

YAIY



# Beacon



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Idle Tractor?  
No Crops?  
Why?

Are Yahweh's  
Feasts Necessary?



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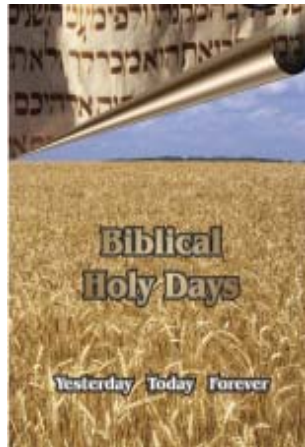
As man needs a rest every seven days, the land, which produces the foods we eat, also needs a rest every seven years during the Sabbatical Year, while the land returns to the original owner during the Jubilee Year, which follows the seventh Sabbatical Year.

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## MISSION

### STATEMENT

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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# Sabbaticals and the Restoration



When one speaks of Sabbaticals today, one might think of a professor of Theology taking a one-year break to write a book or to just enjoy time away from his or her work. Scripture, however, speaks of all of Yahweh's people keeping the Sabbaticals.

Farmers, whose crops and quality of life would assuredly benefit by letting the land rest occasionally from use, should be especially aware of this time. The increased nutritional value gained in food crops by following such simple guidelines, that Yahweh set forth long ago, would be in itself a good reason to implement them.

Many suppose that such laws were done away and are no longer needed in today's progressive world, but nothing could be further from the truth. More turn to organic farming as the demand for non-genetically modified and pesticide free produce increases. They see the "natural" way as a better way.

Yahweh in His infinite wisdom knew when establishing the Sabbaticals, and Jubilees (which are closely related), there would be blessings that would naturally follow. Man, in his effort to seek more and more for himself, has for the most part decided to defy his Maker and ignore such ways of living. We see many troubles in today's world stemming directly from not doing what we are told to do as a people.

## What People?

When Israel came into the land they were given specific instructions on how to live. One of those instructions was to keep the Sabbaticals and Jubilees. Coming into the promised land, they were now able to till and own their own land, something they were not able to do while slaves in Egypt nor were they able to do so as wanderers in the wilderness for 40 years.

Regrettably, after many years in the promised land, the southern tribes of Israel (Judah) were taken into Babylonian

captivity for 70 years due to their disobedience against Yahweh. Seventy years were to make up for the Sabbaticals that were broken, 2 Chron 36:20-21, a time period covering 490 years ( $7 \times 70 = 490$ ). The Jubilees don't seem to be a factor, but the blessings were lost by not keeping them, Lev 26:14-20. The opposite, those obeying the Jubilees, would have received the blessings for keeping all of the Sabbaths (plural), Lev 26:2-5.

The Jubilees have been theorized by some scholars to have come to disuse when the law was followed closely during Ezra and Nehemiah's time after their return, Neh 10:31. Hence the poor were looked after; none had to be sold into slavery; none, therefore, had to be released during a jubilee year.

It was evidently good refreshing times for Israel or at least for some of them. The northern tribes (Ephraim), being part of Israel, were dispersed through Assyria as punishment for their disobedience.

Many are unaware that Yahweh is still working out a plan for Israel and will bring Ephraim and Judah back together, making up the 12 tribes of Israel.

*Say unto them, Thus saith Yahweh Elohim; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith Yahweh Elohim; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile*

*themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their Elohim. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them, Eze 37:19-25 KJV.*

It should be pointed out that the Apostle James addressed all 12 scattered tribes in James 1:1, and Yahweh Himself says, even though they've been scattered, "not one true kernel will be lost," Amos 9:9.

In 1948 Israel became once again a recognized nation and land, but not all Jews have come back, and the lost northern 10 tribes that make up Ephraim have not returned. Of the Jews that have returned, there is only a handful of the Sephardic Jews who actually would be speaking the more proper scriptural Hebrew dialect fitting for the temple, but Yahweh can create great wonders with small beginnings.

As we see history unfold, it seems safe to say that we are seeing prophecies of restoration starting to take place which will cumulate into a much larger fulfillment in the years ahead.

## Land Sabbaths

*Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to Yahweh; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. Your harvest's aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year, Lev 25:3-5 NASU. (see also Ex 23:10-11)*

Allowing the land to rest allows the soil to replenish itself and a natural fertilization process is accomplished thereby allowing for stronger healthier plants to be produced. Stronger and more nutritious plants in turn can help produce healthier people.

We are told Yahweh is not mocked, and that what we sow is what we'll reap,

*Be not deceived; Yahweh is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, Gal 6:7.*

It shouldn't be difficult to understand that after all these years we are still a physical people who need both physical and spiritual laws to live by.

While at the same time we are striving to walk on higher ground, we must realize we are still on physical ground. We learn spiritual lessons by doing physical things. By living accordingly to His word, we honor and glorify Him in our lives, while attaining spiritual growth and good character in the process.

## Atonement to Atonement

If one is to start being obedient to our heavenly Father in all things, logic would have it that we must be aware of when the Sabbaticals actually are, especially since it is indicated that keeping all Sabbaths holy are a sign between us and Yahweh, Ezek 20:20. Since so many have forgotten this way of life, can one even know which year is a Sabbatical year?

We first need to examine Scripture. We find Sabbatical years, as well as Jubilee years, are actually calculated from Atonement in the Fall, rather than from the first day of *Abib* in the Spring:

*And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family, Lev 25:8-10.*

From these verses we find there are two years in a row in which the

land is to be at rest, the 49<sup>th</sup> (7 x7) and the 50<sup>th</sup> (year of Jubilee) year. We also see that the Day of Atonement is when the Sabbatical and Jubilee years are counted from.

