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The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

YAIY **Beacon**



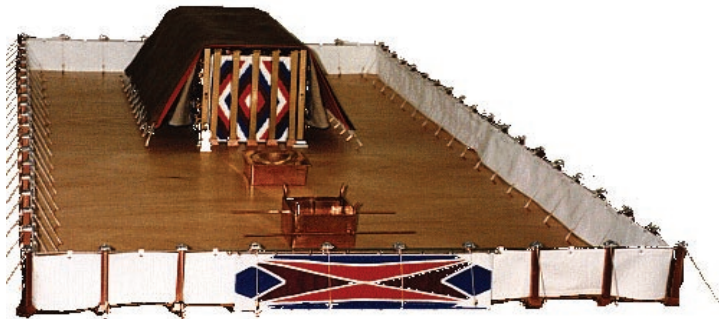
Volume 8

Number 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION

STATEMENT



The Tabernacle In The Wilderness 3

The tabernacle in the wilderness is so constructed that every major part has a physical as well as a spiritual meaning.
a reprint by **Elder Roger G. Meyer**

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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The Scriptural Foundation of 11 America

Was the original scriptural dialog in this country the same as it is today? Read on to find out the real difference.

by **Elder David Brett**



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The Christmas Fantasy 17

Just how truthful is the Christmas story that is celebrated by Christianity? Read this article to find out how pagan that story really is.

a reprint by **Elder Donald R. Mansager**



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Feast of Trumpets 20

Yahweh's appointed time for an acclamation of joy or a battle cry, depending upon which side of the fence you stand.

by **Elder John Fisher**

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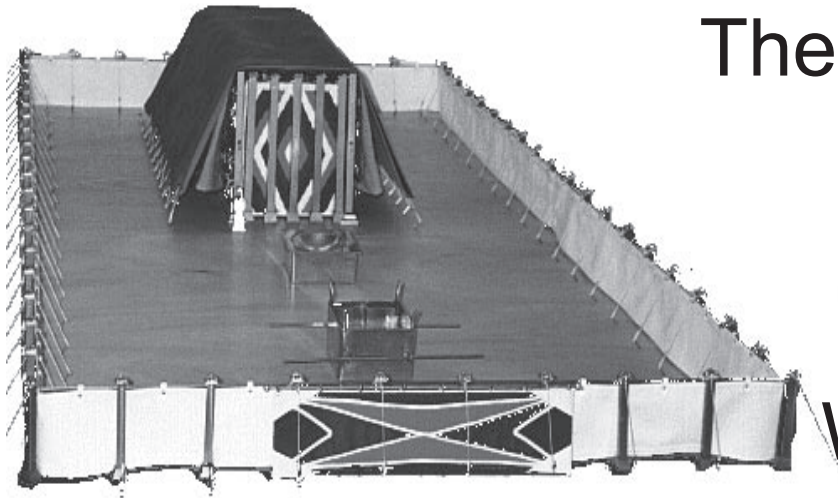
Internet:
www.yaiy.org



Letters 22

Revealing The Truth TV Schedule 23

Cover: found at dreamstime.com



The Tabernacle

In The

Wilderness

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from Yahweh out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and Yahweh Himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim. And Yahweh shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful, Rev. 21:1-5.

As we read here, the tabernacle of Yahweh will eventually be with man and that He will dwell with them. This is speaking of the heavenly tabernacle. But, the Bible also speaks of an earthly tabernacle which was constructed by man under Yahweh's guidance where Yahweh promised to commune with the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

Annual Feast

Each year we are told to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, as we read in Deut. 16:16:

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before Yahweh thy Elohim in the place which He shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

This same command can also be found in Ex. 23:14-16:

Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto Me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of

the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before Me empty:) and the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a seven day feast (the first day being a High Day) and is followed by another High Day, the Last Great Day. In Ex. 23:16, it is called the Feast of Ingathering – a time of gathering in of the crops. In Deut. 16:16, it is called the Feast of Tabernacles – a time of living in temporary booths.

Tabernacle and the Wilderness

When the Israelites left the land of Egypt they had to live in temporary dwellings for their 40 year trek through the Wilderness of Zin before they were allowed to enter the Promised Land. Why did it take them 40 years to travel to the Promised Land? More on this later.

During their journey, they were required to make sacrifices at the tabernacle which was constructed when they began their journey. Was this tabernacle just a place for the Israelites to bring their sacrifices' or did it represent something much more important?

The Tabernacle and the Courtyard

The tabernacle (sometimes referred to as the sanctuary) and the courtyard's construction is recorded for us in the book of Exodus, chapters 25, 26, 27, 30 and 38. It took the Israelites nearly a full year to construct the tabernacle.

And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month that the tabernacle was reared up, Ex. 40:17.

A cloud and a pillar of fire were used to tell the

Israelites whether they were to stay or move.

Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of Yahweh was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys, Ex. 40:36-38 NKJV.

The tabernacle and the courtyard have some 9 major components. The courtyard has four and the tabernacle or sanctuary has 5. The total listing is:

1. The outside wall,
 2. The gate,
 3. The brazen altar,
 4. The laver,
 5. The table of showbread,
 6. The candlesticks,
 7. The altar of incense,
 8. The Ark of the Covenant,
- and
9. The mercy seat.

We will only look at the significance of each without going into detail of the construction of each.

The Outside Wall

And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side, Ex. 27:9.

The length of the court shall be an hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass, Ex. 27:18.

The translation "fine twined" comes from the Hebrew *shesh* (*shaysh*) (OT:8336); or (for alliteration with OT:4897) *sheshiy* (*shesh-ee'*); for OT:7893; bleached stuff, i.e., white linen or (by analogy) marble: KJV - blue, fine ([twined]) linen, marble, silk. (Ibid.)

The Old Testament Strong's



The outer wall which surrounded the courtyard was made of fine twined linen.

#7893 is *shayish* (*shah'-yish*); from an unused root meaning to bleach, i.e. whiten; white, i.e., marble. (Ibid.)

To find out what is the significance of the wall being made of fine twined (bleached) linen, we need only go to Rev. 19:6-8,

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for Yahweh Elohim omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Here the words "fine linen" is translated from the Greek *bussinos* (*boos'-see-nos*) (NT:1039); from NT:1040; made of linen (neuter a linen cloth): KJV - fine linen. (Ibid.)

And, the Greek #1040 is *bussos* (*boos'-sos*); of Hebrew origin [OT:948]; white linen: KJV - fine linen. (Ibid.)

The Hebrew #948 is *buwts*

(boots); from an unused root (of the same form) meaning to bleach, i.e. (intransitive) be white; probably cotton (of some sort): KJV - fine (white) linen. (Ibid.)

The word "white" in Rev. 19:8 is translated from the Greek *lampros* (*lam-pros'*) (NT:2986); from the same as NT:2985; radiant; by analogy, limpid; figuratively, magnificent or sumptuous (in appearance): KJV - bright, clear, gay, goodly, gorgeous, white. (Ibid.)

The following four Scriptures found in Revelation indicate that those who overcome will be clothed in fine white linen.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels, Rev. 3:5.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Yahweh, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled, Rev. 6:10-11.

And I said unto Him, Sir, Thou knowest. And He said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, Rev. 7:14.

And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, Rev. 19:14.

Just as a person is surrounded by the clothes (robe) they wear, the tabernacle and the courtyard is surrounded by curtains made of fine twined bleached white linen.

And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles, Rev. 15:6.

Pure is the translation of the Hebrew *katharos* (kath-ar-os') (NT:2513); of uncertain affinity; clean (literally or figuratively): (Ibid.)

Therefore, the fine twined, white, pure bleached robes signify that within the courtyard lies righteousness. Similarly, we shall be made the righteousness of Yahweh if we remain true to Him.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of Yahweh in Him, 2 Cor. 5:21.

The Gate Into the Courtyard

With the curtains surrounding the courtyard, there certainly must be an entrance. This entrance is called the court gate and was on the east side of the courtyard.

And he made the court: on the south side southward the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, an hundred cubits: their pillars were twenty, and their brazen sockets twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. And for the north side the hangings were an hundred cubits, their pillars were twenty, and their sockets of brass twenty; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver. And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their pillars ten, and their sockets ten; the hooks of the

pillars and their fillets of silver, Ex. 38:9-12.

One will notice that the east side is not mentioned because in verses 13 – 15 more detail is given to the east side of the courtyard because it contains the only gate which allows entrance into the courtyard.

And for the east side eastward fifty cubits. The hangings of the one side of the gate were fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three. And for the other side of the court gate, on this hand and that hand, were hangings of fifteen cubits; their pillars three, and their sockets three, Ex. 38:13-15.

The court gate lies in the middle of the east side of the courtyard and through this gate only members of the tribe of Levi were allowed to enter under the Old Covenant.

