7th month Feasts. Most of Judah, however, stayed behind in Babylon. The captivity of 70 years had brought up a new generation that assimilated into the lush Babylonian lifestyle. They just didn't feel a need to leave it.

Judah, under Ezra and Nehemiah, continued using the Babylonian names for the months, but that is not proof they accepted the zodiac chart as their guide. We, ourselves, not only reference calendar names today to communicate, but also recognize that they are out of sync with the pattern Yahweh gave Moses. The Babylonian months were close in comparison, but not always exact.

It should be noted that a calendar, given by Yahweh, should not be difficult for mankind to follow. Pagan ones should be rejected, as King Josiah did for 31 years as a good king, before Judah went into the captivity of Babylon:

*He put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets (constellations), and to all the host of heaven, 2 Kings 23:5 KJV.*

If only they had maintained their proper worship of Yahweh. But (just 2 ½ years and four bad kings later) after Josiah's reign, backsliding Judah went into captivity under Babylonian rule. It's a lesson for us today not to turn away nor backslide into a former sinful lifestyle.

## Advanced Calendars

The Mayan temples and culture

are said to have produced one of the most accurate calendars of all the ancient societies. Their 365 day calendar was quite remarkable. The Mayan priests would go to the top of their ziggurat type stair stepped temples at night for astrological observation, while during the day, the sun would (because of the skylights at the top and sides of the top part of the temples) mark its path along the upper floor.

Their temples were all positioned in the same direction, even those in distant areas away from each other, and streets are all noted to be paralleled one to another. They were quite ingenious in their abilities; they were methodical in their planning; they had a fundamental knowledge of both trigonometry and geometry.

However, as with all the other ancient societies with knowledge of astronomy, they had pagan beliefs and were basically prognosticators. They were astrologers. In fact, they've given the winter solstice of December 21st, 2012, as the time when the world will change abruptly. Some think this will be the time when humans will shift in consciousness to the "next level," a type of evolutionary advancement.

Many other cultures have come to the similar erroneous conclusions and had offered 2012 as a very significant year of inception or transition. Interestingly enough, many of these "advanced" early societies also have a winged serpent portrayed within their cultural ruins. One can draw their own conclusion why that is, but no doubt the devil is in the details, influencing mankind in a negative way from the beginning.

The Mayans will be remembered for their sun calendar (the calendar that abruptly ended on December 21st, 2012), but they'll also be known as the people who would cut the beating heart out of a person to hold up to their gods as well as sacrificing their own

children for similar reasons. Their erected temples seem to have dead children's bones buried on each of the four corners. Is it any wonder Yahweh wanted His People Israel to be separate from these other nations?

As advances occurred in the Hellenistic era, with less horrendous paganism and a more astronomical mindset, devices such as the Antikythera Mechanism were made possible. This mechanism with an estimated 29+ moving gear wheels (evidently for determining calendrical information), made around 150 100 B. C. E., was quite the technology back at that time.

Another device, with Greek lettering, is the Byzantine Sundial-Calendar (roughly 500 C. E.), which has only 8 gear wheels, but is able to provide dates by positioning the sun and moon among the zodiac.

Similar astronomical calendars were created by individuals like Abu Said al-Sijzi around 1050 C. E. More astronomical clocks were made during the times of medieval Europe.

A little known fact is sea voyages, by the stars, led to a navigational need for the invention of precise time pieces. Competition and rewards for such a reliable time-piece led to the accurate watches we have today.

Besides having accurate watches, we now have other things at our disposal, such as the United States Naval Observatory (USNO) which gives us extremely detailed information when looking to calculate a calendar. But with all this technology, we can still do better by following Yahweh's way of doing things.

## Israel's Year

After coming out of Egypt, Yahweh said to Moses, in Exodus 12:2 KJV,

*This month, shall be the beginning of months to you.*

Scripture tells us Moses was trained in all the wisdom of Egypt

(Acts 7:22). He already would have known when a new year started according to Egyptian reckoning.

Why would Yahweh tell him "this month," if Moses already knew it was the "beginning of months"? One gets the distinct impression this was something new for Moses and for all of Israel.

We know Yahweh has a way of separating the clean from the unclean (Lev. 10:10). The question is, is that what He did here?

It is implied in some resources that the Hebrews (Israelites) anciently used calculation and vernal equinox reckoning, but this would have caused confusion. Yahweh didn't give them a calendar that would do that,

*For Yahweh is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all assemblies of the saints, 1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV.*

It is, however, what we have seen the rest of the nations wrestling with:

"A lunar year of 12 months was approximately 11 days shorter than the solar year, so additional days were inserted to make up for the difference. The practice of insertion, known as intercalation, was a device common to several lunar calendar systems. The ancient Chinese compensated by adding an intercalary month every 30 years to their calendar, which consisted of 12 months of 29 or 30 days each. The Muslim lunar calendar, still used throughout Islam, also recognized 30 years as a cycle. Beginning with the second year within each cycle, and at subsequent intervals of three years, a "leap year" (a year of abnormal length) is observed. In that framework a leap year comprises 355 days as opposed to the ordinary Muslim year of 354 days. Calculation of the ancient Hebrew year suffered the same problems as other lunar calendars." — *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*, Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001), page 250.

The conclusion that the “Hebrew year suffered the same problems” is wrong. The reason for this was it assumes the vernal equinox was originally used by Israel to calculate the beginning of each year in which man-made calculations or intercalations (adding days or months) would need to have been added to keep the seasons in their proper place within the calendar.

## The Wave Sheaf

The Israelites were given a new command to follow upon leaving Egypt and entering the Promised Land. The evidence of the wave sheaf offering, which was required to be offered on the day after the weekly Sabbath which occurs during the Days of Unleavened Bread, is key to understanding what we are to be looking for in determining the beginning of the year which Yahweh designated for Israel, and therefore, for us today.

We need to know the proper days, weeks, and months, to be able to keep His Holy Days properly and at their proper Appointed Times. Significantly, the barley was in a mature stage of the ear, in the month of Abib, when it was destroyed by the hail event in Egypt:

*And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled. But the wheat and the rye were not smitten: for they were not grown up,* Exodus 9:31-32.

The barley must be in a harvestable dough stage to be able to be shaken or beaten slightly off the stalk, which could then be roasted on a fire for food. It would be the proper stage for harvesting and, therefore, presentable to the priests (Lev. 2:14). An earlier milk (liquid) stage of the barley would, if attempted to roast them, would readily burst the heads.

The priests would then wave the harvestable barley before Yahweh. It would be accepted by Yahweh and the people then looked

forward to the blessing Yahweh put forth on the rest of the harvest. It was an incentive to get it done as soon as possible, as Yahweh told them, “You shall not delay the offering from your harvest...,” (Ex. 22:29 NASU).

The wave sheaf timing, and therefore the early search for it, allows the new moon shown at that time to be designated as the start of the new year. It is the “beginning of months.” Those months will typically be twelve in number, but, occasionally, a month will be added when the wave sheaf arrives late. It is Yahweh’s doing and not man’s. Think about all the corrections man has done over thousands of years in trying to produce an accurate calendar.

Yahweh allows and determines the late growth of abib. He controls the weather by how much sun and rain the seeded ground gets (Ex. 9:29, Zech. 10:1).

The sun is indeed part of the key, with its warmth measured out (technically known as “heat units”), in unlocking the opening mechanism of the seed. However, too many clouds, snow on the ground or cold winds blowing, and there will not be adequate warmth to unlock the growth. Rain, of course, is also needed.

The point is this: vernal equinox timing is not always an accurate indicator for a wave sheaf of early ears of barley to be ready, since other weather factors play a part in the overall process.

In examining all of this, we can understand clearly why abib is the first month indicator, along with the new moon (Ps. 104:19). What we are given in Scripture is an agricultural and lunar calendar.