In our Roman based calendar today this would translate, for example, from October 10 (contingent on the new moon being seen the night of September 30th), 2008 to Atonement 2009.

However, the question remains, "What year, then, is a Sabbatical Year?" The answer is somewhat complex, but historical dates and archeological finds confirm the date given above to be the next Sabbatical Year, that is, 2008-2009, from Atonement to Atonement.

## Previous Sabbatical Years

If we know when previous Sabbaticals took place, then we can know when future ones will be. The following dates were put together in an article entitled "Chronology of Jubilees," by *A-Quest-for-Creation-Answers*. All comments/corrections in boldface are made by the author:

- The year 135-134 BCE (or the year 177 of the Seleucid Era) was noted to be a 7th year in the writings of Flavius Josephus. In 'Antiquities of the Jews' he noted: "... there came around the year in which the Jews are wont to remain inactive, for they observe this custom every seventh year, just as on the seventh day." (Book 13:8:1).
- The same year (135-134 BCE) was also noted to be a year of 'rest' in 'Wars of the Jews'. In this book, Josephus noted the following: "the year of rest came on, upon which the Jews rest every seventh year as they do on every seventh day".
- The year 44-43 BCE could have been a 7th year. In

‘Antiquities of the Jews’, Josephus stated that the Jews had a legal agreement with the Romans concerning a reduction of taxes in 7th years. In substantiation of this, he cited a decree from one of the Roman emperors. The decree stated when Caius Caesar was consul for the fifth time he ordered in the 2nd year of the current land-use agreement that a deduction in the amount of taxes that land users paid to the Romans should be granted to the Jews (refer to Antiquities, Book 14:10:5-6). If the current year (44-43 BCE) did correspond to the cited 2nd year of the land-use agreement then it might be possible to interpret this passage to mean that the respective year did correspond to a 7th year (as celebrated by the Jews).

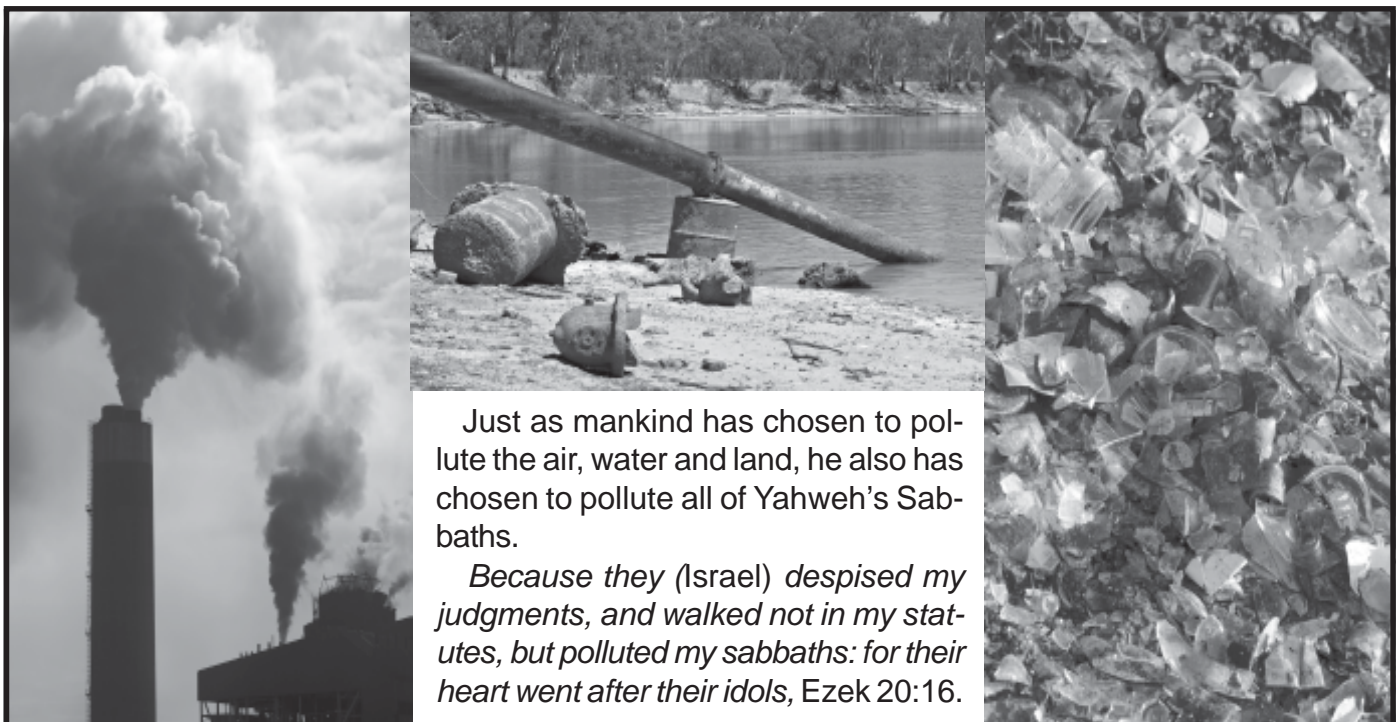
- Josephus rehearsed another Roman decree concerning a

grant to Jews allowing celebration of the 7th years. This respective decree substantiates that Jews—under the late Second Temple—positively were celebrating Sabbatical years. “[Judea should pay a tribute yearly]... excepting the seventh, which they call the Sabbatical year, because thereon they neither receive the fruits of their trees, nor do they sow their land... [taxes are to be paid] every year, the seventh year, which they call the Sabbatic year, excepted, whereon they neither plough, nor receive the product of their trees.” (Antiquities, Book 14:10:6).