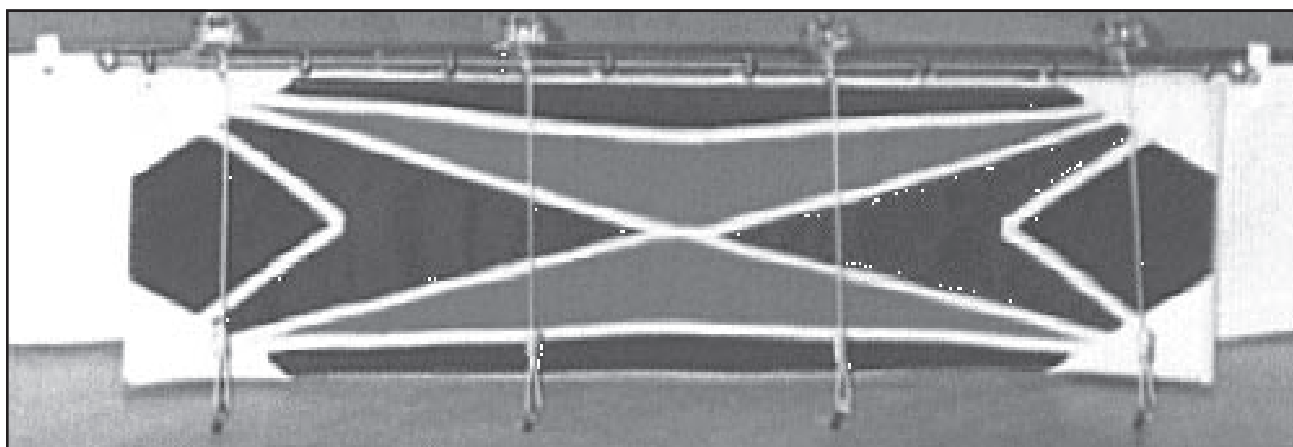
Instead, appoint the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony — over all its furnishings and everything belonging to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they are to take care of it and encamp around it. Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down, and whenever the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall do it. Anyone else who goes near it shall be put to death. The Israelites are to set up their tents by divisions, each man in his own camp under his own standard. The Levites, however, are to set up

their tents around the tabernacle of the Testimony so that wrath will not fall on the Israelite community. The Levites are to be responsible for the care of the tabernacle of the Testimony, Num. 1:50-53 NIV.

When an Israelite brought a sacrifice, they brought it to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, the court gate, where they had to sacrifice it themselves. The closest they could get to the sanctuary is the court gate.

And Yahweh called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto Yahweh, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before Yahweh. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. And he shall kill the bullock before Yahweh: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, Lev. 1:1-5.

After the sacrifice was killed, Aaron's sons from the tribe of Levi



The outer gate to the courtyard, representing Yahshua as the door through which we can enter.

took control.

The word "gate" in Ex. 38:15 is from the Hebrew *sha' ar* (shah'-ar) (OT:8179); from OT:8176 in its original sense; an opening, i.e. door or gate: KJV - city, door, gate, port (X -er). (Ibid.)

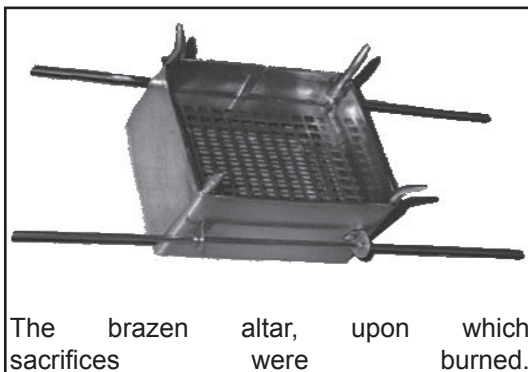
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Yahshua unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Yahshua unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture, John 10:1-9.

Here Yahshua is telling everyone that He is the door which leads to everlasting life. Because of Yahshua's life, death and resurrection, we can now enter into the courtyard spiritually by accepting Yahshua's sacrifice.

And the hanging for the gate of the court was needlework, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, Ex. 38:18a.

These four colors (white, blue, scarlet and purple) are used in many parts of the tabernacle besides the gate to the courtyard. See Ex. 26:1 and Ex. 39:2, 5, 24 and 29.

As we have seen before, white



The brazen altar, upon which sacrifices were burned.

symbolizes purity, holiness and righteousness.

And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles, Rev. 15:6.

And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin, 1 John 3:5.

As Yahshua knew no sin He was certainly pure, holy and righteous.

The blue hangings point to things which are heavenly and righteous.

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven, John 3:13.

As we see Yahshua came from the heavens and was righteous as He knew no sin.

The purple color signifies kingship.

Scarlet is the color of blood.

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water, John 19:34.

Yahshua's blood was shed for the remission of our sins.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Sovereign of sovereigns, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful, Rev. 17:14.

When Yahshua returns, He will be the King of the universe.

As one can plainly see, these four colors (white, blue, scarlet and purple) either directly or indirectly

point to Yahshua the Messiah.

The Brazen Altar

In Lev. 1:1-5 we read that after the Israelite killed a sacrifice, the sons of Aaron took the sacrifice, placed it upon the altar and offered it as a burnt sacrifice unto Yahweh. The brazen altar was used for this purpose. Just as the Israelite

spilled the blood of the sacrifice when they killed it, we don't have to stretch our imagination to understand that we, by our sins, caused the death of Yahshua.

Sacrifices of many kinds were placed on the brazen altar as Ex. 40:29 reads:

And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Slaughter it in Yahweh's presence at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Take some of the bull's blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar, Ex. 29:11-12 NIV.

This brazen altar was placed just inside the gate to the courtyard on the east side.

The significance of the brazen altar being used as the location where sacrifices were made unto Yahweh, is that by Yahshua shedding His blood for us we have a means of obtaining everlasting redemption.

The Laver

The purpose of the brazen altar was to burn the sacrifices made to Yahweh. The laver had a completely different purpose. The laver contained water.

Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to

wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein, Ex. 30:18.

The priests were to wash their hands and their feet whenever they were to enter into the tabernacle (sanctuary) or when they were to perform their duties of burning sacrifices upon the brazen altar.

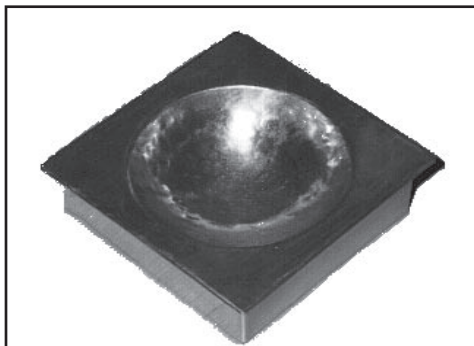
For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: when they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto Yahweh: so they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations, Ex. 30:19-21.

We are to do the same – to cleanse ourselves and draw nigh (approach) to Yahweh,

Draw nigh to Yahweh, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded, James 4:8.

Furthermore, 2 Cor. 6:16 - 7:1 tells us:

And what agreement hath the temple of Yahweh with idols? For ye are the temple of the living Yahweh; as Yahweh hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean (thing); and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto



The laver was used by the priests to spiritually cleanse themselves in the performance of their duties

you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith Yahweh El-Shaddai. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Yahweh.

So how are we to cleanse ourselves? When one is immersed in baptism, one is completely covered with water. Thereby, we become clean. All of our sins of our past life are washed away. At that instant, we are clean and pure. But, alas, because we are carnally minded, it is not possible to remain clean. The water becomes the grave for our old sinful nature and we are now to take on a new nature, that of living a life pleasing to Yahweh.

Yahshua is tied to this water of regeneration. Acts 8:16, 10:48 and

19:5 each say one is to be baptized in the name of Yahshua.

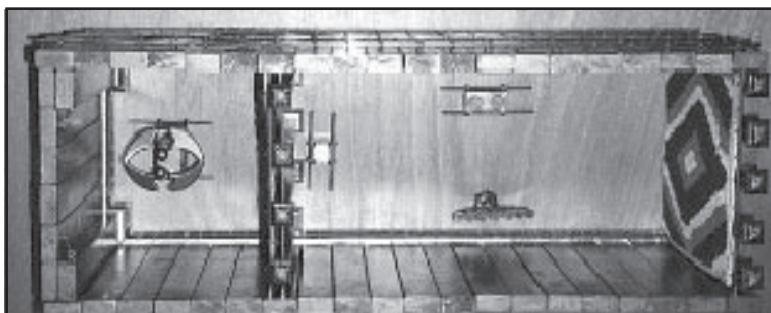
Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto Yahweh, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto Yahweh, Rom. 6:12-13.

The purpose of the laver and how it is connected to Yahshua should be obvious at this time. Just as the priests used the water from the laver to spiritually clean themselves before they performed their tasks, the water one is immersed in also makes us spiritually clean, if only for a moment.

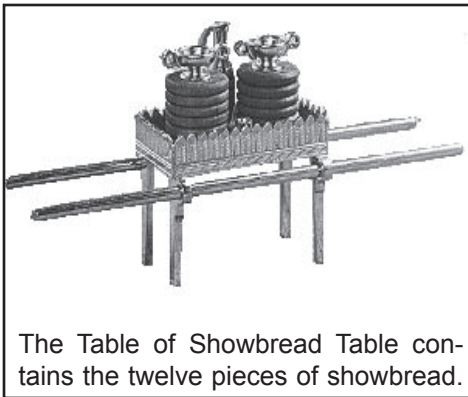
The Tabernacle (Sanctuary)

The tabernacle was placed at the west end of the courtyard opposite the gate of the courtyard. It was broken into two parts: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (sometimes called the Holy of Holies). The Holy Place (sometimes referred as the sanctuary) contained the Table of Showbread, the Candlesticks (Lampstands) and the Altar of Incense. The Most Holy Place contained the ark on which was placed the Mercy Seat. It was on the Day of Atonement (the fifth annual Sabbath) that the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies to see if the sacrifice was acceptable to Yahweh.

The gate leading into the Holy Place was of the same colors and their significance was the same as was for the gate



Picture found at www.domini.org/tabern/tabsanc.htm. Picture shows the tabernacle (sanctuary), which is broken into two parts. The part on the right (east end) consists of three items: the Table of Showbread (top), the Candlestick or the Lampstand (bottom) and the Altar of Incense (left end). On the west (left) end of the tabernacle is the Ark of the Covenant, on which is the Mercy Seat on which sit the two cherubim.



The Table of Showbread Table contains the twelve pieces of showbread.

leading into the courtyard.

And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework, Ex. 26:36.

Between the two parts of the sanctuary was placed a veil of the same color.

And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: (with) cherubim (shall it be) made: And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon (the) four sockets of silver. And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy (place) and the most holy, Ex. 26:31-33.

Also, this veil separating the two parts of the tabernacle had a different relationship with Yahshua.

Yahshua, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many, Matt. 27:50-53.