## A New Commandment For Israel

Concerning when Yahweh told Moses when the new year would be, we find the following:

“This month refers to the time

when the events of chapter 12 took place. It became the first month in the Hebrew calendar, which begins with the new moon appearing during the second half of March or the first half of April. It is not yet named, so translators should not give it a name here. But in 13:4 and 23:15 it is called ‘Abib.’ ... ‘Shall be’ is not in the Hebrew (literally ‘this month for you’), but ‘is’ or ‘is to be’ should be understood here. This is the announcement of a new calendar for the Israelites.” – *A Handbook on Exodus. UBS Handbook Series; Helps for translators* (page 270), by Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. (1999). New York: United Bible Societies (used by permission).

We should also be mindful of what Yahweh told Israel later, as a reminder,

*You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes,* Leviticus 18:3 NASB.

If Yahweh did create constellations to be a measuring tool for the calendars initially (Gen. 1:14), we must admit that pagan societies have taken a hold of them to not only worship them, but to also build calendrical systems around them. Maybe, just maybe, it’s better to think that Yahweh never intended Genesis 1:14 to be proof-texted to say, “Build calendar systems using divisions of the constellations and do lots of mathematical equations to ‘work out’ the perfect calendar for yourselves.”

Yahweh has warned us not to be like the pagans and does make a distinction.

*Then you will know that Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel,* Exodus 11:7b NIV.

## Early Ears of Barley (Abib)

Abib is sometimes termed as “early ears” or “green ears” of grain (corn, KJV). It seems that there is

enough evidence to conclude both as being accurate, but as we have already seen, Yahweh requires a harvestable crop. Not only that, but it must be taken from the fields (plural) which is a Scriptural guide post for us in determining a new year.

We find the following etymological information on the term “abib” used in Exodus 13:4 and taken from *The Pulpit Commentary: Exodus Vol. I.* (2004), page 299, by H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.

“Ver 4 — In the month Abib. The name of the month had not been previously mentioned. Some have derived it from the Egyptian Epiphi. As, however, *ab* means ‘greenness’ in Hebrew, and *abib* ‘green ears of corn,’ while *ibba* meant ‘fruit’ in Chaldee (Dan. 4:12, 14), and *ab-bon* means ‘green herbs’ in Arabic, there is no need of a foreign derivation for the word. The month of ‘greenness,’ or of ‘green ears of corn,’ would be both appropriate and intelligible.”

The cyclical agricultural pattern we find in the abib, and later harvests going into the fall, show us Yahweh’s hand in creation. A pattern He can adjust with the weather, so as to have abib show early or late, according to His will.

In determining when a Biblical New Year begins, it’s important to consider Exodus 9:31, 12:2, 13:4, and Leviticus 23:10. In these verses, it becomes obvious the fields (and not just a lone wave sheaf or even a lone field) should be in an abib state of growth before the sighting of the new moon. Again, the barley, while defined as early or green by many resources, is, according to Scripture, to be in a harvestable state.

Harvestable means at least a roastable stage of development. There would be plenty of time to harvest at the appointed time once this early barley was determined to be ready. It should also be noted that one is second guessing what

Yahweh will do if they say, “Most, if not all, the fields will be abib within a couple weeks after the new moon is seen of.”

In following the pattern seen in Scripture, there is no risk of being disobedient to Yahweh’s time table of events throughout the year. Making sure abib was observed by Israel in ancient times would assure that the fall harvest would be brought in before the Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept (Lev. 23:39).

Therefore, they would have plenty of 2nd tithe (Deut. 14:22-26) for the Feast of Tabernacles and they wouldn’t need to worry about an upcoming harvest. It would already be taken care of since the wave sheaf command and timing was kept according to Yahweh’s word. They could then freely rejoice before Yahweh during the Feast, as commanded (Lev. 23:40).

Since Israel was an agricultural society, it would have been second nature for them to do this each year. Today, we have Scripture as a standard for calculating and observing Yahweh’s time-table for the whole year.

## Yahweh’s Holy Land

With Yahweh’s calendar there is no guess work, if we just keep His commandments in mind. We look to mature fields in Israel, specifically identifying them for the wave sheaf needed. We know that the new moon after it is the beginning of months, i.e., the new year.

It can’t be the new moon before, since the barley is the clear Scriptural indicator of when the new year is to occur. The new moon would then be the “beginning of months,” based upon an early firm dough stage of the barley in the land. Yahweh has His eyes on the Holy Land for the beginning and ending of the year:

*A land which Yahweh thy Elohim careth for: the eyes of Yahweh thy Elohim are always upon it, from*

*the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year, Deuteronomy 11:12.*

The land of Israel is indeed identified as Yahweh’s Holy Land (Zech. 2:12); a land to which we look for the early ears (abib). Scripturally speaking, it must be a harvestable crop of barley. It’s the spring harvest; the first harvest, in which both Messiah (the Wave Sheaf) and the brethren in the first resurrection (the first fruits) are alluded to.

## Yahshua the Wave Sheaf

The wave sheaf is rich in symbolism for Yahshua, the Messiah (the First of the first harvest). He is, as is the wave sheaf, the “First of the first.” This is exactly how the wave sheaf is described in Scripture.

Yahshua is pointed to in Scripture as the “First of the first”:

*But now is Messiah risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that [sleep]... every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah’s at His coming, 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23 KJV.*

This is basically saying that those who are dead (asleep) in Messiah will be raised up to eternal life at His return. Those that have never died, but are living at His return, will not be changed to Spirit beings until the dead in Messiah are raised first (see also 1 Thess. 4:15-17).

This should not be a long process, but once the dead in Messiah are raised, then those who never died a first death (those alive at the end of the age) will be changed to pure spirit. To put it bluntly, this will be a mind-blowing experience for all involved.

Symbolically, Yahshua, the Wave Sheaf offering, is accepted on our behalf. Notice two almost insignificant words in Leviticus 23:11a KJV,

*And he (the high priest) shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to*



be accepted for you.

Yahshua was accepted for us, and now He is the High Priest in heaven interceding and mediating on our behalf under the Melchizedek order (Heb. 9:11).

The first resurrection for Yahweh's people is mentioned as the best one to be in:

*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him* (on earth, Rev. 5:10) *a thousand years*, Revelation 20:6 KJV.

Yahshua is also noted as being the "beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13). If we relate that to the timing of the year with the wave sheaf, we may gain further insight.

## The Time of Messiah

Philo of Alexandria is sometimes quoted to prove a vernal equinox reckoning during New Testament times by the Jews in Jerusalem. He himself evidently lived during that time, but it is noted in the works of Philo:

"Although the month in which the autumnal equinox occurs is first in sequence according to solar orbits, it is not considered first in the law (page 582)...He lived his entire life in Alexandria, Egypt, the location of the single largest Jewish community outside of Palestine in this period...So far as is known, Philo visited the temple in Jerusalem only once in his lifetime (page 4)." — *The works of Philo: Complete and Unabridged*, Philo, O. A., & Yonge, C. D. (1996, 1993).

Philo no doubt knew of the solstices and zodiacal reckonings in Egypt, but we know from historical records and archeological evidence that it goes back to paganism. Ancient Egypt, as we've already seen, was also a major pagan influence, worshipping their own Pharaohs as deities.

It's interesting that Philo, ac-

ording to the historians, never really seemed to put forth effort to keep the Feasts in Jerusalem while the Temple was standing. However, we recognize there was a prohibition against Greeks going beyond a certain area (Court of the Gentiles) within the Jerusalem Temple area.

Another group at the time of Messiah, called the Samaritans, alluded to in Scripture to be at least a partial remnant of the lost 10 tribes of Israel (2 Chron. 34:9; John 4:12), were forbidden to enter the Jerusalem Temple area. Therefore, they built their own Temple to Yahweh on Mount Gerizim. It was destroyed in 128 B. C. E.

After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 C. E., everyone was left to fend for themselves as the Sanhedrin lost control. Items, such as the calendar, were now up for grabs.

It is reasonable to think, since the vernal equinox timing is often in agreement with when abib shows, that there is not much controversy. This probably was the case the year Yahshua kept Passover with His disciples.

## Abib vs. Vernal Equinox

It's important to understand if Yahweh decides to delay the growth and maturing of the barley, then there's a major problem. The problem being those keeping vernal equinox would not be able to obey the command to offer a wave sheaf offering at the correct time.