- The year 37-36 BCE appears to have been both a 7th year and 70th year (as noted by Josephus). This year—the year when Herod was declared king at Jerusalem—is referred to as a

‘hebdomatikon’ year as follows: “Now the Jews that were enclosed within the walls of the city fought against Herod with great alacrity and zeal (for the whole nation was gathered together); they also gave out many prophecies about the temple, and many things agreeable to the people, as if [Yahweh] would deliver them out of the dangers they were in ... this happened to be a Sabbatic year [or literally, a ‘hebdomatikon’ year]” (‘Antiquities of the Jews’, 14:16:2).

- The year 37-36 BCE is noted to have been both a 7th year and a 70th year [**70<sup>th</sup> emphasized due to chronological patterns seen in certain areas, for example, destruction of Temple in 70 CE,**] in a second passage of ‘Antiquities of the Jews’. This



instance is recorded in the next book as follows: "At this time Herod, now he had got Jerusalem under his power... the Sabbatic year [or literally, a 'hebdomatidon' year]... was still going on, and forced the country to lie still uncultivated, since we are forbidden to sow our land in that year." (Book 15:1:2).

- The year 55-56 CE (autumn-to-autumn) was almost surely a 7th year—based on an ancient Deed of Loan. This paper was recovered at Wadi Murabba near Bethlehem. This legal note is explicit in stating that a 'year-of-release' was underway in the 2nd year of Nero Caesar. Because Nero ascended to the throne in autumn of the year 54 CE, the cited Sabbatical year (autumn-to-autumn) would have largely corresponded to 2nd year of the reign of Nero.

- The year 69-70 CE (autumn-to-autumn) is shown to have been a 7th year by the early rabbis. The Taanith indicates that the Second Temple was destroyed in a post-Sabbatical year (B. Taan., 29a). The Arakin has "thus it is found that it [= the destruction of the Second Temple] happened during the last part of a septennate" (B. Arak., 12 b). A third century rabbi (Hunna) computed the Sabbatical cycle based upon the fact that the Second Temple was destroyed in a sabbath year (B. Azar., 9b). Rabbi Jose (Yose) ben Khalapha commented that the year prior to the destruction

of the Second Temple was a Sabbatical year (Seder Olam, 30). Because the Second Temple was destroyed in autumn of the year 70 CE then it's easy to recognize from the rabbis that a Sabbatical year occurred immediately prior to the destruction of the Temple. Essentially, the Temple is indicated to have been destroyed in autumn of the year 70 CE very close to the boundary of a 7th year (at the end of the respective 7-year cycle).

- The year 139-140 CE (autumn-to-autumn) also appears to have been a 7th year—as based upon another legal paper recovered at Wadi Murabba. This respective contract (Mur 24E) was written in late autumn of the year 134 CE. This sub-lease agreement describes what appears to be a 5-year lease term. The respective lease was to last until the 'eve of the Sabbatical year.' It is clear that 5 years from autumn in the year 134 CE ends with autumn of the year 139 CE. Then, this respective year (139 CE) would have corresponded to the very beginning of a year-of-release.

If the aforementioned dates are checked, they all run in increments of seven, forwards or backwards, and all connecting though there are many years in between some of them. We should then find other significant dates elsewhere that would match. In other words, new finds from other sources that confirm the previous dates. In fact, there are such alternative references.

Other such "witnesses" can be found in a book called, *The Star That Astonished The World* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition,

1996), by the late Dr. Earnest L. Martin. The following is a list with similar Sabbatical dates found, but with some additional ones as well:

1. We are told by 1 Maccabees 6:49 that Judas Maccabee's defeat at Beth-Zur was in a Sabbatical Year from the Autumn of 163 to Autumn 162 B.C.
2. Josephus, the Jewish historian, shows the murder of Simon the Hasmonean as happening in the Sabbatical Year of Autumn 135 to Autumn 134 B.C.
3. Josephus shows Herod's conquest of Jerusalem as occurring in the last part of the Sabbatical Year of 37 to 36 B.C.
4. King Agrippa the First recited the section of Deuteronomy which a king was required to do as associated with the Sabbatical Year (Deuteronomy 31:10-13). He performed it at a time which historically shows that Agrippa's Sabbatical Year was A.D.41 to 42.
5. A papyrus document written in Aramaic has recently been found in Palestine which is dated to the second year of Nero, and it says that that year was a Sabbatical Year. Thus, A.D.55 to 56 was Sabbatical.
6. A reference in the second century Jewish work called the *Seder Olam* can be interpreted as showing the Temple at Jerusalem being destroyed in a Sabbatical Year. That would have been A.D.69 to 70.
7. Dated documents have been found concerning the Bar Kokhba revolt of the Jews against the Romans which show that the year A.D.132 to 133 was also a Sabbatical Year.
8. The ruins of an ancient synagogue have recently been uncovered which have a date, in a mosaic, for the Jewish year 4000, and that is was the second year of a Sabbatical cycle. This answers to A.D.237 to 238.
9. There is a reference in the Jewish Talmud (*Sanhedrin* 97b) that the Messiah will release the world from its bondage of corruption in

the year after 4291 of the Jewish calendar. Since it was believed this would occur in a Sabbatical Year, this reference becomes important (though the prophecy did not occur) because the year after 4291 was A.D.531 to 532, and it was a Sabbatical.

Dr. Martin in his book also points out:

“Though over the past few centuries historians studying the records about the Sabbatical Years have been able to arrive at their former sequence within a year or two, only within the last 50 years (and especially the last 30), has it become possible, through archeological discoveries, etc., to determine with an almost certainty what the exact Sabbatical Years’ sequence was and is. This can be known from 163 B.C. to the present.”

It brings to mind that there indeed is a restoration going on (Acts 3:21), and that Yahweh is allowing us in these end times to see clearly what we should be doing according to Yahweh’s word, and to return to, *“the faith which was once delivered to the saints,”* Jude 3:3.