On the Day of Atonement was the only time when someone was allowed entry into the Holy of Ho-

lies. Now, with this veil being rent in two, it means that Yahshua's death allows mankind to have access into the Holy of Holies.

Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Yahshua, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an high priest over the house of Yahweh; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water, Heb. 10:18-22.



The Lampstand was used to provide light in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary.

The Table of Showbread

The bread which was placed on this table has many names, depending on the version of the Bible. It is called "showbread" in the KJV, NKJV and the ASV; the "bread of Presence" in the NASB, NLT, RSV, NASB and The Living Bible; and "sacred bread" in the Today's English Version.

And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying,... And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before Yahweh. And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto Yahweh, Lev. 24:1, 5-7.

In verse 7 the word "bread" is a translation of the Hebrew *lechem*, Strong's #3899, and Strong's #3899, by itself or in combination with Strong's #'s 6440 or 4635, is translated as "showbread," "bread of the Presence" or "sacred bread" depending on which translation one is reading from.

No meat [grain] offering, which ye shall bring unto Yahweh, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of Yahweh made by fire, Lev. 2:11.

The Hebrew word *lechem* means food, especially bread. Since the showbread was offered as a memorial offering made by fire and no offering made to Yah-

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Mini Study



SABBATH KEEPER: WHY NOT KEEP ALL THE COMMANDMENTS?

Many acknowledge the Bible as the Book of books, which contains the very words of our great Creator. But few fully pursue the deeper truth of His Word. Many are like the puzzling, would-be treasure hunter who was satisfied with just knowing which mountain contained the gold vein, but would not dig down to get the precious mineral it held.

Just as difficult to understand are those who are satisfied to stop short of digging out of Scripture the great treasure of salvation truths, believing that somehow these truths will all be given to them eventually, without any effort on their part. Yet the Bible tells us in Ephesians 4 that each of us is personally responsible to develop into a "perfect" (meaning complete and full-grown) individual in truth.

The Savior forewarned us in Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

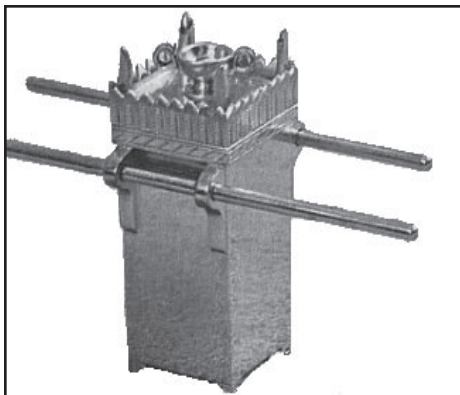
Stopping short of less than a sincere, complete effort is unacceptable to our Heavenly Father. He tells the lukewarm person, "I will spue you out of My mouth" (Rev. 3:16).

When it comes to the Ten Commandments, many will acknowledge a complete obedience. Pressing the issue, we discover otherwise.

Accepting the Fourth Commandment and Saturday as the Bible's true seventh-day Sabbath brings us into deeper Bible truth. Beyond that, though, how many understand, let alone take to heart, the commands of the preceding Third Commandment? This Commandment deals with our Creator's personal, revealed Name:

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Yahweh your Elohim in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain" (Ex. 20:7).

The most common interpretation of the Third Commandment is that one must not curse using the Father's Name. That is part of what the commandment enjoins, but it's the lesser part. If we examine the Hebrew for the word "take" in this commandment, we find the word *nasa*, meaning to "lift" or "bring to."



The Golden Altar of Incense burned incense which symbolized the prayers offered to Yahweh.

is "the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

The Altar of Incense

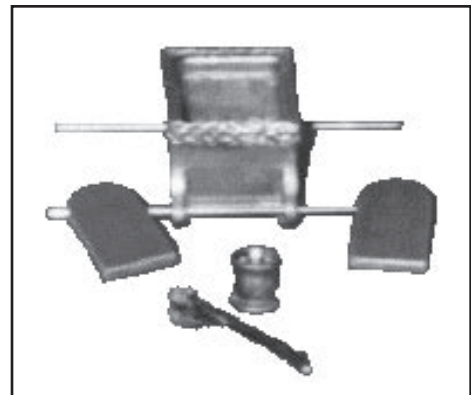
And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it...Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before Yahweh throughout your generations. Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon, Ex. 30:1, 7-9.

The fire which was used to burn the incense came from the brazen altar. Thus, if the fire came from anywhere else, the fire was called strange. What is meant by "strange fire"?

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before Yahweh, which He commanded them not, Lev. 10:1.

"Strange" is the translation of the Hebrew *zuwr* (*zoor*) (OT:2114); a primitive root; to turn aside (especially for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; specifically (active participle) to commit adultery. (Ibid.)



The Ark of the Covenant contained the Tables of the Covenant, the golden pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded.

weh was to contain leaven, then the showbread must have been unleavened.

The significance of the showbread is the spiritual substance it represented. Yahshua tells us in John 6:35,

I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.

The Candlestick

And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that Yahweh hath commanded ... the candlestick also for the light, and His furniture, and His lamps, with the oil for the light, Ex. 35:10, 14.

The NIV Bible renders "candlestick" as "lampstand."

The lampstand that is for light with its accessories, lamps and oil for the light, Ex. 35:14, NIV.

"Candlestick" or "lampstand" is the translation of the Hebrew *menowrah* (*men-o-raw'*) (OT:4501) or *menorah* (*men-o-raw'*); feminine of OT:4500 (in the original sense of OT:5216); a chandelier: (Ibid.)

It is now easy to believe that the "candlestick" or "lampstand" is used to provide light in the Holy Place of the tabernacle/sanctuary.

In Luke 2:25-32, Simeon called Yahshua "a light to lighten the Gentiles." And, Yahshua, Himself, tells us in John 8:12 that He

Any use of the brazen altar other than what Yahweh would allow would produce a "strange fire." And, using this fire to burn incense on the altar of incense would produce "strange incense." Specifically, *zuwr* means to commit adultery, that is, false worship.

How is incense related to Yahshua? We read in Rev. 8:3 and 4 that incense is related to prayers.

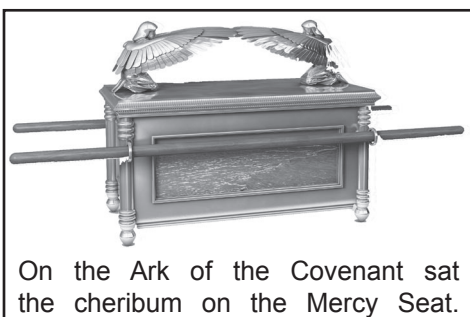
And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before Yahweh out of the angel's hand.

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you, John 16:23

Prayers, related directly to incense by the Scriptures, is our way of communicating with Yahweh. And, as John 16:23 says we are to pray in Yahshua's name. The use of any other name constitutes "strange fire."

The Ark and the Mercy Seat

The Ark of the Covenant was



On the Ark of the Covenant sat the cherubim on the Mercy Seat.

the central part of the sanctuary. The Levites were given the task of transporting the Ark.

That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, Deut. 31:25.

The tablets of the covenant, the golden pot which contained manna and Aaron's rod which budded were placed in the side of the ark.

Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your Elohim, that it may be there for a witness against thee, Deut. 31:26.

Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant, Heb. 9:4.

The mercy seat, placed on the top of the ark and covered by the wings of the two cherubim, was the location from which Yahweh would commune with the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel, Ex. 25:22.

The phrase "mercy seat" is the translation of the Hebrew *kapporeth* (kap-po'-reth) (OT:3727); from OT:3722; a lid (used only of the cover of the sacred Ark): (Ibid.)

The Hebrew *kapporeth* comes from the Hebrew *kaphar* (kaw-far') (OT:3722); a primitive root; to cover (specifically with bitumen); figuratively, to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: KJV - appease, make an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile (-liation). (Ibid.)

On the Day of Atonement the High Priest sacrificed a goat for the sins of all Israel and took the blood of that sacrifice and sprinkled it on the mercy seat.

Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat, Lev. 16:15.

Yahshua's life was sacrificed for the sins of the whole world.

And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world, 1 John 2:2. "Propitiation" is the translation of the Greek *hilasmos* (hil-as-mos') (NT:2434); atonement, i.e., (concretely) an expiator: (Ibid.)

The significance of the ark and the mercy seat is that we have a New Covenant relationship with Yahweh which was made possible through Yahshua's shed blood.

But Messiah being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect taber-

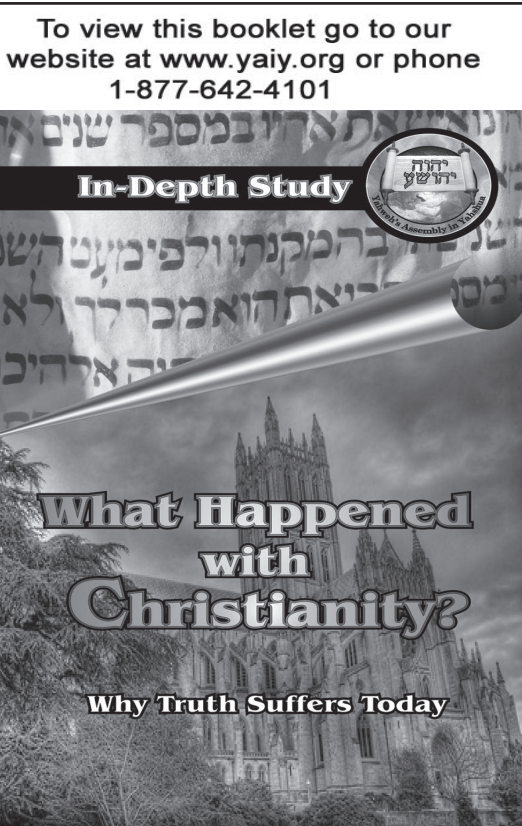
nacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Messiah, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to Yahweh, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living Yahweh? And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth, Heb. 9:11-17.