The point may be considered moot by most, since we don't offer a wave sheaf under the Melchizedek Order. However, we are to keep the Feast Days at their proper times. When they are to be kept is as important as how they are to be kept.

There is no detailed information concerning the vernal equinox in the Bible. Think about it; not even the attempt to use a Hebrew word like *tequphah* (Strong's # 8622) — a cycle or closing of time, such

as a 9 month gestation period, 1 Sam. 1:20 — explains advocating the promotion of a vernal (spring) equinox. While on the other hand, detailed timing and offering of the wave sheaf is absolutely clear in the Bible.

It is a simple concept that if the wave sheaf command is followed, it will always give the correct timing for the beginning and ending of each year.

It's interesting to note the vernal equinox was made law within the Catholic Church for reckoning their Easter celebration. Their anti-Semitic viewpoint is also noted which further alienated them from Judah and anyone else that kept Sabbath, Feasts, etc.

"In the course of the third century the Roman practice gained ground everywhere in the East, and, to anticipate the result, was established by the council of Nicaea in 325 [C. E.] as the law of the whole church. This council considered it unbecoming, in Christians to follow the usage of the unbelieving, hostile Jews, and ordained that Easter should always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon succeeding the vernal equinox (March 21), and always after the Jewish Passover. If the full moon occurs on a Sunday, Easterday is the Sunday after. By this arrangement Easter may take place as early as March 22, or as late as April 25." — *History of the Christian Church*, Schaff, P., & Schaff, D. S. (1997).

## Abib vs. Today's Calendar

The dehioth (postponements), seen in the Jewish calendar and implemented by Hillel II (2nd) around 359 C. E. to keep Sabbaths from falling back to back, is not justified by Scripture. In this case, and many others, the end most certainly does not justify the means.

The following Scripture comes to mind when thinking of what the

Pharisees did in the past:

*They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, Matthew 23:4a KJV.*

The confusion and burden in the numbers is also evident by looking at the short history of the Julian into the Gregorian calendar of 1852, which ended up making a 21 day month in October of 1852.

"Julian and Gregorian Calendars. Sweeping reforms in the Roman calendar were instituted by Julius Caesar in 44 B. C. with the help of Sosigenes, a Greek scholar who based his solar calendar on a year of 365¼ days. Although the radically transformed calendar ended much confusion, its year was about 11 minutes longer than the true solar year. Since the Julian calendar was used for more than 15 centuries, that tiny error eventually produced gross discrepancies. Bede, an 8th-century English monk and historian, and Roger Bacon, a 13th-century English Franciscan friar and scientist, were among those who reported on the problems of the Julian calendar.

"By A. D. 1580 the equinoxes were falling 10 days earlier in the year than they had in 44 B. C. By 1582 the errors of the Julian calendar were deemed

too great to tolerate; in that year Pope Gregory XIII issued a decree abolishing the ancient calendar. In its place he substituted what is commonly known as the Gregorian calendar. At first, few countries beyond the influence of the papacy accepted the new calendar.

Some resisted the changeover for centuries. Britain, for example, refused to adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, Russia until 1918, and Turkey until 1928.

"Gregory's edict took effect in October, 1582. In that initial month the 5th day was designated the 15th, thereby compensating for the loss of the approximately 10 days from the Julian calendar. Simply stated, the Gregorian rule declared that a year whose number is exactly divisible by four would be a leap year, with the exception of century years (such as 1700, 1800, 1900, etc.) unless they were an exact multiple of 400 (such as 1600, 2000, etc.). In each leap year February would have 29 days instead of its normal 28. February in the Julian calendar had been shortened from 29 to 28 days by the emperor Augustus in order to add a day to his month (August)—to make it the same length as the month named for Julius Caesar (July)! The Gregorian calendar left the lengths of the months the same as in the Julian (as revised by Augustus)." — *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988), page 400.

All these changes, all these

years, again and again. It is clearly shown, as quoted at the beginning, "Devising a calendar that works has thus been one of mankind's longest quests."

## An Ancient Hebrew Calendar?

Thought of as a student's tablet, a stone tablet was found with Hebrew writing in the area of Gezer, a Canaanite dwelling that Israel went into and conquered (Josh. 10:33) and was later kept as a Levitical city among Ephraim territory (Josh. 16:3; 21:21). It is one of the first Hebrew writing examples to have been found. The tablet is referred to as the "Gezer Calendar" in most circles today. The interesting thing about all of this is: it acknowledges a lunar and agricultural connection, though evidently showing the beginning of the year in the fall.

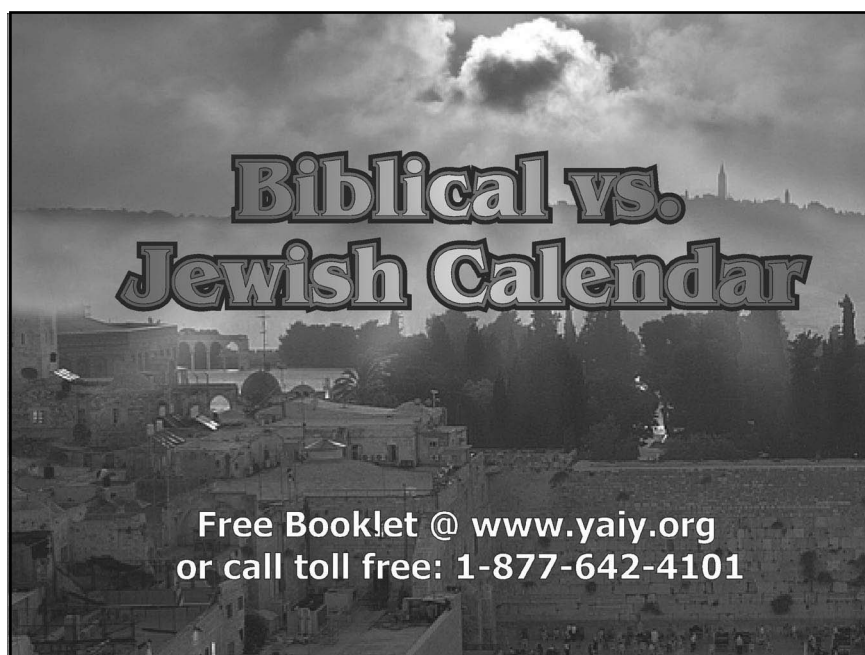
In *Documents From Old Testament Times*, edited by D. Winton Thomas (1958), page 201, we find the tablet translated to say, "Two months of ingathering. Two months of sowing. Two months of late sowing (or spring growth). Month of pulling flax. Month when everything [else] is harvested. Two months of pruning [vines]. Month of summer fruit."

A seemingly unrelated section in Amos 7:1 (NIV) says,

*This is what the Sovereign Yahweh showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the second crop was coming up.*

Concerning the Hebrew word *leqesh*,

"The term translated 'the



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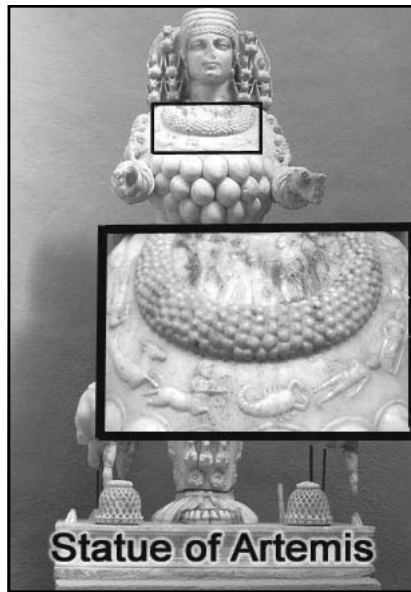
second crop' (*leqeš*) occurs twice here but nowhere else in the Bible. In the Gezer Calendar the term *leqeš* designates the fifth and sixth months of the year. Since the list of months begins in the fall, the fifth and sixth months would be in March-April of the Western calendar." — *The New American Commentary* (Amos, Obadiah, Jonah) by Smith, B. K., & Page, F. S., page 128.

The answer to why the Gezer tablet had the fall crop listed first may be due to syncretism. *Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them*, Judges 1:29 KJV. However, this is unlikely, since the tablet is early Hebrew writing.