## What to do?

When we are shown clearly that something should be done, then we should humble ourselves and do it. The examples of ancient Israel were for our example.

*Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come,* 1 Cor 10:11 NASU.

We are to learn from their mistakes and understand that Yahweh is in more control of the universe and everything in it than we can even imagine. Let’s not commit the same sins. Let’s do what we can to be over-comers from a wrong way of doing things to a right way of doing things according to Yahweh’s way, that will even be kept in the coming Kingdom.


*And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of*

*the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem,* Isa 2:3.

*And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith Yahweh,* Isa 66:23.

*And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem,* Mic 4:2.

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**Mini-Study**

**Prophetic Truths  
in the Sabbaticals  
and Jubilees**

After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Israel finally crossed the Jordan and somewhat conquered the land Yahweh had promised. They had not been thorough in driving out the enemy, however, leaving pockets of heathen culture that would prove to be Israel’s downfall.

Deuteronomy chapter 7 relates that Israel would find a wicked people in their land. These were vile pagans and removal of them surgically was Yahweh’s solution. He had warned Israel that these people would prove a snare and they should not intermarry with them or have any dealings with them socially, religiously or in any other way. Israel was to annihilate them. Yahweh even gave miraculous help to accomplish this task.

Had Israel done what was commanded, they would have prospered in the Promised Land. But because they disobeyed, their punishment was years of servitude to their enemies.

Israel as a nation found it hard to accept the startling concept that Yahweh would allow His Chosen ones to be taken captive by a foreign power; by a king who worshipped idols and followed pagan ways. It simply was too difficult to grasp that Yahweh had for the time being disowned Israel and would move them out of the Land He had promised them!

**Northern Tribes Go to Assyria**

The northern tribes, often referred to as “Ephraim,” were taken captive to the area of present-day northern Iraq by the Assyrians and subsequently moved north and west, over the Caucasus Mountains (hence the term “Caucasian”). This occurred in the seventh century BCE.

The southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin were allowed to remain in the land for a time, having the

Are you in agriculture, planting corn, soybeans, wheat, or some other crop each year? Do you have concern if you were to let the land rest that your income would be lost? What does Yahweh promise to do if you trust and obey Him?

*If you want to live securely in the land, keep my laws and obey my regulations. Then the land will yield bumper crops, and you will eat your fill and live securely in it. But you might ask, “What will we eat during the seventh year, since we are not allowed to plant or harvest crops that year?” The answer is, “I will order my blessing for you in the sixth year, so the land will produce a bumper crop, enough to support you for three years. As you plant the seed in the eighth year, you will still be eating the produce of the previous year. In fact, you will eat from the old crop until the new harvest comes in the ninth year,”* Lev 25:17 NLT.

It is true that this was the “promised land” they were in and they were told not to sell the land permanently,

*The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me,* Lev 25:23.

Yet, is Yahweh’s arm so short that it cannot reach and bless your field and family, wherever you are? Understand that obeying Yahweh is in many ways faith-based.

Does this mean we can’t plant a few flowers in front of our house or throw extra grass seed for our lawn? Of course not. The command was for “crops” and “vineyards,”

*But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for Yahweh: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard,* Lev 25:4.

These would be fields or gardens for the sake of income and or food. No work is to be done on them, such as seeding, fertilizing, etc., except that which might feed the cattle, like bailing hay, for example, would be perceivably alright to do,

*And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat,* Lev 25:7.

## Year of Release

Do we stop paying on our credit cards or other loans in society due to the cancelation of debts on the Sabbaticals? After all, Scripture says,

*At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called Yahweh's release, Deut 15:12.*

However, we are dealing with corporations and businesses in the world which are not, at this time, going to listen to the Deuteronomy law. Therefore, you must live as a good citizen and obey the law of the land. We are also dealing with foreigners, which Yahweh says we can extract payment from and, therefore, they may also do the same from us.

*Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again: but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release, Deut 15:3.*

Emphasis is given time and time again to help the poor brethren, as you're able:

*Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto Yahweh against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing Yahweh thy Elohim shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto, Deut 15:9-10.*

Take heed, also, that if you make an agreement and try then to use the

Sabbatical year to escape it as a convenience, you are in essence breaking a vow which Yahweh may indeed punish you for sooner rather than later, especially, if the one wronged cries out to Yahweh about it.

*If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry, Ex 22:23.*

Even when there is no land sabbatical, the instruction is to not harvest all, but to leave some for the poor and travelers.

*And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest:*

3 ½ -years later in 31 CE. In John 4:35 Yahshua says to His disciples,

*Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white (ripe) already to harvest.*

Dr. Martin has presented that when thinking of Sabbaticals, this verse seems to show that Yahshua was in the midst of a Sabbatical year that would end in 4 months time. It may very well explain why so many, up to 5000 "men" (Matt 14:21), could have had time to follow Yahshua and listen to Him. If they weren't in the fields

working, then they would have the time to listen to a man amongst the fields.

There is some indication that Dr. Martin's interpretation of John 4:35 may be wrong, since through the dating of Jubilees during the Kings and Prophets anciently we find that the year after Yahshua's ministry may have been a Jubilee year and that the next Jubilee year may be 2037-2038. It is hard to say for sure, though we believe strongly that the evidence for

the Sabbatical dates are now conclusive.