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In-Depth Study

What Happened with Christianity?

Why Truth Suffers Today



Conclusion

By knowing and understanding the relationship of the tabernacle and the courtyard with Yahshua Messiah gives us a better idea of how perfectly Yahweh does things. Even though this earthly tabernacle is no longer with us, we must still realize that in the end "the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and Yahweh Himself shall be with them, and be their Elohim," Rev. 21:3.

Elder Roger G. Meyer



The Scriptural Foundation of America

Was the original scriptural dialog in this country the same as it is today? Read on to find out the real difference.

We'll want to take a look at some history and go back to a time when those from England came across the Atlantic Ocean to start a new life in a new country, actually looked upon as the New World.

The Americas were known before the 17th century, because of Christopher Columbus, and there is history even before that.

What we'll want to focus on today, however, is what has been given us through New England and the growth from there.

It's important to know that those who came across from England did not leave home without their Bibles and a desire to worship the Creator with pure hearts and obedience to His Word. This is the Scriptural Foundation of America, as in the United States of America.

At the Beginning

What was at the beginning? We find evidence is far reaching for a Scriptural foundation when we look at original documents along with the universities that were started in this country.

Even etched in stone on the government buildings we find evidence of the Bible, though admittedly, at a little later date than the founding of the country.

The U.S. Supreme Court built in the early 20th century has a carving of Moses, "the great law giver," as they say, on the outside. He is holding the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments, by the way, are also on the inside of the building.

On the inside of the U.S. House of Representatives, in the United States Capitol, built in the late 18th century, is also a depiction of Moses, with his name underneath. Again this was added at a later date, but it emphasizes that this country, even after its inception, recognized the Creator and the law given through Moses to the people.

Our own State Capitol grounds here in Jefferson

City, MO., has a replica of the Liberty Bell with Scripture on it, along with the 10 Commandments standing predominately in a bold granite-like fashion.

Not at the Beginning

What was not at the beginning of the founding of this country? What didn't exist in our early government of this country?

For starters, the legalization of homosexual marriages or even homosexuality itself was non-existent.

Nor was there the rampant pornography or the sexually-laced advertising that we have in society today.

Even what is considered religious today, such as Christmas, was only first taught some 100 years after the Puritans arrived on the east coast. Before then, it was not done because it wasn't in the Bible. It was, therefore, evidently illegal to practice it.

Another thing that wasn't at the beginning is that the United States is now over 1 million, on average, a year in the murder of children by abortion, and 50 million plus and counting over the last 50 years.

Yet, when abortions were first able to be done, they were soon made illegal. In New York, it was considered a felony. Many Americans now consider it their right to abort unwanted children. Have they forgotten that life begins at the point of conception?

How far has this country fallen from its initial foundation?

Colonial House

What got me thinking about American History was a PBS special called, "Colonial House." It was a documentary set in the year 1628.

This eye opening documentary was saying that many Colonists (including Puritans) came to the east coast to make a profit for the companies sponsoring them. Also mentioned was the fact they wanted to get

away from the corrupted Church of England and the abuses of the British Crown.

The earliest known colony in America went back 19 years, to the year 1609. To our date, that was over 400 years ago.

Does that number sound familiar? The Israelites (Ex. 12:40) were in a land not their own for that period of time. Not that there is any significance, just an interesting number.

Profit was said to have come from fur trade with the Indians, to harvesting lumber, corn, fish, etc., to pay the investors who paid the bill for their expenses to come over to America and also to provide them with supplies. For many, no doubt, it was the only way to get out of England and away from the persecution they saw there.

For the early 17th century colonist, it took six months on the sea from England to our east coast. Faith in the Almighty is what got them through, as related by survivors in historical documents.

Rations were sent on the ships with them. Meat and fish packed in salt, dried peas, chickens, lambs, pigs (evidently they reasoned away Lev. 11 and Deut. 14), beer, and flour were basic. Solid sugar blocks were also sent.

As rations would run low for those reenacting this historical experience depicted in the PBS special (our 21st century colony), a lamb was killed for needed meat and it had been commented that it was an animal they had grown fond of. This is similar to what was done during the Exodus in which each household was to take in a yearling unblemished lamb for four days into their homes until they killed it for the Passover.

Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household... Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when

all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight, Exodus 12:3, 6 NIV.

Like those coming out of the oppression of a former land for the first time, they needed to kill lambs to survive.

Not Easy

It was recorded in the colony of 1609 that there were 200 individuals, but by the next year (1610) there were only 60 survivors. So, well over half died through the first year.

Those well enough to help were overwhelmed. If others had not come into their area, they most likely wouldn't have survived themselves.

Fear of death was a motivator to get corn planted and other things done to succeed, as their lives de-

pend on it.

Historically, it is also noted that "men only" colonies were miserable failures until the women were sent over. This reminds us of the following Scripture:

Then Yahweh Elohim said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him," Genesis 2:18 NASB.

I posted this Scripture to the bottom of a news article which stated scientific studies have recently shown that loneliness is not good for one's health.

The response was, besides three thumbs down, a person who asked, "I'd be curious about that translation.... My wife is not my 'helper,' she is my partner, and we are good for each other..."

I wrote back, "The original wording for 'helper' in the English Standard Version (ESV) is 'ezer.' It literally means, 'a helper' or 'one who helps.' Man and woman complement each other in life, each having separate qualities brought forth in loving service to each other, so the term 'partner' is fitting. *His Needs or Her Needs* is a classic book on marriage relationships showing how the differences in each help one another."

I'm not sure if that helped him or not, but what we find today is authenticity of Yahweh's Word continually being backed up by science.

High Standards

We find the standards back in the 17th century were higher in many ways than they are today. Sabbath services each week were mandated by law. No doubt they were because of the Scriptural command. There was punishment if you didn't attend, unless, of course, you were too sick.

Regrettably, they kept the tradition of the 1st day of the week and called it Sabbath, rather than the commanded 7th Day Sabbath which we find Yahweh telling us to remember and keep holy.

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Mini Study



SABBATH KEEPERS: WHY NOT KEEP ALL THE COMMANDMENTS?

Many acknowledge the Bible as the Book of books, which contains the very words of our great Creator. But few fully pursue the deeper truth of His Word. Many are like the puzzling, would-be treasure hunter who was satisfied with just knowing which mountain contained the gold vein, but would not dig down to get the precious mineral it held.

Just as difficult to understand are those who are satisfied to stop short of digging out of Scripture the great treasure of salvation truths, believing that somehow these truths will all be given to them eventually, without any effort on their part. Yet the Bible tells us in Ephesians 4 that each of us is personally responsible to develop into a "perfect" (meaning complete and full-grown) individual in truth.

The Savior forewarned us in Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

Stopping short of less than a sincere, complete effort is unacceptable to our Heavenly Father. He tells the lukewarm person, "I will spue you out of My mouth" (Rev. 3:16).

When it comes to the Ten Commandments, many will acknowledge a complete obedience. Pressing the issue, we discover otherwise.

Accepting the Fourth Commandment and Saturday as the Bible's true seventh-day Sabbath brings us into deeper Bible truth. Beyond that, though, how many understand, let alone take to heart, the commands of the preceding Third Commandment? This Commandment deals with our Creator's personal, revealed Name:

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Yahweh your Elohim in vain; for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain" (Ex. 20:7).

The most common interpretation of the Third Commandment is that one must not curse using the Father's Name. That is part of what the commandment enjoins, but it's the lesser part. If we examine the Hebrew for the word "take" in this commandment, we find the word *nasa*, meaning to "lift" or "bring to."

To their credit, though, historical documents show that Sabbath services with two sermons each day, each lasting 3 hours, was normal.

Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to Yahweh in all your dwelling places, Leviticus 23:3 NASB.

This is a specific command as one of the holy convocations (gatherings). This one is extra special because Yahweh said He had rested Himself on this 7th Day.

Of the appointed times in Leviticus 23, this one could not be changed based because it was already established from creation. This weekly pattern is still unchanged in our day.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching, Hebrews 10:24–25 NIV.

There is no better time to gather than on Yahweh's Holy Days, His Sabbaths (plural). Our life has to be in line with what He wants, and the early colonialists understood this to a certain degree, and apparently did the best they could with what they understood.

Today we know there is a restoration of all things in process, and it has to be this way before Yahshua the Messiah comes back.

Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of Yahweh; and that He may send Yahshua, the Messiah appointed for you, Whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which Elohim spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. "Moses said, YAHWEH ELOHIM WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you," Acts 3:19–22 NASB.

Yahshua's example and His teachings were directed to help us turn back to Yahweh in Spirit and Truth. The restoration of even proclaiming the truth about Yahweh's Name has only been in the last 100 years.

Other truths, such as when the Sabbaticals are to be kept, have only been revealed to us in the last 50 years. We can see that today, both the archeological evidence and the historical writings, and when you put all the dates on paper, you can go in either direction from any point and see increments of seven.

The math is irrefutable. How close then is Yahshua's return?

Back to the Truth

Getting back to the Scriptural foundation of America, New Englanders (colonists and Puritans) were literate because of the Bible. They wanted to read the Bible to know how to live their lives in accordance with it.

It's interesting to note that one of the foundational books of Harvard, founded in 1636, was the very book ordered out of all public school classrooms in 1963, 327 years later. With that came the direct decline in SAT scores and the notable increase in school behavioral problems.

I mentioned this to someone, and they weren't even aware that the commandments were ever posted in the schools. It reminds me of Hosea 4:6a (ESV) which states, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

What happens when we take His instructions on how to live out of the way? We are led into the darkness and are bound for destruction. That's where this country (and the

whole world) is headed unless it repents.

Do not be deceived, Yahweh is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap, Galatians 6:7 NASB.