Alternatively, the tablet may very well have been a teaching to recall the harvests after the Sabbatical pattern, i.e., Atonement to Atonement (Sept/Oct to Sept/Oct) every 7 years (Lev. 25:1-5). This may actually have some weight, knowing the Sabbaticals came into disuse (2 Chron. 36:21), but would most likely have had some conservative teachers wanting to keep the commandment alive for the younger generation growing up.

The Gezer tablet could also just be answers to questions posed by a teacher. In any case, we find archaeological evidence pointing to an agricultural and lunar connection in Israel's history. The tablet dating (971-910 B.C. E.), if correct, is to Solomon's time in power.

It should be pointed out that the zodiac and equinox reckonings are sorely missing in any of Israel's history, unless you take a closer look to the creatures of worship on the walls described in Eze-



kiel 8:10 (592-570 B. C. E.), which look to be like a description of zodiac type creatures we now find common in horoscopes today.

It's the same type of zodiac that is worn as a necklace by the famous pagan fertility statute of Artemis with the scorpion at the forefront. Notice also the scorpion being pointed to within the zodiac of the painting (La riforma del Calendrio) depicting the historical discussion concerning the correction of the Julian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582. As Scripture says,

*For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known*, Luke 12:2 KJV.



## In Conclusion

There is more that could be considered, but we find a number of things when we look at ancient calendars. Most notably is the pagan connection among them. For us, we are to follow Yahweh's word and not the devices or the fanciful star charts of men, Acts 5:29.

We, therefore, reiterate the following points:

1. According to the Bible, the new moon, after abib is confirmed, starts the "beginning of months";
2. Yahweh's instructions give us the timing of the wave sheaf;
3. Yahweh controls the weather, and therefore controls the calendar;
4. Following calendars with calculations, such as the vernal equinox, can put us a full month out of sync with the month of Abib;
5. The nations' calendars over the years have had numerous manmade adjustments to become more accurate;
6. While recent advanced technology (e.g., USNO) and calculations (or intercalations) have served to give us an accurate means and timing of years with seasons kept in place, and without pagan worship, the simplicity of observing the Biblical indicators for the time to keep His Holy Days gives us guaranteed accuracy. It also keeps us mindful of Him and His ways, rather than the world and its ways;
7. The zodiacal calendars with the divisions of constellations were clearly used for pagan worship early on in civilizations and are not found anywhere as instructions for Israel to follow.

Elder  
David  
Brett

# WHY?

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## What more can we learn about Yahweh's Feasts?

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Here we are at the time for Yahweh's Feast of Shavuot... Weeks ... Pentecost... Atzeret... the 50th Omer. There are so many names for this feast and there are so many reasons for the feast and so many reasons to attend this feast.

### Reasons

It seems as though we observe Shavuot to remember the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai; we keep Shavuot to celebrate the *ketubah* between Yahweh and Israel; and we celebrate Pentecost to remember the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2. Some believe it to be the last day of the Spring feasts. Let's see what Scripture has to say about this recurring event.

*You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to Yahweh. You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings. The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before Yahweh; they are to be chodesh (holy) to Yahweh for the priest. On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a set-apart convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations, Leviticus 23:15–21.*

Well, we have a day with the conditions for sacrificing and offerings; we have a day we are to observe as a Sabbath forever.

But why are we doing this thing forever and why are we going through all of these iterations??? Let's see what else Scripture has to say about Shavuot.

### Let the Scriptures Speak

*Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me. You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the First Fruits (Shavuot) of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering (Tabernacles) at the end of the year when you*

*gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times a year all your males shall appear before Yahweh Elohim, Exodus 23:14-17.*

*You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt. The first offspring from every womb belongs to Me, and all your male livestock, the first offspring from cattle and sheep. You shall redeem with a lamb the first offspring from a donkey; and if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. You shall redeem all the firstborn of your sons. None shall appear before Me empty-handed. You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest. You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. Three times a year all your males are to appear before Yahweh Elohim of Israel. For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before Yahweh your Elohim, Exodus 34:18-24.*

### Agriculturally Based Feasts

Well, it looks like we have three required feasts every year that are associated with agricultural practices. Every spring we are to wait for the barley harvest to begin (Chag HaMatzot), then we count 50 days to the end of the grain harvest (Shavuot), and then we wait until the fall harvest (Sukkot).

### But Still WHY?

But why? Why do we have to keep observing these every year???

In an agricultural society the harvest times are pretty important. These are times we get together. These are the times we talk with one another to compare notes. These are opportunities to get together and perhaps identify the reason we are able to accomplish these tasks and actually raise a crop that would sustain our lives. So, we are told to come together at these times so we don't forget.

### Yahweh Knows Us

To that end Yahweh commanded us to meet on a

regular basis, whether it be once a week or periodically throughout the year. But the question is still WHY? That question was just answered. Yahweh knows us. He knows that we would forget Him over time. We are, after all, a rebellious people that would rather do things our own way. He knew that we would drift apart and fail to keep doing things His way. Remember, there were grumbings in the wilderness and the people were not getting along very well. And that was just a short time in the trek from Egypt.

## More Answers Needed

So why these set times and dates? Why *Shavuot*? Why *Sukot*? Why all of the feasts???

Yahweh's people spent a long time without Him. They were brought out of Egypt and told to worship their Elohim, Whom they had a vague memory of at best. After all of the miracles and all that they had seen, when Mosheh (Moses) went up the mountain, the people resorted to worshipping the golden calf. You see, the short time the people spent with their Creator was not long enough for them to get to know Him again. Even though the events of the Exodus were remarkable, the people still felt in their comfort zone around a golden calf.

## Repetitions Are Necessary and Required

Repetition of events and reminders of past occurrences tend to help people to remember. The annual feast days would be an excellent way to remind people Who their Elohim is and what He has done for them. This is a pattern of becoming re-acquainted with Yahweh. Getting to know someone or something is not an easy process. It can take a long time with many, many repetitions. There are a lot of details in getting to know someone.

In Scripture, we are reminded in Exodus 23:15–17 and in Deuteronomy 16:16–17 that we are to appear before Yahweh during three feast times each year: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost) and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles).

## Lessons to Learn

### *Defend His Name*

*By smooth words He will turn to impiousness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their Elohim will display strength and take action, Daniel 11:32.*

### *Retain What We Learn*

*But now that you have come to know your Elohim, or rather to be known by your Elohim, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? (Galatians 4:9).*

### *Obey His Words*

*For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they*

*should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretons are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know Elohim, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed, Titus 1:10 – 16.*

## Remember the Answers to WHY

Yahweh is looking to raise up a strong, obedient people that "KNOW" Who He is — they that know His ways. Those that know what it is that pleases their Elohim. Those that know Yahweh well enough can rebuke others when they misrepresent Yahweh. Repetition of appointed times and days, reviewing and remembering Who it is that is our Creator, just strengthens our faith in our Elohim.

In repetition and assembling, we learn to know Yahweh and love Him and we get to know each other and love each other at the same time. If we are learning to know our Elohim in preparation for the world to come, if we are called out to worship Yahweh and teach the nations, then we will be able to learn how to deal with each other in the process.

WHY do we have these annual feast days? So that we can learn to know our Elohim and learn to know our brothers and sisters.

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**In-Depth Study**

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# Shavuot/Feast of Weeks

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## The Name of the Day

The third High Sabbath in Yahweh's Holy Days is, in Hebrew, *Shavuot* (שבועות, meaning "weeks"). In Greek, it is called *Pentékosté* (πεντηκοστής, meaning "fiftieth"). In English, it is called Pentecost, meaning "count fifty."

## Shavuot's Duality

1. Shavuot represents the day on Yahweh's calendar when the (letter of the law) Torah was written in stone and was given to Moshé (Moses) to present to the people. (Old Covenant).

2. Shavuot also represents the day on Yahweh's calendar when the (Holy) Spirit of the Law (Torah) was made available to Yahweh's people. ([Re]new[ed] Covenant).