Dr. Martin shows through Scripture and the stars—which Scripture itself says would be for "signs," (Gen 1:14)—that the star given over Bethlehem can be identified and dated. His book has convinced over 600 planetariums to start showing the timing (Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 BCE) as being the likely candidate for the star of Bethlehem. It is a book well worth searching for and having in your library as it gives more historical dates as evidence for the Sabbaticals, such as the building projects that happen to fall on Sabbaticals since Rome

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## The following points show the difference between the Sabbatical and

### Jubilee years

#### Sabbatical

Land and vineyards rest

All voluntary foods could be eaten

All debts canceled

#### Jubilee

Land has its rest

Land reverts to the original owner

All Israelite slaves freed

---

*thou shalt leave them for the poor, and for the sojourner: I am Yahweh your Elohim, Lev 23:22 ASV.*

## Jubilee or Sabbatical?

In speaking of the year of release, Yahshua quoted the first part of Isaiah 61 in proclaiming "the acceptable year of Yahweh," which can relate not only to a Jubilee year, but also a Sabbatical year. Most consider it a Jubilee year that He is referring to, but it may in fact be a Sabbatical.

It is calculated that Yahshua's ministry started during 27-28 CE. We understand from that date that He died



would then have plenty of extra workers not working the fields in those years.

Here are but a few mentioned in *The Star That Astonished The World* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1996), by Dr. Earnest L. Martin:

“Herod commenced his work on the outer parts of the great Temple of [Yahweh] on the Sabbatical Year of 23/22 B.C. This was also the exact year he commenced work on building the new city of Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast. And later Herod’s son Philip started to build Ceasarea Philippi in the Sabbatical Year 2/1 B.C. The city of Tiberias probably had its founding in A.D. 20, which was also the beginning of a Sabbatical Year.”

Our attitude should be like those returning from captivity, desiring to now do things right, and say,

*As for the peoples of the [world] who bring wares or any grain [to us] on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath or a holy day; and we will forego the crops the seventh year and the exaction of every debt, Neh 10:31 NASU.*

## Jubilee Year

As already mentioned, the Jubilee year’s continuous dating is not as readily proven as the Sabbaticals are. However, there are indications a Jubilee year should always follow a Sabbatical year:

*And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof, Is 37:30.*

The pattern of 49 +1=50 is also found in the count to the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) each year. We know that the Jubilees are important and will even be kept in the coming Kingdom:

*This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: If the prince makes a gift from his inheritance to one of his sons, it will also belong to his descendants; it is to be their property by inheritance. If, however, he makes a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, the servant may keep it until the year of freedom (Jubilee); then it will revert to the prince. His inheritance belongs to his sons only; it is theirs. The prince*

*measuring line in his hand. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof. And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: For I, saith Yahweh, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her, Zech 2:1-5.*

It will be as a Jubilee year when land is given back to the tribes of Israel.

It is possible that Yahshua could return on a Jubilee, Sabbatical, Day of Trumpets, or another day altogether, though many scholars look at the Day of Trumpets as being the most probable.

Scripture says no man knows when His return will be, only Yahweh knows:

*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father, Mark 13:32.*

As we look at the condition of world events, we know that there are signs that the end of the age is near. As we see the Sabbatical year approach, just as with all of the Biblical holy days, let us prepare to keep them as we are entrusted and instructed to do.

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**Is it a coincidence or part of a well laid out plan? Pentecost (the Feast of Firstfruits or the Feast of Weeks) is the day after the seventh weekly Sabbath. The Jubilee Year is the year following the seventh Sabbatical Year. Is the number 7 of any great importance? Yes. It is reported that seven is the number which governs every period of Incubation and Gestation, in insects, birds, animals and man. (appendix 10, Companion Bible)**

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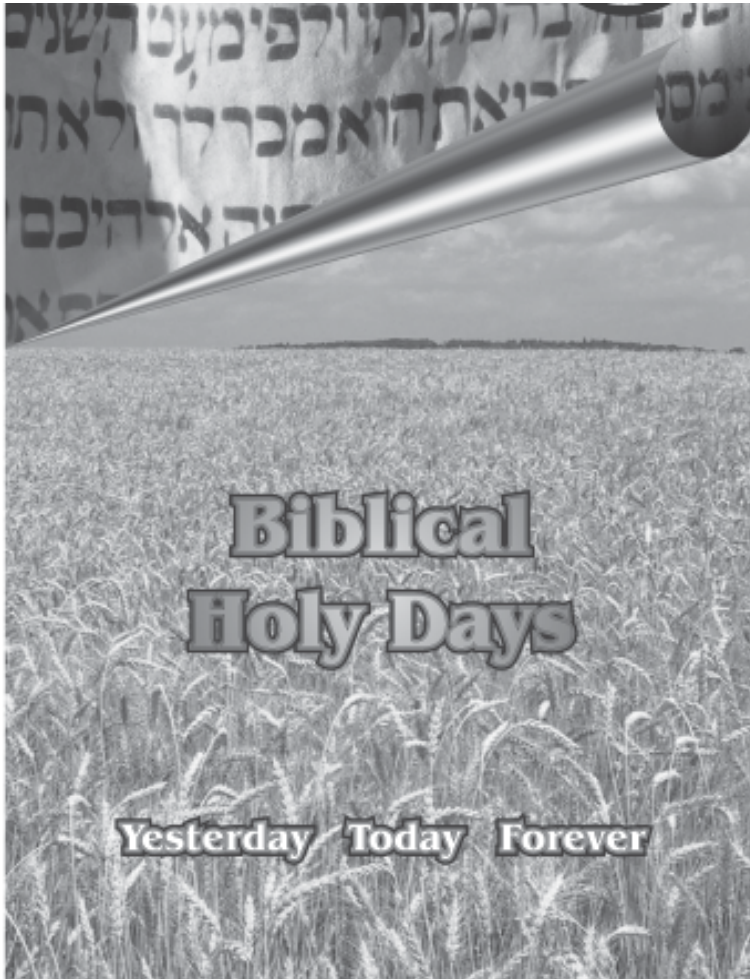
*must not take any of the inheritance of the people, driving them off their property. He is to give his sons their inheritance out of his own property, so that none of my people will be separated from his property, Ezek 46:16-18 NIV.*

It was a time when all land was to revert back to its original family or tribe, but those records seem to be long lost and may not be known until Yahshua’s return. The borders of Jerusalem will be opened, as Zechariah the prophet was shown, to hold all those that belong there in the land.