Today, school shootings are more commonplace. But, it's not because of a gun epi-

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demic. It's because of a lawlessness epidemic that this country and the world now sees itself in more and more.

The same day (December 14, 2012) that 20 children were killed in Newtown Elementary, there were 22 children injured by a knife-wielding individual in China at a school there. This date is burned forever in the minds of the families who lost children.

Happy Birthday?

Birthdays today are a big event for a lot of people, especially children. But did you know that in America, birthdays were rarely celebrated before the 19th Century?

Going back to Scripture, we find Joseph, who was obedient to Yahweh, could, by Yahweh's Spirit, interpret dreams.

While wrongly put in jail for two years, Joseph interpreted a couple of other inmate's dreams for them. One has a good outcome, but the other a bad outcome for the individual who had been the chief baker for the Pharaoh.

And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them, Genesis 40:20–23 KJV.

The chief baker was hanged on Pharaoh's birthday, but this isn't the only Scripture which speaks of bad things happening on birthdays.

On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his

dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted and had John beheaded in the prison, Matthew 14:6–10 NIV.

Here we have John the Baptist beheaded on Herod's birthday, another birthday celebration by a pagan ruler. Scripture tells us to not live according to the ways of the heathen, but many of their traditions we find in society today, Jer. 10:1-4.

But, again, it rarely was the case in America before the 19th century. It may be because of these areas of Scripture we've just looked at.

While it doesn't appear to have been illegal for birthdays to be celebrated, they just weren't celebrated.

Illegal in Early America

There were illegal activities in early America, and there were punishments for them. For example, blasphemy was supposed to be punished by a nail driven through the guilty party's tongue, or their lips sewn together, or they were to be burned at the stake.

Mostly, they would just end up in the middle of the street tied to a stake and ridiculed as punishment.

Atheists were seen as anarchist and were, at least, threatened with the death penalty because of it.

One of the colonists in the 21st century group, who was involved with the PBS documentary, openly admitted to being gay. Well, it turns out that there were laws in the 17th century which designated the death penalty for being homosexual.

While we are to love the sinner and hate the sin, we know Yahweh had established similar civil laws for the community of Israel early on:

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them, Leviticus 20:13 ESV.

We can't do this, as our current civil government doesn't allow it,

Let every soul be subject unto

the higher powers. For there is no power but of Yahweh: the powers that be are ordained of Yahweh. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of Yahweh: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of Yahweh to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of Yahweh, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake, Rom. 13:1-5.

A woman professor was in the Colonial House PBS special to see what this country was based on because, as she admitted, she had been witnessing a steady decline in society.

She was married to another professor, who was also involved with the documentary. They had a daughter who was a lesbian and was living with another lesbian.

Prophecy of End Time

What else does Scripture tell us about these type of things, and what time period it might actually be found in?

But know this, that in the last days hard times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, thankless, wrongdoers, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, haters of good, betrayers, reckless, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Elohim, having a form of reverence but denying its power. And turn away from these, 2 Timothy 3:1–5 TS.

The gay man in the group said he was a Southern Baptist, and, in their colony, there were some other

Southern Baptists. But, he found their views to be different than his, so he wants to find a different "Church" that accepts him for who he is.

This, too, was prophesied by the Apostle Paul, whom we don't normally think of prophesying, but he hit the nail on the head with the following statement:

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, 2 Timothy 4:2-3 KJV.

So, here we are witnessing these things today. What can we say, but repent, for the Kingdom of Yahweh is coming. To be a part of it, we have to come out of the world now and not partake in the sins therein, but to worship Yahweh the way He would have us worship Him.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, That ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, Revelation 18:4 KJV.

This would have been a fitting verse to have meditated upon before leaving the Church of England, as the Church had been seen by many as in sin.

To coin a phrase, "they would roll over in their graves," if they could see what was happening today. Recent headlines said, "Church of England to allow gay clergy to become bishops."

Truly, they are denying the power and truth of Yahweh's Word.

Documents and Dates

Early maps of America show the upper northeast of our country with New England, New Hampshire, New York, and New Jersey. It's all there, today, even though it's not really new anymore, but rather in decay.

Let's take a look at some original documents and quotes from Encyclopedia Britannica. We'll keep things in chronological order starting from 1620 and going through to 1803. This will be only a snapshot of history showing the Scriptural Foundation of America.

First up is the 1620 Mayflower Compact. Pilgrims came from Southampton, England, on the Mayflower to live as New Englanders. Encyclopedia Britannica says, "[The] document signed by 41 of the male passengers on the Mayflower prior to their landing at Plymouth, Mass. The compact resulted from the fear that some members of the company might leave the group and settle on their own. The Mayflower Compact bound the signers into a body politic for the purpose of forming a government and pledged them to abide by any laws and regulations that would later be established. The document was not a constitution but rather an adaptation of the usual church covenant to a civil situation. It became the foundation of Plymouth's government."

Every government has laws. And this government's laws were originally centered around a Scriptural foundation.

Just 16 years later we see the first university of America, with others to follow. In 1636, concerning Harvard University, we also find Encyclopedia Britannica stating,

"[It is the] oldest institution of higher learning in the United States (founded 1636) and one of the nation's most prestigious. The main university campus lies along the Charles River a few miles west of Boston. Harvard's history began when a college was established at New Towne (renamed Cambridge, after the English alma mater of some of the leading colonists). Classes began in the summer of 1638 with one master in a single frame house and a 'college yard.' Harvard was named for a Puritan minister, John Harvard, who left the

college his books, and half his estate. In the early 19th century, the schools of divinity, law, and medicine were begun. At its inception, Harvard was under church sponsorship."

In 1676, the first Thanksgiving Proclamation was given by the governing council at Charlestown, Massachusetts. This document and action proclaimed Thanksgiving as a date to be observed in America.

It was out of reverence for Yahweh, even though they didn't know His Name at that time. Here we've restored the proper titles and Name:

"The Holy [Elohim]...brought to pass bitter things against His own Covenant people in this wilderness, yet so that we evidently discern that in the midst of His judgments He hath remembered mercy, having remembered His Footstool in the day of His sore displeasure against us for our sins...if it be [Yahweh]'s mercy that we are not consumed, It certainly bespeaks our positive Thankfulness...The Council has thought...to appoint and set apart the 29th day of this instant June, as a day of Solemn Thanksgiving and praise to [Yahweh] for such His Goodness and Favour, many Particulars of which mercy might be Instanced, but we doubt not those who are sensible of [Elohim]'s Afflictions, have been as diligent to espy Him returning to us; and that [Yahweh] may behold us as a People offering Praise and thereby glorifying Him; the Council doth commend it to the Respective Ministers, Elders and people of this Jurisdiction; Solemnly and seriously to keep the same Beseeking that being persuaded by the mercies of [Yahweh] we may all, even this whole people offer up our bodies and souls as a living and acceptable Service unto [Yahweh] by [Yahshua Messiah]."

It's interesting to note that Americans early on called themselves the Covenant People. Did they understand that they were of the lost

10 tribes of Israel? Maybe they just thought of themselves as being in and of the New Covenant.

Either way, they saw themselves as a set-apart people and with it responsibility to be in line with Yahweh's Word, not out-of-line with it.

In 1699, Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut, was founded by 10 ministers. In addition, according to Encyclopedia Britannica:

"Yale's initial curriculum emphasized classical studies and strict adherence to orthodox Puritanism... Puritans became noted for a spirit of moral and religious earnestness that determined their whole way of life, and they sought through church reform to make their lifestyle the pattern for the whole nation [of England]. Their efforts to transform the nation led to civil war in England and to the founding of colonies in America as working models of the Puritan way of life."

This is Yale University and, of course, we have already seen that Harvard University had biblical principles and values as a foundation for their classes of higher thought which would have led them to live in high standards of religious and moral values to the best of their understanding.

In 1746, Princeton University, in New Jersey, was founded by the Presbyterian Church.

"The U.S. Presbyterian Church traces its beginnings to the earliest Presbyterian churches in the American colonies. These were established in the 17th century by New England Puritans who preferred the presbyterian system rather than New England Congregationalism...The Puritans...like the Pilgrims, sailed to America principally to free themselves from religious restraints. Unlike the Pilgrims, the Puritans did not desire to 'separate' themselves from the Church of England but, rather, hoped by their example to reform it," Encyclopedia Britannica.

Sometimes separation is neces-

sary for Yahweh's plan to work out, but it is clear Yahweh had plans to make this nation a success for a time. That time, it now appears, is almost over.

But the clear message from history is that those who came from England had the right intentions to establish a country which had respect and honor for the Creator of the Universe.

More Evidence and Dates

As we continue in time, we come to the year 1751 and one of the symbols of America.

"[The Liberty Bell is] a traditional symbol of U.S. freedom, commissioned in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly to hang in the new State House (renamed Independence Hall) in Philadelphia...It bears the [Scripture], 'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.' (Leviticus 25:10)," Encyclopedia Britannica.

In our own state Capitol of Missouri, as mentioned, we have a replica of the Liberty Bell. Also, references to Scripture are engraved and covered with gold leaf, within the overhead gallery inside. Evidence that early in America, there was, at one time, a great reverence for Yahweh's Word.

Other significant U.S. Documents which we can all look up and see further evidence for the Scriptural Foundation of America, are as follows:

- 1764 "The Two Treatises of Government," by John Locke (original goes back to 1689)
- 1766 "Commentaries on the Laws," by Blackstone (a four volume commentary set)
- 1772 Right of Colonists
- 1776 The Declaration of Independence
- 1777 The New England Primer (original goes back to 1690)
- 1781 Articles of Confederation
- 1787 U.S. Constitution written.

Blessings Came, Initially

We come to the year 1803, which added a tremendous area for the nation to continue to grow. The 1803 Louisiana Purchase (828,000 acres) from France for less than 3 cents an acre. Was America blessed? Is America being blessed now?