## Establishing Shavuot

To establish when Shavuot occurs involves counting, as Leviticus/Wayyiqra 23:15-16 NASB indicates:

*You shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you bought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a new grain offering to Yahweh.*

The written Torah at Mt. Sinai was given to Moshé {Moses}. What it says was that seven weekly Sabbaths are included in the count for Pentecost. And, when the seventh weekly Sabbath is counted, then the next day, falling on the first day of the week, namely Sunday, is when Pentecost occurs. The important thing to remember is that the first of those seven weekly Sabbaths occurs during the Chag Matzot/Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The oral and written Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. The contents of the Torah are the statutes, ordinances and judgments. The plural of Torah is Torot meaning more than one Torah.

## Transposition

Webster's New International Unabridged Dictionary defines transpose/transposition as:

1. To change the relative position, order, or sequence of; to cause to change places; interchange; and
2. To transfer or transport;

A third such transfer of position from one state to another without changing the meaning or intent.

There are three transpositions of the Torah/Instruction/Law. The first two are a physical transposition — the Oral & Written Torah/Torot. The third one is a spiritual transposition — Messiah Yahshua is viewed as the living, breathing, walking Torah/Word, Who is elevated (as being raised up) into the Spirit.

An example of the Oral (#1), a physical transposition, is the giving of the statutes, etc., orally from the Mind of Yahweh to the mind of man (Abraham), orally.

An example of Oral to Written (#2), a physical transposition, is the writing of the statutes, etc., in stone and given to Moshé (Moses) to be relayed to Yisrael.

An example of Written in stone being elevated into the Spirit (#3) is when the statutes, the Torah, is written in the hearts of man.

## Two Worlds — Physical and Spiritual Parallels

Using the physical world around us to teach the concepts in the spiritual realm is called physical to spiritual parallels.

The Oral and Written Torah are examples of a physical parallel (realm) which has since been transposed, "transferred," to the spiritual (realm). The Oral and Written Torah has always existed in the Mind of Yahweh.

Yahshua was born into the physical world and was resurrected into the spiritual parallel (realm). When Yahshua was raised up into the spirit realm, so was the Torah. The Spirit of the Torah, Messiah Yahshua, gives Eternal Life. The physical letter of the Torah exposes, identifies and condemns sin and the death decrees that reside within it. When Adam & Havah (Eve) ate of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and sinned, they activated the death decrees in the Torah. If the Torah had not always existed then Adam and Havah would not have been brought under the Torah's judgment and they would not have been condemned nor physically died.

One must first walk in the "Letter" of the Written Torah to come to the truth and understanding of the Spiritual Torah, "Yahshua." The physical shadow is the action committed, while the spiritual truth is the intent behind that action.

A Physical to Spiritual Parallel compares the Physical shadows to Spiritual truth. Yahweh estab-

lishes physical examples/shadows that correlate to spiritual truths by which those physical examples/shadows help us to understand EL's spiritual kingdom.

Yahweh's Moedim/Appointed times/Feast Days are physical rehearsals that lead to and teach spiritual truth.

*I declared the former things long ago and they went forth from My mouth (to My prophets) and I proclaimed them (through physical shadows). Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass (written on our hearts with Yahshua on Shavuot), Yeshayah/Isaiah 48:3 NASB.*

*For now we (physically) see only a reflection (of spiritual reality) as (if we were looking) in a mirror; (but when resurrected) then we shall see (vividly) face to face (the spiritual realm directly) now I know in part (through physical to spiritual parallels): then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known, 1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV.*

## Shavuot and Marriage Ceremony/Supper

The Moedim/Appointed times of Yahweh, all seven High Sabbaths, are a rehearsal of the wedding covenant between Yahweh and His chosen people. As they are rehearsed each year, Yahweh's plan of Salvation, Justification and Redemption is revealed. The Spring Feasts/Moedim is where the Bride (Yah's chosen) and the Husband (Yahweh) are engaged to each other. Each of these High Sabbaths can be thought of as a time to meet or as a "Date" between the bride, "Yah's chosen," and her Husband, "Yahweh."

This is (Shavuot), where the commitment to the marriage vows is made. Just as when couples, today, make a commitment to be married when they become engaged, the Israelites said, "All that Yahweh hath spoken we will do," when Moses presented them with what Yahweh spoke to Moses, Ex.

19:8.

The Fall Feasts/Moedim are the celebration of the engagement to Yahweh along with the marriage ceremony and the wedding supper at Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles.

As we may recall, the Yisraelites, in the wilderness, did not remain true to Yahweh when they built the golden calf and worshiped it as the One Who led them out of Egypt, namely Yahweh. Because of this disloyalty, the invitation was withdrawn and the Levitical priesthood, along with the sacrificial instructions, were instituted as a temporary covering until the coming of the Messiah.

When Messiah Yahshua was raised from the dead, the original intent of the invitation was renewed/restored to the Spiritual Realm/Truth and is now open to those who answer the call and walk with Yahshua, the "Living Spiritual Torah," in Spiritual Love and Truth, so that they may be invited to the marriage supper with Yahshua, the "Lamb of Yahweh," Rev. 19:9.

## Shavuot Rehearsal Time Meaning Behind Shavuot

The counting of the Omer (days) to Shavuot is intended to teach us of the physical shadow that leads to the spiritual truth.

*For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, (to wash/mikveh, you clean your sin) and you shall be clean (without sin, spotless before Me) from all your filthiness, (rebellion) and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new (circumcised) heart I will also give you, (for My Torah and write My Torah instructions on it) and a new spirit (loving obedience) will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, (legalistic observance of the Torah out of fear without love) and I will give you a (loving) heart of flesh.*

*And I will put My (Set-Apart) spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances, and do them, Ezekiel 36:24-27 NASB.*

## Yahweh's Promise Fulfilled Through Yahshua.

*Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will make a [Re] new [ed] covenant with the house of Yisrael, and with the house of Judah [Yahudah]: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they broke, although I was a husband to them, says Yahweh. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Yisrael after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My law [Torah] in their inward parts, and in there I will write it and I will be their El and they shall be My people, Yeremyah/Jeremiah 31:31 -33 NASB.*

*If you shall ask anything in My name, (Yahshua), that will I do. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments [Torah/Torot]. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, (Yah's Spirit) that it may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth: that the world cannot receive; for it beholds it not, neither knows it: you know it; for it remains with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you desolate: I will come to you, Yahchonan/John 14:14-18 NASB.*

## In Summary The Physical Shadow of Shavuot

The children of Yisreal, freed from slavery/bondage on Pesach/Passover, left Mitzraim/Egypt on the first day of Chag Matzot/Feast of Unleavened Bread. They passed through the Red Sea where the nation of Yisrael was Mikved (washed

<see Weeks page 22>

# QUESTION & ANSWER

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**Q** Editor's note: the following answer was written by Elder John Fisher (deceased) to answer the query about using "leavened" bread in lieu of "unleavened" bread during Passover.

**A** On Thursday evening, October 14, 2004 — the night predicted by our Assembly through the use of mathematical charts and tables to predict when the new moon might be seen — the new moon was not seen. During the next evening, the new moon was sighted and we are, today, into the 1st day of the eighth month — on Yahweh's calendar. In case you're not aware, there is a remnant of truth in this fact, even in the calendar used by the world. "Oct," as in the word "octagon," an 8-sided object, has the same meaning, "8," as that used in the name of the eighth month, named "October." The significance of this little bit of remaining truth is lost to the world, but not to those who understand Yahweh's calendar. Two self-righteous rulers of the Roman Empire, as demi-gods, claimed their own "moons." Julius and Augustus institutionalized the months of July and August into Pope Gregory's calendar, and pushed the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th months — September, October, November and December — two months past their namesakes. They are now the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th months, but their namesakes reflect a portion of Yahweh's true timeline. It is October, and we are in the 8th month. Amazing!

It is impossible to predict when a new moon will be sighted, using mathematical tables and even powerful computer programs. It is equally impossible to determine when an astronomical "new moon," becomes Yahweh's New Moon. An astronomical new moon, as indicated on the Gregorian calendar, is called an "occult," meaning "to hide a celestial body temporarily by moving between it and an observer, or to be hidden in this way." When does an occult new moon become Yahweh's New Moon? When is it sighted by members of Yahweh's assembly. To use anything other than observation of the thin sliver of the new moon by the naked eye is to immerse oneself into man-made religion, because of the neces-

sity of defining, arbitrarily, when an occult new moon becomes "our" new moon. One would have to answer questions like this:

"If the moon is zero days, 21 hours and 42 minutes old, and its phase is 0.0104% of illumination, at 2.156 degrees above the horizon, as mathematically calculated from the longitude and latitude of Houston, Texas, at 7:30p.m., on October 14, 2004, is it our assembly's new moon?" These figures are the exact figures of the condition of the moon on Thursday evening. Technically, it was a thin sliver, above the horizon, but so low it actually was IMPOSSIBLE to see. How about if the moon were 0.001 degrees above the horizon and 0.00196% of illumination? This is categorically impossible to see, yet technically a "legitimate" new moon. Brethren, this is not Yahweh's way. This is tempting Yahweh by seeing how close one can go to the occult moon without violating the Law of Yahweh. This is Pharisaical. This is legalistic. This is wrong. "Sighting" a new moon is an ACT of obedience. It requires the active participation of those who follow Yahweh, not the blind, matter-of-fact adherence to a mathematical table.

For similar reasons, the full moon cannot be used to determine when the new moon will be sighted or instituted. To clarify, a mathematically-computed full moon can occur at, for example, 10:02a.m. — in the MORNING. When does it "become" a full moon? Anytime it mathematically occurs within a day? What if it occurs before the first days of the Feasts of Unleavened Bread or Tabernacles, determined by a mathematically-computed New Moon? Additionally, for reasons related to inconsistencies between the mathematics of the moon's phases and the righteousness of the Law of Yahweh, it is impossible to determine the date upon which the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles will fall, using the full moon. I encourage our Assembly to continue to use the physical sighting of the new moon and Yahweh's Law to determine the beginning of months and the Appointed Times of Yahweh.

There is always a little fear and trepidation when one walks up to a lecturn, having prepared to speak to a group of close associates about an issue of great



importance. This fear and trepidation should by no means approach the awe and magnitude of fear one should have when they speak about issues of the interpretation of Scripture, doctrinal issues, and issues of salvation. For Scripture is clear concerning the consequences of speaking and doing falsely.

*Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well, James 3:1-2.*

Teaching and interpreting the Law of Yahweh demands a higher accountability. It is of primary importance that we bear good fruit, and that who we are, what we do and what we teach be of the Law of Yahweh.

An issue has been brought up in our assembly concerning current Fundamental beliefs, beginning with the idea that leavening represents the Holy Spirit in the leavened wave loaves offered to Yahweh at the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. There certainly seems to be a connection between the two wave loaves and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the receiving of the Holy Spirit on that very day by the Disciples of the “risen” Messiah. However, to cite the two raised loaves and imply that the risen Messiah’s body is leavened — therefore, so is the BODY of believers — and then to say that we must change our doctrine to bring ourselves into alliance with Scripture by eating leavened bread with “our Passover” ... in my strong opinion, is not justified. This is how I understand the argument at the core of this new teaching:

1. *Yahshua broke bread [ARTOS], blessed it, broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body, Matthew 26:26.*

2. *Artos* means a raised, leavened loaf of bread. To quote the words of an elder, spoken from the pulpit at the baptismal service during the Feast of Tabernacles, “Everywhere in the New Testament the word used for the bread that Yahshua broke as a new symbol of the New Covenant, *artos*, means a “raised loaf.” The speaker added that, “The translators certainly knew what they were doing.”

3. Therefore, the conclusion is drawn that Yahshua gave His disciples leavened bread at Passover as a new symbol of the New Covenant.

4. The capstone of this argument was offered that the Greek translators would have used the Greek word “*azumos*,” if they meant to say that Yahshua broke “unleavened bread.”

## Objections

Here are my objections to this theory and argu-

ment:

*Artos* is the Greek word #740, which means bread (also as raised), a loaf; and, it means shew-bread. The Greek word #106, *azumos*, most often refers to “the Feast of Unleavened Bread,” not a loaf of unleavened bread.

*Now the first [day] of the [feast of] unleavened bread the disciples came to Yahshua, saying unto Him, Where wilt Thou that we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover? (Matthew 26:17 KJV.)*

This verse is patently translated wrong. First, how can it be the FIRST day of Unleavened Bread, and the disciples are asking Yahshua where to prepare to eat the Passover? Passover occurs on the 14th of Abib and Unleavened Bread on the 15th. What’s He going to say to them, “Are you so dull? Passover was yesterday!” No, the correct translation is, “Before the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Yahshua ...”

The second issue is that of the Greek words translated the “Feast of Unleavened Bread.” Here, the Greek is “*toon azumoon*,” which literally translated is, “the unleavened.” The word, “day,” the word, “feast” and the word, “bread,” do not exist in the Greek. “Feast” and “Bread” are implied. *Azumos* is used to mean The Feast of Unleavened Bread — #106 *azumos* (ad'-zoo-mos); unleavened, i.e. (figuratively) uncorrupted; specially (by implication) the Passover week.

This pattern is repeated in the following verses:

*After two days was the feast of the Passover, and of Unleavened Bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by craft, and put Him to death, Mark 14:1.*

*And the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover, His disciples said unto Him, Where wilt Thou that we go and prepare that Thou mayest eat the Passover? (Mark 14:12.)*

*Now the feast [here Luke actually uses hoerte to denote the word Feast] of Unleavened Bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover, Luke 22:1.*

*Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed, Luke 22:7.*

*And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of Unleavened Bread.) (Acts 12:3.)*

*And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days, Acts 20:6.*

*Therefore let us keep the feast [hoertzomen], not with old leaven [ferment, as if boiling], neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread [uncorruptedness] of sincerity and truth, 1 Corinthians 5:8.*

The verse means, “Let us keep the Feast ... with the UNCORRUPTEDNESS of sincerity and truth.”

The previous verse, 1 Corinthians 5:7, therefore reads, "Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are, in fact, unleavened. ... JUST AS YOU ARE ... UNCORRUPTED [and to VALIDATE this statement, Paul adds]: For the Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed."

There is NO Greek word for a loaf of unleavened bread. The Greeks had one word which was used for either leavened or unleavened bread, *artos*. Here is some evidence:

*But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of Yahweh and ate the showbread [ártous teés prothéseos – "bread of the Presence (of Yahweh)"] which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? "* (Matthew 12:3-4.)

Showbread is "unleavened bread." ARTOS is used to denote unleavened bread in this verse and three others.

*How he went into the house of Yahweh, and did take and eat the showbread [ártous teés prothéseos], and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone? (Luke 6:4.)*

Here, *prothesis* (proth'-es-is); NT:4286 from NT:4388; a setting forth, i.e., (figuratively) proposal (intention); specifically, the show-bread (in the Temple) as exposed before Elohim.

*For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the menora, and the table, and the showbread [ártous teés prothéseos]; which is called the sanctuary, Hebrews 9:2.*

*How he went into the house of Yahweh in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the showbread [artos — here is found by ITSELF without the use of any modifiers to denote what it means!], which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? (Mark 2:26.)*

*Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it; two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six to a row, on the pure gold table before Yahweh, Leviticus 24:5-6 NASU.*

*"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name WILL BE great among the nations," says Yahweh of hosts, Malachi 1:11 NASU.*

If anything, Yahweh is teaching us here that the unleavened bread of the Table of the Presence represents future chosen generations among the Gentiles. Brethren, WE, not the Israelites of old, are the unleavened bread on the Table of the Presence of

Yahweh!

Shewbread, from Fausset's Bible Dictionary, reads,

"The table is described as 'pure' (Lev. 24:6), both because of its unalloyed gold and because of the 'pure offering' on it (Mal. 1:11). The table stood in the holy place on the N. side (Ex. 26:35). The 12 cakes of unleavened bread, arranged in two piles, with a golden cup of frankincense on each (Josephus Ant. 3:10, section 7), were renewed every sabbath, and the stale loaves given to the priests. They represented the 12 tribes before [Yahweh] perpetually, (see Rev. 21:12) in token that He was always graciously accepting His people and their good works, for whom atonement had been made by the victims on the altar outside."