What happens to nations who lose sight of Yahweh and end up doing what is right in their own sight?

Today, it's easy to get desensitized as to just how bad the moral decay has become in this nation, and how far removed from Scripture and from Yahweh we've become, compared to the beginnings from those that had Yahweh's Word in the forefront of their minds.

It's important that we understand we are only sojourners here, and that we are waiting for a better Kingdom to come. And since we are waiting for a better kingdom, shouldn't we be preparing for it now by getting back to the foundation and adhering to the Word of Yahweh?

It's not a call for a revolution or rebellion; it's a call to repentance. Maybe this nation should be reminded of what its very first president said and get back to its first love. He said, "It is impossible to govern the world without [Yahweh] and the Bible," (President George Washington).

More importantly, this nation and the world should remember what Scripture says,

He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be [an] abomination, Prov. 28:9 KJV.

Elder David Brett



The Christmas Fantasy

Consider the common nativity scene. There is a manger with Mary hovering over the babe; Joseph is standing nearby; a short distance away shepherds with their sheep and cattle gaze from snowdrifts. Three figures of royalty approach carrying gifts of various types; their camels patiently wait off to one side. A huge star shines from a tin reflector overhead.

This scene will be pictured in many cities, churches, and homes this coming Christmas season.

So What's The Problem?

Perhaps the most obvious mistake in this popular rendition of the Messiah's birth is that the three figures representing the wise men from the east are coming to a manger. Matthew 2:11 plainly says that the wise men came to a house and saw the young child. Notice, the Son of Miriam was no longer in a stable, and He is now called a child, not a babe.

Another error in our scene is that the Bible nowhere says that the shepherds saw a star, for the star was the sign given to the wise men. The wise men saw the star about two years later, because Matthew 2:16 tells of Herod's slaying all the young children from two years old and under in his wholesale effort to include Yahshua in his edict of death. Therefore, almost two years had elapsed since the birth of the Messiah.

Not only did the shepherds not see the star, but the wise men were also not present to hear the angelic host make the announcement, for they had to follow a star to find Him. There is nothing in Scripture that states there were three wise men. There could have been 33. Merely because the wise men presented three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, tradition holds that there were three of them. They have even been given names, although the Bible does not name them.

Scriptural Command Missing

If these nativity scene blunders were the only er-

rors in the Christmas celebration, perhaps they could be corrected. However, tradition is strong, and even when these simple misconceptions are pointed out to people, they choose to continue on their way.

Most of the world insists on keeping this festival not scripturally commanded.

We are commanded, however, to remember the Messiah's death, 1 Corinthians 11:25. Instead of remembering His death once a year at Passover, the world celebrates annually what it thinks is His birth in the dead of winter in the northern hemisphere.

Heathen Roots In Its Trappings

Each year as the Christmas season approaches, newspapers are full of historical evidence showing how the customs surrounding this season all sprang from paganism.

Jeremiah warns us, "Learn not the way of the heathen," Jeremiah 10:2. Anyone perusing his newspaper will find numerous articles showing that many of the customs of Christmas have roots in pagan practices.

Bible scholars know full well that the Messiah was not born anywhere near December 25. Yet, when this is pointed out to people, the answer is that we really should not care when He was born, just so long as we keep a day in memory of His birth. Yet, just why we should be celebrating a day that has its roots in paganism is summarily shrugged off.

Any good reference work will confirm the pagan origins of the customs of Christmas. Special notice should be given the following: Wassailing bowls were used by those observing the Bacchanalia to the deity Bacchus in Greece and Rome. Mistletoe was used by the ancient Druid priests as a symbol of pardoning of sin. A kiss was evidence of reconciliation. Reindeer can be traced to the Scandinavian mythology of Odin's horse Sleipnir, the fleetest horse in the world with his eight legs.

In *The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop shows

that the yule log is the dead stock of Nimrod deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies. The Christmas tree is the slain deity come to life again. Yahweh warns against erecting Christmas trees in Jeremiah 10:2-5.

Christmas cookies trace to pagan Babylon and Egypt where round wafers of the sun were ingested, signifying the partaking of the "unconquerable sun" into their lives. The holly wreath, with its circular design and a candle or light within, memorializes sun worship.

No Field Day For Shepherds

There is no doubt that Christmas, along with many so-called "holy days" in Christianity, has its roots in paganism. But the truth about Messiah's birth is not so well known. Rather than December 25,

the Savior was more likely born in late September or early October.

Luke 2:8 tells of the shepherds in the open fields near Bethlehem watching their flocks at night. Shepherds would not have their sheep on cold, rain-lashed hills in December. Scripture shows that December is a cold, rainy season in that region. Ezra 10:9 speaks of those in Jerusalem sitting outside in early December trembling because of their deeds and in "great rain."

Winter weather did not change much from that day until the Messiah's time. Shepherds took their sheep into the open fields just before Passover in the spring and brought them in again during the Hebrew eighth month – about the middle of November – when the rainy season began. This is according to Henri Daniel-Rops' book, *Daily Life in the Time of Jesus*.

The sheep were in their folds during the winter months, not out in the fields, and certainly not out in the snow.

Christmas Before The Messiah

In view of these clear facts, how did December 25 become the celebration of the birth of our Savior?

The *World Book Encyclopedia* says that in 354 CE, the December date was selected by Liberius, a bishop of Rome, "because the people of Rome already observed it as the Feast of Saturn, celebrating the birthday of the Sun."

Other sources show that this day was the Saturnalia, a festival of much revelry, dancing, merriment, and feasting. A king was appointed over the revels. Slaves were freed. Foes became friends. Friends feasted together. Evergreens decorated the houses. Songs were sung in honor of Saturn. Gifts were exchanged between friends. All of this began 2,000 years before the birth of the Messiah!

In Central Europe a feast was held at the time of the winter sol-

stice. A large wooden wheel was covered with straw so that no wood was visible. It was then dragged to the top of a steep mountain. Here a feast of merrymaking, games, and dancing was carried out all day. At the time of vespers, this symbol of the sun was set on fire and allowed to roll down the mountain.

This act was to represent the sun running from the sky, for according to the idolatry of pagan Germans, the sun was a large fire-wheel rolling through space. This, then, represented the celebration of the sun's birth.

Can it be mere coincidence that the Savior's supposed time of birth and this pagan celebration occur not only in the same month, but on the very day?

Pagans Were Pleased

In the fourth century, the church

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Mini - Study

Is Christmas a Biblical Observance?

"Put the Savior back in Christmas," people cry. But was He ever there in the first place?

By far the most important celebration in the Western world today is Christmas. Billions of dollars will be spent this year on gifts, gift wrapping, candy, decorations, and greeting cards in a gigantic, annual spending spree that starts in earnest right after Hallowe'en—and shifts into overdrive the day after Thanksgiving.

Merchants hinging their hopes for the entire sales year on Christmas profits keep the momentum at a fever pitch. A nonstop flood of advertisements and promotions entice an exploitable public to continue spending themselves into debt at this time each year.

The more religiously disposed object to the commercialization of the "Savior's birthday." They can see that this annual celebration has little in common with any Biblical observance. On the contrary, Christmas today is little more than a mandatory ritual of gift exchanging done under the guise of family togetherness and pleasing children.

But the Bible believer must stop to ask himself, am I pleasing my Heavenly Father by my Christmas observance? If this is what He wants me to do, then surely I can find in His very Word—the Bible—at least one passage telling me to keep this holiday.

Shocking as it may be, you cannot find even one command in the entire Bible to keep this supposed birthday of the Savior! Furthermore, nowhere in the New Testament is there a single instance where someone observed Christmas. Not one of the Apostles observed December 25, nor did any of them ever in the Savior's 33 years on this earth throw Him a birthday party. Nowhere do we find His disciples giving a gift to Him on December 25. Nor did anyone else. Not even to one another.

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Mini - Study

Should We Celebrate Birthdays?

As diligent seekers of Yahweh's Truth we come upon this question often: "Are birthdays appropriate to celebrate?" The answer can be somewhat different depending on to whom you speak. The Bible seems clear on the subject, so why do some of those who follow Yahweh still participate?

Etymology

There are many words that have similar meanings to the root word "birth" or "birthday." Note the following related words and phrases. Become familiar with them, and see how often they appear in the Bible: birthday 3, birth 14, each on his day 1, beget 201, bare 110, born 79, bring forth 25, bear 23, travail 16, midwife 10, child 8, delivered 5, borne 3, labour 2, brought up 2 (this list depends on which version of the Bible you read).

We will focus on the first two words, birthday, birth, and the phrase from Job 1:4 "each on his day" will also be important. Strong's Concordance has at least 3 different entries for the word "birthday": Strong's #'s 3117, 3205, 1077. Strong's #3117 Heb. *Yowm*: can mean in the daylight hours or from sunset to sunset. Strong's #3205 Heb. *Yalad*: literally means to give birth, to bear, bring forth. Strong's #1077 Greek *genesis*: birthday ceremonies, birthday.

From The Beginning

Looking to the first account pertaining to

desired to bring the pagan Germans and Romans into its fold. They took the festival of Saturnalia, which was held on December 25, and turned it into a mass of the church. They named it Christ's Mass.

Initially, there was a fierce internal fight over this turn of events. The pope bitterly opposed what he called "the introduction of a heathen festival of the Christian church." Even the thought of celebrating the birthday of Messiah was correctly rejected at first.

Nearly 300 years passed before there was any mention of celebrating the birth of Messiah. Notice the clear and frank admission of the *Catholic Dictionary* under "Christmas," by Cardinal McClosky:

"St. Chrysostom, in a Christmas sermon delivered at Antioch in the year 386 says, 'It is not ten years since this day (Christmas day on

December 25) was clearly known to us.'"

Therefore, if Christmas was not celebrated until fewer than 10 years before 386 CE, it is plain that the first commemoration of the Messiah's birth did not take place before the year 377. For more than 300 years after His birth there was no celebration of December 25 as the Messiah's birthday. But to appease pagan converts, their heathen celebrations were brought into the church and given new meaning. The customs and practices remained basically unchanged.

Once the door was opened to pagan celebrations, the practices and flavor of the early church became more and more heathen. It made no difference whether the Bible countermanded pagan practice. Pleasing the pagans became customary.

Candles, bells, round wafers, tonsorial haircuts, crosses, statues, steeples, and many more symbols from paganism are vividly described in *The Two Babylons*, Loizeaux Brothers publishers.

It's The Same Old Story

Yahweh condemned ancient Israel for taking up the customs of the pagans around them. He consistently warned them about rejecting Him and His way of life. Israel, however, seemingly had a deep-seated desire to search for any off-beat worship and incorporate that into their worship of Yahweh.

The Old Testament is replete with the history of how the Israelites would follow pagan worship around them so that Yahweh had to send a prophet to bring them back to Himself. After such a reformation, the drift into heathen customs would start again.

Yahweh would leave them to their own devices, which would usually bring calamity and tribulation. Finally, He sent His beloved Son to this earth. He, too, was rejected. And a heathen custom was

established for Him, also.

Does the wild revelry that is so common in the Christmas celebration bring honor to Yahshua? Does it reflect His teachings? Or is it rather in keeping with the spirit of a pleasure-mad, fun-seeking people of the world?

Yahshua clearly said that He has chosen all His followers to come out of the world, John 15:19. His people are not to take part in the world's heathen celebrations.

Perhaps you will say you observe the customs of Christmas for the sake of the children, not for religious reasons. Even though you disagree with the paganism attached to Christmas, it is impossible to join in its celebration without showing that you condone it.

<see Fantasy page 22>

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Mini - Study



Yahweh's Appointed Feast Days Now YOU Can Afford to Attend

The Bible reveals as far back as the days of creation that Almighty Yahweh established certain appointed times that were specially chosen by Him for His called-out people. These are unique times when He would meet with His True Worshipers:

"And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years" (Gen. 1:14). The word *seasons* is Strong's Hebrew No. 4150 *mowed*, and literally means "appointed times." It is a term used for the annual gatherings of Yahweh and His people:

A number of scholars understand that the first *mowed* took place in Genesis 4:3-7, where Abel correctly kept the Passover by offering a lamb, and Cain brought an offering more suitable for the Feast of Tabernacles, the work of His hands. Abel's offering was accepted, Cain's was not.

Tradition has it that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees on Passover, and the Feast days can be traced through his journeys and stopping places in Genesis 12. Certainly the appearance of the three celestial beings in Genesis 18 took place in the spring as Abraham fed his guests unleavened cakes (v. 7, margin); and later Lot did likewise, Genesis 19:3. Likely this was also a special time of *mowed*.

It is apparent that Abraham kept all Yahweh's Sabbaths and Feast days: "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). The Feast days were again given to Israel after they came out of Egypt, when they agreed to the Covenant. These are

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Mini - Study



Let's Pull the Mask from HALLOWEEN

Every October 31 children across the land learn how extortion works through one of the most popular of ancient, pagan festivals. We know it as Halloween, which is a shortened combination of the words "Hallowed" and "evening." But there is nothing holy about this night.

"Trick or treat!" the bantam, masked marauders cry as they go from door to door coercing goodies from mostly compliant residents. Along with blackmail, the chance to deface private property and get away with it is also a big part of the "hallowed evening." Shaving cream, soap, and toilet paper are essential in the bag of tricks some of the mischievous have prepared especially for this weird, annual rite.

Imagine trying to explain the whole thing to a visitor from another planet!

Not Just for Youth Anymore

Visit many offices and department stores on October 31 and you'll see adult employees dressed in silly or grotesque costumes, perhaps with painted faces and fluorescent green hair.

They are psyching up for the Halloween party that night — when they'll get the chance to act foolishly without embarrassment. It seems that as our world sinks deeper into New Age paganism, this heathen, high holy day of the occult has zoomed to the top of the holiday charts. In fact, among adults Halloween is becoming as popular as Christmas.

But is Halloween just a harmless time of fun for the whole family, where they can practice their pumpkin-carving skills and then head for their store's costume department to try on the latest in the grotesque?

It's time to rip the mask from Halloween and expose it for what it is. What we find underneath should concern anyone who professes a belief or faith in the Bible.

The Feast of Trumpets

Yahweh's Appointed Time for An Acclamation of Joy
(or a Battle Cry, depending upon which side of the fence you stand)

NASB version used except where noted

The Jewish people call the first day of the seventh month, "Rosh Hashanah," which means the "head of the year." However, this phrase is NOT mentioned in Scripture in connection with the Feast of Trumpets but with the "beginning of months."

This is THE month [hachadesh (not "haqodesh," which means "holy")] that shall be the beginning of months [rosh chadoshim] for you; it is to be the first month of the year [hashanaah] to you, Exodus 12:2.

So, the Scriptural head of the year, *rosh hashanah*, is the new moon in the 1st month of the year, called "Abib," not the Feast of Trumpets.

Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to Yahweh,'" Leviticus 23:23 – 25.

In Numbers 29:1-6, Scripture reiterates the Feast of Trumpets, adding the specific offerings made on that day. The Hebrew words and meanings are the same as those used in the book of Exodus.

And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets. You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to Yahweh: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish. Their grain offering shall be fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to make atonement for you; besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to Yahweh, Numbers 29:1 – 6.

Words Have Meanings Leviticus 23:23 – 25

Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel [Benai Yisrael, from the Hebrew root 'ben' or son, literally, 'builders' of Israel; and Yisrael, spelled 'yod-seen-resh-aleph-lamed,' meaning 'he will rule with the power of El,' from sarah, power, and el, mighty one], saying: 'In the seventh [sheba,

"sacred, full"] month [chadesh – new moon], on the first day [echad, "one, first or united"] of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest [shebat, a sabbatism or special holiday], a memorial of blowing of trumpets [truah, which means an alarm or an acclamation of joy, a loud noise, a "splitting of the ears" – Interestingly, no mention is made of a shofar or a trumpet; however, if you've ever sounded a ram's horn, you know that the bell of the horn is pointed right into your left ear!], a holy [qodesh, holy, sacred or set-apart] convocation [miqra, gathering of ones called out, also a rehearsal]. You shall do no customary work [abadah, obligatory service] on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire [isheh, a burnt offering or any sacrifice] to Yahweh.'" "

So, here are those verses, according to the meanings in Hebrew: Leviticus 23:23 "Yahweh is speaking through Moses: 'To THE BUILDERS WHO WILL RULE with the POWER of THE ALMIGHTY: on the FULLY-SACRED 7th NEW MOON, memorialize JOY and ALARM in a SET-APART, HOLY REHEARSAL.'" Let me repeat this:

A sacred rehearsal. A sacred acting-out of something that is to come. A rehearsal for what? Today, this day is the rehearsal for that day when rehearsing will no longer be permitted. And, that day is ? We don't know when our rehearsing will culminate in the "Performance of our Life." However, we do know, from Scripture, that this Day will be both Joyous and Alarming; and it will involve, or revolve around, people who have been practicing for that Day when they will be responsible to Rule, under the precepts, laws and ordinances of Yahweh.

Who are those builders?

1 Kings 5:18

So Solomon's builders [and others] prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

The Temple of Yahweh was built, destroyed and rebuilt by Israel. Building the physical Temple of Yahweh was the rehearsal for those in the latter days building the Kingdom of Yahweh. In THAT Day to come, those who believe and obey are the very building blocks, living stones, of the Temple of Yahweh.

1 Peter 2:4 – 8

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in

the sight of Elohim, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua the Messiah. For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But, for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Those who believe and obey the Word, the Law of Yahweh, are in the process of becoming, of being built up to be, the House of Yahweh, through Yahshua the Messiah, Who is the Cornerstone, the Rock upon which we stand.

Psalm 118:24 – 26

This is the day which Yahweh has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Yahweh, do save, we beseech You; O Yahweh, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Yahweh [Baruch habah bashem Yahweh]; we have blessed You from the House [the Temple] of Yahweh.

Luke 13:35

See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of Yahweh!" (Yahshua is speaking to the Pharisees).

Matthew 21:42 – 43

Yahshua is telling the people of Judah what will happen to them:

Yahshua said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The

stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was Yahweh's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of Elohim will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

Revelation 2:25 – 28 NKJV

But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – [then, He describes the power to be given] "He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels – as I also have received from My Father.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Messiah Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first.

Isaiah 13:9 KJV

Behold, the day of Yahweh cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Who are the sinners being referred to here? First of all, what is sin? Sin is lawlessness. Sinners, therefore, are those outside of the Law of Yahweh.

Yahweh Has Spoken

The Word has been spoken. Yahweh gave the Law to the Israelites. He spoke to them of the coming Messiah. He had them rehearse each step of the Plan of Salvation:

1. The blood of the Lamb covering us and protecting us from eternal death [Passover]. (Note that Passover is not a High Sabbath, it is a memorial day. The first and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread are High Sabbaths).

2. The partaking of unleavened bread, leaving the comforts and

abomination of the world to take on a holy way of living [Feast of Unleavened Bread – or, Azumos, the Feast of UNCORRUPTEDNESS]. The offering of the FIRST of the first fruits from the ground to heaven during the Feast of Unleavened Bread – the resurrection of the Messiah, Yahshua [the sheaf wave offering].

3. The offering of the two leavened loaves at the Feast of Weeks – the day upon which the Apostles of Yahshua received the Holy Spirit – Pentecost [Feast of Weeks]. These first steps have been fulfilled.

4. By blowing the trumpets on the first day of the Scriptural seventh month, we are rehearsing for the Day of Yahweh, when the final trump shall sound, bringing joy to those in obedience ... and horror to those outside of the Law of Yahweh [Feast of Trumpets].