Yahshua made the atonement for us of the New Covenant. We are the unleavened bread set before Yahweh Almighty. Praise Yahweh!

## Risen Bread vs Risen Messiah

*Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Yahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of Yahweh is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world, John 6:31-33.*

In these verses, the Greek word #3131, *manna*, is used for the first appearance of the word, *manna*, in this text. The Greek word, *artos*, is used four times for the word, *manna*, following this. Which of the two translations that follow is the correct meaning of the text? (Interestingly, the Hebrew word for manna, or maan, is translated as "What?!" as in, "What IS this food?" Manna, in its definition, does not denote any kind of bread. It denotes sustenance or food. Bread in Hebrew is *LeChem*, as in *Beit Lechem*, Bethlehem, the House of Bread. Manna was surely unleavened.)

Let us look at two rewrites of John 6:31-33,

*Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them sustenance from heaven to eat. Then Yahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that sustenance from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true sustenance from heaven. For the sustenance of Elohim is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

Or,

*Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them leavened bread from heaven to eat. Then Yahshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that leavened*

*bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true leavened bread from heaven. For the leavened bread of Elohim is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

Is manna leavened? No. And, neither is it a raised loaf, nor is it a symbol of a raised loaf. If anything, Yahshua is likening Himself to the unleavened bread [pure food] of the manna from Heaven. The text of the Book of John is using the word *artos* to denote the concept of “sustenance.” Does “give us this day our daily bread” refer, in any way, to a request for leavened bread? No. The prayer simply means “Heavenly Father, please continue Your provision for our basic needs.” Specifically, if you can imagine how fragile life may have been then, and still is for many in terms of finding the next meal, then you can understand the supplication and humility being expressed in this prayer for the provision of food. *Artos*, translated here as “manna,” simply cannot mean leavened bread.

## The Risen Messiah

*And as they came down from the mountain, Yahshua charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead, Matthew 17:9.*

“Risen,” here, is the Greek word, #1453, *egeiro* (eg-i'-ro), to waken, i.e., rouse (literally, from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; or figuratively, from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence). No analogy is made here to leavened bread or a risen loaf.

*And as they came down from the mountain, He charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead, Mark 9:9.*

“Risen,” here, is the Greek word, #450, *anistemi* (an-is'-tay-mee); to stand up (literally or figuratively). No analogy is made here to leavened bread or a risen loaf.

*Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of Elohim, Who hath raised Him from the dead, Colossians 2:12.*

“Risen,” here, is the Greek word #4891 *sunegairo* (soon-eg-i'-ro); to rouse (from death) in company with, i.e., (figuratively) to revivify (spiritually) in resemblance to. No analogy is made here to leavened bread or a risen loaf. In the Greek text, I see no correlation between a “raised loaf” and the “Risen Messiah.”

## Conclusion

In conclusion, here are the statements and the Fundamental Beliefs of Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua concerning Passover and Unleavened Bread:

shua concerning Passover and Unleavened Bread:

“We humbly set forth this doctrinal summary as basic to our common faith upon which we can all stand”:

## Passover

THAT the commemoration of the precious sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah is observed annually on the evening (beginning) of the 14th of Abib, as the 13th ends, according to the original Passover in Egypt when the death angel came over midnight of the 14th, Exodus 12:13-14. In humbly partaking of the Passover, we give witness that we accept the shed blood of our loving Savior for our sins, Numbers 28:16; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. The symbols used are those instituted by Yahshua: eating unleavened bread representative of His broken body, Exodus 23:18; 1 Corinthians 10:16, and drinking the fruit of the vine, grape juice, as the symbol of His shed blood, Deuteronomy 32:14; Isaiah 65:8-9; Matthew 26:27-29. Our love for Yahshua and humility among the brethren is also acted out in a footwashing ceremony as directed by our beloved Savior and Redeemer, according to John 13:3-17.

## Feast of Unleavened Bread

THAT after partaking of the Passover, we strive to live a sin-free life of obedience as we observe the following seven days of Unleavened Bread, Leviticus 23:6; Matthew 16:12; Mark 8:14-15; Luke 12:1; Romans 6:13-22; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8. Symbolizing the initial step toward righteousness and coming out of sin, this first day of Unleavened Bread on the 15th of Abib is a time we delight in observing, for this Sabbath begins the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The seventh or last day is also a Sabbath, Abib 21, and pictures the complete coming out of the worldly way of sin and rebellion to follow the righteousness of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, Exodus 12:15, 20; Numbers 28:17-25; Acts 20:6-7. We gladly rid our houses of all leavened products for seven days to remind us of cleansing ourselves of false doctrine which could lead to sin, for by physical acts we learn a spiritual lesson. Unleavened bread is eaten for these seven days, allowing us to symbolically take in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.

May Yahweh's will be done, and may we become One with the Father and the Son. In the name of Yahshua the Messiah. HalleluYAH!



Unleavened bread of the Old Covenant is not to be used in the New Covenant for Passover (John 6:58). There was the Old (unleavened) and now there is the New

(leavened). Can't you see that the emblem for Messiah's body is leavened?

**A** I believe you're taking things out of context, and I'm unable to agree with your conclusion.

In John 6:58, Yahshua says, *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

I must first point out that those who eat bread today still die, but it is understood that there is Spiritual nourishment that we need to take in and live by, if we are to receive eternal life. It's called Yahweh's word, and it does sustain us, as does physical food:

*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return,* Genesis 3:19 (NASB).

*And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of Elohim, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF YAHWEH,'"* Matthew 4:3-4 (NASB).

To state that the 2nd Covenant Passover contained leaven to be readily taken and used is to deny what the Word of Yahweh says. Leavened bread was not to be even found within the borders of the dwellings, it was to be put outside the gates and not be in the residential areas:

*Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders,* Exodus 13:7 (NASB).

We find the disciples were ready to prepare for the Passover, Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7. Notice they did not ask "how" to prepare for Passover, as they already knew from Scripture. No wine was allowed to be drunk for a service (Lev. 10:9-12; Ezek. 44:21) and certainly no leavening during Passover, Ex. 12:8; 23:18; 34:25.

The owner of this large two-story house (Luke 22:12) evidently did not have a lot of help since a man (possibly a relative or servant) was carrying the water pitcher for the household. Scholars comment that only women would normally go for the water, and the Biblical examples do show this to be true, both in the Old and New Testament writings.

Would not the owner of the house have made sure things were ready and nothing would have to be done at the last minute, especially if he is short handed?

Many times over the years, I've personally made sure leaven was out of the house days before Passover arrived. Why? Because it is such an important

time! Are we not to be cautious?

*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Master, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Master,* 1 Corinthians 11:27.

The whole point that Yahshua was making in John 6:58 can be seen in verse 63, which says,

*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Peter correctly understood this and said in verse 68, "...Thou hast the words of eternal life." Yahshua's words are the "bread of life."

Yahshua was telling them of His day, and us today, that He is the Way and the Truth. There was a bread from heaven that was eaten in the past. There is now a bread from heaven available through Yahweh's Spirit, which is available only through Yahshua our Savior.

We partake of His body and blood each year as a "memorial" of His sacrifice. Do we dare think to have leavening during that time? To do so is treading on dangerous ground even to the point of disregarding Him as our Passover Lamb.

**Q** Yahshua equates the use of leaven with the Kingdom of heaven, doesn't this show that leaven is likened to Yahweh's Spirit which will help the Kingdom to grow and expand?

**A** Not to get too silly here, but you could say Yahshua also equates the Kingdom of heaven growing like a mustard seed. Do we then try to make a connection that a mustard seed is the Holy Spirit? I don't think so.

Leaven is an active agent or catalyst that when in action puffs up and expands, normally as in bread. It can be used to describe things that can slowly grow and expand, as is in the example you're making of the Kingdom expanding. However, the connection that is made between leaven and Yahweh's Spirit is a dangerous one, due to the fact that "unleavened" bread is what is used for the Passover symbol for Messiah's body according to plain Scripture.

Again, not to get too silly, but this type of "symbolic" or "revelation" reasoning, and making plain "Thou Shalt Not" warnings found in Scripture (Ex. 23:18; 34:25) against the use of leavening for a Passover null and void, is quite foolhardy.

Consider making the jump from using grape juice to regular water for the Passover Cup? Sound foolish? It shouldn't, that is, if we implement the same reasoning that has been used to make the jump from using unleavened bread to regular bread for the emblem of Yahshua's body.

There are “living waters” which we know is referring to the Spirit, but we do not therefore say it is His blood and that we should have it in the Passover cup, do we? Of course not, that would be ludicrous. Yet, isn’t that the same thing as equating “living bread” the same way? That is, equating “living bread” for the bread of the Passover? What’s the difference?

There is a “grasping for straws,” so to speak, by trying to pull more out of John 6:51 than what is actually there. It says,

*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

Isn’t there the same connection for the “living water,” as well? Doesn’t He say His “blood is drink,” and if the living waters is what He is offering, then shouldn’t we drink of it, that is, the regular water as a symbol of His blood? Obviously, NO, we should NOT, but let’s see just how easy we can do this by putting three Scriptures from John in a particular order, first starting with the woman at the well that couldn’t understand why a Jew was asking a Samaritan, such as herself, for a drink of water:

*Yahshua answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of Elohim, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water, John 4:10.*

*For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed, John 6:55.*

*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink, John 7:37.*

Do you see how easy it is? If a magician shows you how he does his trick, it no longer seems “magical,” or maybe in this case, we should say, “spiritual.” Spiritual because that’s how Satan works, in the spiritual realm. Satan is a master of disguise and deceit in that realm. If we are aware of the tricks of his trade then we can expose him and his tricks.

We know there are deceiving spirits that are under his rule. They can even affect us if we are not careful; we must stay close to Yahweh and not be deceived by clever means of deceit that distort Yahweh’s word.

Let’s not be deceived, just as there are Scriptures to show that “regular water” is not what we should put in the Passover cup, there are Scriptures to show that “regular bread” is not to be taken as an emblem of the Messiah’s body.

## Scripture Confirming Scripture

Now, given the above, let’s take this a little deeper in study concerning Matt. 13:33 (see also Luke 13:21), which you’ve initially brought up. We find in it the par-

able of a woman hiding the leaven in the three measures of flour. It looks like on the surface that this is a good thing. What is about to be exposed, though, is that this was a bad thing.

Yahshua having spoken these parables didn’t have to explain all of them to His disciples, but one that needed explaining was the “Wheat and the Tares.” One of the things we find out about this parable is that the time period is at the “end of the age,” Matt. 13:39-40. Yet, the parable started out saying, “the kingdom of heaven.”

Yahshua’s parables following the “Wheat and the Tares” are in similar context while addressing the crowds. The parables we find are framed for the end of the age. The children of the Kingdom are the representatives of this coming Kingdom, but are placed at the “end of the age” when corrupt things are happening.

To get a clear understanding of Matt. 13:33, let’s look at three specific words found in it highlighted here:

*Another parable spake He unto them; the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a **woman** took, and **hid** in three **measures** of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

First, let’s look at the **woman**. The woman could be a good woman, but in this case, she’s a bad woman. We’ll see why this is so in just a minute. She actually could be likened to the woman Jezebel mentioned as a teacher among the Assembly in Thyatira (one of the 7 Assemblies, Rev. 2:20). There is a wicked woman referred to as the “mother of harlots.” This is the woman who made others drunk with her immorality, Rev. 17:1-7. The point is, not all women found in the Bible, symbolic or otherwise, are always good women.

Second, we find this damaging statement. The woman was “hiding” or “**hid**” the leaven in the flour. This is not normal. A woman when putting yeast in a recipe does it openly. Let’s think how it might look as the parable describes it. She looks around, guilty like, and when no one is looking she puts yeast in the flour. Why is there a sense of deception here? We find the answer in the fact she was putting it into the “three measures of meal.” Let’s continue to see why this is important.

Here we are to the third word which we want to take a very close look at. Given the time and culture in which this was shared, it will give us a clear understanding of what this parable is all about. The Greek word for “**measures**” is Strong’s Greek word # 4568 “saton” or more correctly “sata.” This word is taken or translated from the Hebrew word (remember, the New Testament was not originally Greek) Strong’s Hebrew word #5429 “seah,” which is a measurement in Hebrew meaning, “1/3 of an ephah.”

If you put 1/3, 1/3, and 1/3 together you have an "ephah." An ephah of flour is a common thank offering or what is called a meal-offering. A meal-offering is something that is to have NO LEAVEN added to it according to the law of Yahweh, Lev. 2:11.

Gideon made this offering to the Angel of Yahweh, which was Yahshua Himself:

*Depart not hence, I pray Thee, until I come unto Thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before Thee. And He said, I will tarry until thou come again. And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto Him under the oak, and presented it. And the angel of Elohim said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. Then the angel of Yahweh put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of Yahweh departed out of his sight, Judges 6:18-21.*

These types of ephah meal-offerings are set forth as a commandment for the future Kingdom we find in Ezekiel,

*And he shall provide as a grain offering an ephah with a bull, an ephah with a ram, and a hin of oil with an ephah, Ezekiel 45:24 (NASB). (see also, Ezek. 46:5, 7, 11).*

Scripture, we find, confirms Scripture. For further study into this subject Dr. Herbert Lockyer's book, "All the Parables of the Bible," printed by Zondervan would be a good resource. He points out in his book that there is a common thread between these four parables, as follows:

In the four parables, which are in two pairs, the truth all four teach is consistent and progressive:

1. In The Sower, we have the rejection of the Divine Word.

2. In The Wheat and Tares, there is opposition to the Divine Work.

3. In The Mustard Seed, there is abortion of the Divine Design.

4. In The Leaven and Meal, there is corruption of the Divine Agency [i.e., as he states, "internal doctrinal corruption."]

**Q**

Did the rules to consecrate a priest in Ex. 28:4-5 extend to the New Covenant Assembly?

**A**

Yahweh seeks a broken and contrite heart prepared to obey Him. Exodus 28 goes into much detail about the physical

laws of the tabernacle and the robes and dress of the Levitical priesthood. We understand that we are now in the Melchisedek order.

We are told in Scripture,

*For many are called, but few [are] chosen, Matthew 22:14 [Those chosen have been selected beforehand].*

*According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, Ephesians 1:4-5 AV.*

The Holy Spirit is given at baptism and each baptized believer is a child of Yahweh who is given a spiritual gift (Rom. 12 and 1 Cor. 12), which Paul describes is to guide the assembly:

*And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah, Ephesians 4:11-12 AV.*

It is up to the leaders of the Assembly to recognize the potential of those Yahshua has placed in the body, that we guide and mentor them for greater spiritual responsible positions in the Assembly.

We are now under the Melchisedek order and seek spiritually answers and guidance more than physical rules.

<from **Weeks** page 15>

clean) through water on Chag Matzot/FUB.

Today, we "Count the Orner," or 7 weeks plus 1 day, to arrive at *Shavuot*. The Yisraelites were guided by Yahweh so that, in their travels, they would arrive at Mt. Sinai, in order to receive the Torah, written in stone, on *Shavuot*.

## **The Spiritual Truth of Shavuot**

The children (chosen) of Yahweh were freed/released from the slavery/bondage of sin on Pesach/Passover. They departed a life of sin on the first day of Chag Matzot/FOUB. We are to search and inspect our lives for sin as we traverse to a new spiritual living way during Chag Matzot/FOUB.

At this time, the Torah is then written on our hearts on *Shavuot* when the Set - Apart (Yah's) spirit is sent to fulfill Yeremyah/Jeremiah 31:31-33.

It was on *Shavuot* that Yahweh established/fulfilled His Promise to "Write the Torah on our hearts" and the Renewed Covenant begins.

**Brother Jim Dehart**



# Revealing the Truth

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A photograph of a bald eagle perched on a tree branch. Below the eagle is a large, intricate nest made of sticks and twigs. The background shows a clear blue sky and the green foliage of the tree.

Doth the eagle mount up  
at thy command, and make  
her nest on high? (Job 39:27)