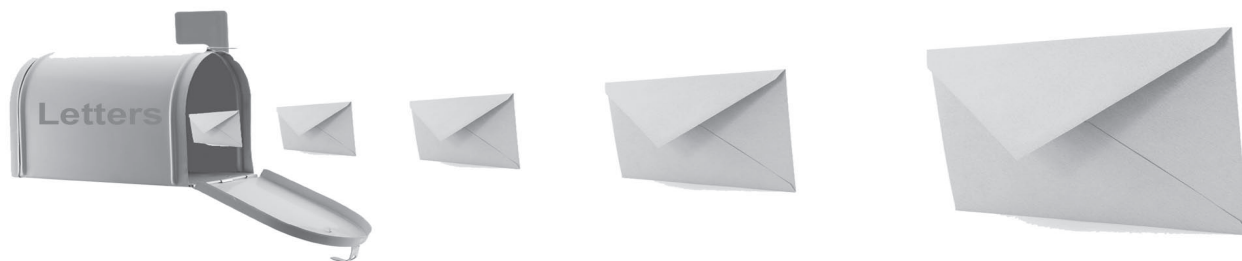
5. Soon we shall rehearse the tribulation, when our souls will be afflicted [Day of Atonement].

6. After that, we will rehearse the Resurrection of the Righteous, lifted up to work in the One Thousand Year Reign of Yahshua [Feast of Tabernacles]. At the end of this time, the Second Resurrection will occur, and Satan will be loosed for a while. Those who did not have the opportunity to hear the word before they died will hear the truth. Those who reject it will be reserved for Last Great Day.

7. We will rehearse the day when all evil shall be put away in the Lake of Fire, and Eternity will finally begin for us [the Last Great Day]. "Finally begin," an interesting expression, don't you think? The new heaven and the new earth.

This is Yahweh's Plan of Salvation. Are YOU one of those Builders of the Kingdom of Yahweh? Are YOU one of those who will Rule with the Power of Elohim? Are YOU one of the Children of Israel, car-

<see Weeks page 22>



I would like to thank you for your awesome publications which are greatly appreciated. I often share your literature with my friends and we discuss the topics together on the Sabbath, and I never throw out any of your newsletters or magazines. The information is so precious. I am very blessed by Y.A.I.Y. I immediately read "Yahweh's Food Laws" as soon as I received it in the mail and was very disturbed by what I read. Thank you for informing us. — **TS, MN**

I'm writing this letter to say "thank you" for the literature you have provided me with. It has been so very helpful and so very revealing. It has been a great blessing having been introduced to your assembly. I have finished reading all the literature you've provided and I reflect upon it and re-read many areas of my concern and share the materials with others around me who are open to accepting the facts and the true Sacred Names of Scriptures. — **CL, TX**

It is always with a joy my wife and I both feel when the new Beacon arrives, waiting to read its contents. The truth that it teaches is what we have been trying to follow for about forty-three years of our fifty years of marriage. — **JM, England**

Greetings to you in the true names of Yahweh the Father and Yahshua the Messiah. As always I enjoy and I am greatly blessed in so many ways from reading and studying your publications. I am always in great appreciation and in great wonder of how well educated you are in the Truth. — **KM, KY**

I wanted to give you a report of the wonderful things that are going on here since we have partnered with each other in saving seeds of truth in the Holy Scriptures. Another two brothers have embraced the pure milk of the word of Yahweh and have re-dedicated themselves to following Yahweh, Yahshua and the Lev. 23 feasts and Sabbaths. — **DB, CO**

<Fantasy from page 19>

Obviously, the central figure in Christmas isn't the Messiah, anyway, but a jolly fat man in a red suit known as Santa Claus. He is the one who receives credit for many of the gifts children receive at this time of year. The average child knows little about the Savior whose birthday this pagan holiday is supposed to commemorate. Everywhere he looks - in stores, magazines, newspapers, television shows - he sees credit passed on to Santa Claus. Most children, like Virginia, come to believe there really is a Santa Claus.

Stocking Market Up

What about exchanging gifts? People like to receive gifts, and a principle of being a follower of the Messiah is to be generous to others, right? But is gift giving at Christmas done in the spirit of love, or is it done grudgingly, or to avoid

embarrassment? "Yahweh loves a cheerful giver," Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Gift giving at Christmas is often done merely out of feelings of obligation rather than out of love and the simple joy of giving. Children learn to ask, "What did you get?" not "What did you give?" Gifts are given because someone gave one last year and thus are put on the list. It is not really the giving of a gift out of the sheer joy of giving to someone. If you doubt that, don't give any gifts this Christmas and see how many drop you from their list next year. Gift giving is merely a gift exchange.

Everything about Christmas is wrong: the name, the time, the purpose, the goal, the result, the worship. How can a True Believer celebrate Yahshua's birthday when nowhere does the Bible encourage, command, or cajole us to remember anyone's birthday? Furthermore, in each of the only three possible

birthdays mentioned in the Bible, someone died.

When one celebrates Christmas, he puts his stamp of approval on a heathen custom, much as Israel did of old, and were punished for it. Let us leave Christmas to the nonbeliever. Say with Joshua, the son of Nun, "As for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh," Joshua 24:15.

Elder Donald Mansager

<Weeks from page 21>

rying the name of Yahweh, having the Law written on your heart and in your mind? Well, then, blessings to you! If not, then may Yahweh, in His longsuffering and mercy reach out to you and do whatever it takes to bring you to Him, for His name's sake.

In Yahshua's mighty and loving name. HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher



Revealing the Truth

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Campbell County Community Media, Channel 17
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Mashpee Public Access, Channel 99
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USA, New Mexico, Albuquerque
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Schenectady Public Access, Channel 16
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Rogue Valley Community Television, Channel 15
Saturdays (Sabbath), 5:00 pm

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Portland Community Media
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Channel 23 - Saturdays (Sabbath), 8:30 am

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Fridays, 1:30 pm; Sundays, 2:30 pm

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HOLY BIBLE

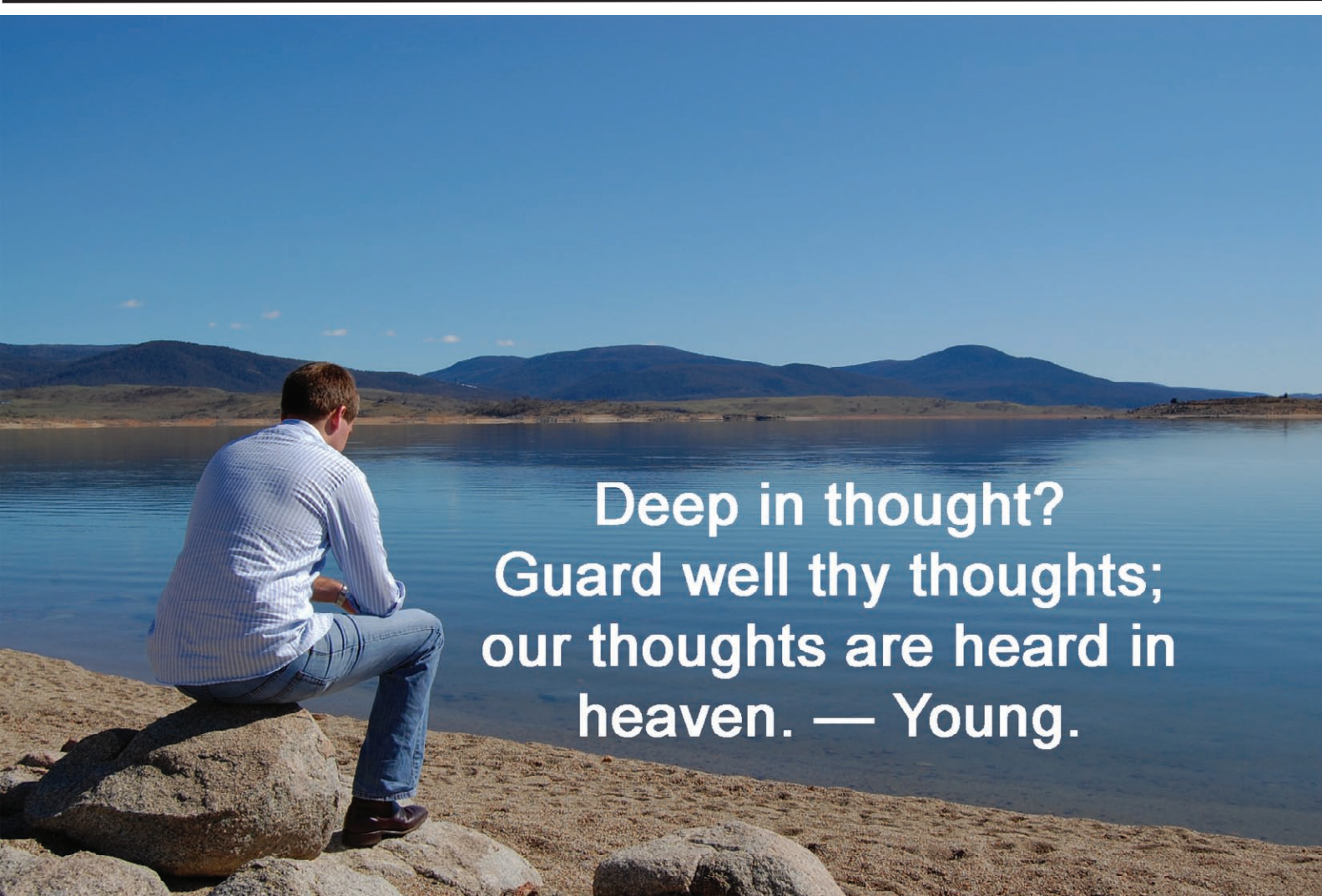
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**Deep in thought?
Guard well thy thoughts;
our thoughts are heard in
heaven. — Young.**