*I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a*

---

**Elder David Brett**



# Celebrate Yahweh's Feast Days

An ardent student of scriptural study should find out in a short period of time that there are many facts found in the Bible which are totally new and different from secular knowledge. In the pursuits that follow, enjoyment is felt when one learns of the truth that is proclaimed in Yahweh's Word.

These pursuits very likely have led many to the Sacred Names of Yahweh and Yahshua, the correct day that is to be used as the weekly Sabbath, the solemnness of Passover and the prophetic meaning of each of Yahweh's seven annual feasts.

The last four High Days found in the seventh scriptural month of Tishri have yet to be fulfilled. These include the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

All of Yahweh's seven Annual Holy Days are commanded to be observed (the First and Last Days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, the First Day of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day), Lev. 23:4 - 36. By observing all of Yahweh's Annual Holy Days, one gains a personal inner satisfaction that can not be found anywhere else.

## Wrong Days

Most of society observes Lent, Easter, Christmas, and other holidays not found in the Bible. What many may not know

is that there are specific days the Bible commands man to keep (thus being commanded by Yahweh), days that are very important for anyone who desires True Worship. These same people may not realize the significance of these scriptural holy days.

For thousands of years Christianity has been leaving a permanent mark on our world by the days it commemorates. Annually, we witness millions of sincere people observing Lent, Easter sunrise rituals, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and other popular celebrations about which the Bible does not speak, much less command to be observed. Most assume that these days are holy or sanctioned in the Bible because they have celebrated for decades in church, even centuries. In reality, they are not. They stem from man's desire to do their own thing, what they believe is correct.

During the time of the judges in the Old Testament this was very true.

*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes, Judg 17:6.*

*In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes, Judg 21:25.*

Even though these two scriptures appear the same they were for different periods of time. The Israelites of old were commanded not to do things which seemed right in their own eyes.

*These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which Yahweh Elohim of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their idols, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their idols, and destroy the names of them out of that place. Ye shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim. But unto the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein Yahweh thy Elohim hath blessed thee. Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes, Deut 12:1-8*

They were, as we are, to do those things which are right in the eyes of Yahweh.

*When thou shalt hearken to the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of Yahweh thy Elohim, Deut 13:18.*

## Heathen Origins


Then, there are holidays with more obviously heathen origins. Most grade schools indulge in Valentines Day, May Day, and Halloween, teaching profane rituals to impressionable young minds. Many churches have now added these secular days to their calendars and have special activities in celebration of these days.

Millions of churchgoers assume that they are being led down the road

to salvation when they observe these days. Occasionally, a few who seek to learn the truth for themselves look beyond the nominal teachings of their church, and study and search their own Bibles. As a result, they find out that they were taught falsehoods and are surprised by the truths they learn.

Those in churchianity, who are supposedly teaching the righteousness and holiness of Yahweh today, have ignored Yahweh's clear, unmistakable commandments. Instead, they teach smooth things to tickle the ears of their audience. By doing so they make virtually no distinction between what is proper and holy, and what is profane. All too often they teach what the people wish to hear so that the applecart is not upset.

For a copy or printout of the following mini-study go to [www.YAIY.ORG](http://www.YAIY.ORG) or call 1-877-642-4101(toll-free)



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

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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 heavens 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 mowad, 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 mowad 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 mowad.

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*

Most don't care to hear about obedience, but they wholeheartedly agree that if their neighbor would keep the Ten Commandments that this would be a far better world! They admit that the Ten Commandments are important and should be observed by good Christians today. But, when reminded of the commandments concerning the Sabbath and His Name, they argue that the Sabbath is Jewish and the Name is for the Hebrews. That's not what Scripture says.

*All scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, 2 Tim 3:16-17.*

Man can not, and best not, brush off what Yahweh says in the Scriptures in order to make his life seem easier to live.

## Keep the Annual Feasts

The seven annual feasts were not intended only for ancient Israel and, contrary to what many think, they are not exclusively "Jewish." These seven annual observances are "Feasts of Yahweh."

*Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of Yahweh, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies,'" Lev 23:1-2 NIV.*

In the remainder of Lev 23, Yahweh proclaims that these feasts are to be observed as a statute "forever." For example:

*And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your Elohim: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings, Lev 23:14 (Feast of Unleavened Bread).*

*And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations, Lev 23:21 (Pentecost).*

*Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings, Lev 23:31 (Day of Atonement).*

*And ye shall keep it a feast unto Yahweh seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month, Lev 23:41 (Feast of Tabernacles).*

In this list of holy days, the weekly Sabbath, the Feast of Trumpets and the Last Great Day are also included. We have yet to come to the end of "forever!"

## **Sabbath Keeping is Forever**

Unless our worship is in harmony with His Word, the Holy Scriptures, what we do in accordance with man's thinking is an exercise in futility. In Mark 7:7 we are given a warning about those who teach for doctrines the commandments of men.

*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

The phrase "in vain" is the translation of the Greek *maten*, meaning that it serves no purpose.

Paul tells us in Titus 1:14 not to give heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men which can turn one from the truth.

*Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

Yahweh says His Sabbaths (plural, meaning annual as well as weekly) are a sign between Him and His people so that they can know Him as the One Who sanctified Israel (set them apart for a special purpose). This sign of the Sabbath is "forever,"

*Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you, Ex 31:13.*

*Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant, It is a sign between me and the children of Israel*

*for ever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed, Ex 31:16-17.*

Yahweh sanctifies His people today just as He did ancient Israel. In fact, New Testament believers are called "Israel of Yahweh" Galatians 6:16. Israel's example of obedience and disobedience to His laws is for us to learn from, as we have seen.

The same ancient sign of the Sabbaths applies to obedient believers today, who are spiritual Israel. Paul wrote,

*Who are Israelites; to whom pertains the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of Elohim, and the promises, Romans 9:4.*

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Mini-Study



## **Yahweh's Feasts**

What should you do when you learn there are biblical holy days that you should be observing now? How do you know when they should be kept and where do you keep them? These and other important questions are answered here. There are scriptural holy days that the True Worshiper is commanded to keep, rather than the paganistic ones most of the world indulges in today.

Thoughtful people who study their Bible in earnest soon raise the question, should not we also be observing the annual Feast days today in addition to the weekly Sabbath?

Are these days indeed still binding on Yahweh's people in today's modern ages? If we are to observe these times, where do we gather to keep them? What do we do at the Feasts? What time of the year are we to observe them? How long are they?

### **Abraham, Father of the Faithful**

All who have entered into the New Covenant with Yahweh are to have the same attitude of faithful Abraham who did not flinch from doing Yahweh's will, for "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws," Genesis 26:5.

Abraham departed Ur of the Chaldees, the pagan moon-city, journeyed to Palestine and to Bethel, from there to Egypt and back to Bethel. (Some Bible scholars perceive his travels and stop-overs a foreshadowing of the

## **Yahweh Remains the Same**

Yahweh says He does not change, *For I am Yahweh, I change not, Malachi 3:6.*

He is calling an obedient people today just as He did anciently. Yahweh's weekly and annual "refresher courses" have been in existence long before our modern civilization. Yahweh knows man has a tendency to forget his purpose here on earth, and all too often gets deeply absorbed in the things of the world.

Man soon loses sight of why he was born, and neglects why he should be preparing. Concerns of the world eventually consume all human attention when pulled by the many enticing temptations of entertainment, prestige, popularity, materialism, and sinful pleasures.

These proper days are signs He gives us to help us realize that what He did for His people in the past will be done in a similar way for His people in the future. Then we will know Yahweh Who sanctifies His people - sets them apart for a holy purpose. We will come to a full realization that we are chosen, as was ancient Israel, to take hold of a special promise as they were; to have the chance to become grafted into the covenant by the death of Yahshua the Messiah at Passover.

*And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree, Romans 11:17.*

*For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, Ephesians 2:14.*

It must be emphasized, His Sabbath and Feasts are to help us know Who Yahweh is by understanding what He has already done and will yet do. We draw closer to Him by obediently observing the same weekly and annual Sabbaths His beloved Son, Yahshua, observed, along with the patriarchs down through the ages. Only by knowing Him and doing what He

commands will we be chosen for His Kingdom.

## Feasts are Perpetual

Leviticus 23 verses 14, 21, 31, and 41 say Yahweh's Feasts are a "statute forever throughout your generations." Out of all the words translated forever only two carry the Hebrew meaning of forever. In these verses the Hebrew "owlam" (No. 5769 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance) means to the vanishing point, to time out of mind. "Alam" (No. 5957), which corresponds to owlam, means the future and past indefinitely. What does this mean? Simply that the Feasts are not optional. They are perpetual, and a definite and obligatory way of life!

The world in general snubs Yahweh's Holy Days.

*It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the [ a s s e m b l y ], intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.*

*This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover, Acts 12:1-4 NIV.*

Notice that it was the time of Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread that Herod killed James and arrested Peter. About a dozen years prior to this Yahshua was put to death during this holy time of year. Even today we have witnessed that the nation of Israel has been attacked on Yahweh's Holy Days.

Satan truly hates these Holy Days. And why shouldn't he? Yahweh says they are a special sign between Himself and His people FOREVER,

*Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to Yahweh:*

Yahweh's Feast Days were given to ancient Israel, but Scripture proves that special days were kept even back in Gen. 4:3 – 7:

*And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Yahweh. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Yahweh had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And Yahweh said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well,*

*sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

Abel brought the Passover offering to Yahweh, but Cain brought the Tabernacles offering.

The Hebrew "process of time it came to pass" means "at the end of days," and carries the sense of time suddenly coming to a halt as something very important was

about to occur. It was a special time of introspection.

The Companion Bible notes that the time and place were evidently appointed. Thus, the Feasts were observed after Adam was driven from the Garden as the way in which man could return to Yahweh.

The Feasts will be strictly kept again when Yahshua returns and sets up the Kingdom.

*And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith Yahweh. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain*

<see **Celebrate** page 21>

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Scattered throughout the year there are seven annual Feasts grouped into three groups and we are given the directive to attend - no choice. We are obligated to go to the place where Yahweh has placed His Name. How can you afford it, you ask? In His wisdom, Yahweh has made a way for us to compensate for these required Feast observances. It is known as the second tithe. Please read Deut 14:22-26

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*whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed, Ex 31:13 - 17.*

Very few in our society keep the weekly Sabbath, and even fewer observe the annual Sabbaths. Why, then, do we teach that both the weekly and annual Sabbaths must be kept by the people of Yahweh?

# Praise Yahweh!



(Note: All Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)

## Introduction

The entire universe attests to the existence and greatness of the Creator.

*Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power, Romans 1:20.*

The Psalmist affirmed: *The heavens declare the glory of Yahweh; and the firmament shows His handiwork, Ps 19:1.*

In spite of the abundance of infallible evidences, there is a reluctance in man to *Give unto Yahweh the glory due to His name, Ps 29:2.* Mankind has generally neither glorified Him, nor has been thankful, but has allowed their foolish hearts to be darkened, preferring man's explanations of the origins of the planet and of our species than to accept that Yahweh is the Creator, as stated in the Bible. Many who admire the grandeur of the universe cannot acknowledge the grander meticulous hand of the Architect who not only designed it, but who by Himself also brought all these things into being. Such persons are happy to give honour to dignitaries and to celebrate the achievements of outstanding personalities who they hardly know, and who generally do not know them or have had no impact on their lives. Nevertheless, the Sovereign One who created us, knows us by name, provides for us, and in whom *we live and move and have our being*, often gets a token or no recognition.

Many persons are easily elated when witnessing extraordinary feats of fellow mortals, but feel some inhibition to attribute praise to the Creator for the unparalleled and amazing wonders of the universe. How can man shower adulations upon other creatures of clay and pay so little respect to the Potter who made these earthly beings? Or by what process has man deduced that the things created are of more value than the One who created them? It is because *the [ruler] of this age has blinded [those] who do not believe, 2 Cor 4:4.*

Psalm 100 commands all people of the earth to *make a joyful shout to Yahweh (verse 1) and to come before His presence with singing (verse 2), for It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves (verse 3b).* Hundreds of Scriptures admonishing us to praise, bless, extol, magnify, worship, honour and exalt Yahweh, signify the importance that Yahweh attaches to us expressing our adoration of Him and our acknowledgement of who He is.

Let those of us who know that *we are His people and the sheep of His pasture (verse 3c) freely enter into His ... courts with praise (verse 4).* You who see, know, believe in and have experienced the awesome creative power of the only true Elohim must not cease to praise Him, for *from the rising of the sun to its going down Yahweh's name is to be praised, Ps 113:3.*

Do not be like those whom Satan has deceived and are unable to praise Yahweh. Start praising Yahweh and let all that is within you bless His holy Name!

## What is Praise?

Praising Yahweh is to offer recognition, adoration, honour and glory to Him for who He is and for what He has done. The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible identifies seven Hebrew words that are used in the Old Testament and are translated as 'praise' or 'bless'. These are:

1. Yadah (*yaw-daw*), 3034, which is a primary root, and means literally to use or hold out the hand or to revere or worship with extended hands. It suggests a total involvement of one's self in praising.  
*I will praise You, O Yahweh, with my whole heart, Ps 9:1.*
2. Towdah (*to-daw*), 8426. From 3034. An extension of the hand; avowal or usually adoration; a sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving offering.

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name, Ps 100:4.*

3. Halal (haw-lal), 1984; a primary root and means to be clear, to shine, hence to make a show, to boast; thus to rave, celebrate; sing, or to be worthy of praise.

It is from this root that we have the universal word halleluyah (often incorrectly rendered as hallelujah) and literally means praise-u-Yah.

*I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people, Ps 35:18.*

4. Tehillah (teh-hil-law), 8416. From 1984 laudation; specifically a hymn. The occasions where this is used suggest a spontaneous outpouring of praise from the heart.

*He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our Elohim, Ps 40:3.*

5. Barak (baw-rak), 1288. Primary root. To kneel; by implication to bless Yahweh as an act of adoration.

*I will bless Yahweh at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth, Ps 34:1.*

6. Zamar (zaw-mar), 2167. Primary root. To touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, that is, play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music: - give praise, sing forth praises, psalms.

*I will sing and give praise, Ps 57:7b.*

7. Shabach (shaw-bakh), 7623. Primary root; to address in a loud tone; to pacify as if by words, commend, glory.

*Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You, Ps 63:3.*

Combining the meanings of these Hebrew words into a definition, we could say praising Yahweh is a clear, heart-felt, joyful, enthusiastic, expression of celebration or adoration of Yahweh that can engage our whole being in communicating to Him the honour, glory and respect that He deserves. This expression may be through words, music, songs, or the physical outpouring of one's self for example by the use of the hands or in kneeling. It may sometimes involve sacrificing the way we feel, so as to continually exalt Yahweh above our circumstances. It can be, but is not necessarily loud, vigorous and spontaneous, as when David danced before Yahweh on recovering the ark from the Philistines, or it can be a humble acknowledgement of who Yahweh is. Praising Yahweh is not reserved for occasions of communal worship. In fact, praising is a personal, sincere expression of homage to Yahweh, whether or not there are others present.

### Why Praise Him?

Psalm 22:3 says of Yahweh: *You are ...enthroned in the praises of Israel* and in 1Sam 2:30b Yahweh said: *those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.*

There are tremendous personal benefits to be derived by having Yahweh enthroned in our midst and honouring us, but it is not the reason to praise Him. Praising Yahweh is not about the benefits we may experience as a by-product. It is all about Him. We should praise Yahweh not for what we may gain by doing so, but simply because of who He is. Even when your circumstances tell you there is no personal reason to praise Him, He is still worthy of your praise.

Why, then, should Yahweh be praised? It is impossible to give an exhaustive list of all the reasons why Yahweh deserves to be praised. With limited knowledge and expression we cannot begin to explain the virtues of this infinite, unfathomable, incomprehensible, indescribable and infallible Elohim, who has always filled

every atom of the entire universe from the highest heavens to the lowest depths long before time began. In this lifetime we are unlikely to know all the reasons why Yahweh should be praised. For now it is sufficient to praise Him, for the little we know. Here are some basic reasons why we ought to praise Yahweh:

### ***Praise Him for Who He Is***

Over all beings He is Our Elohim, Ps 100:3; Judge, Ps 96:10, 13, King, Ps 47:2; Helper, Ps 121:2; Preserver, Ps 121:7-8; Shepherd, Ps 23:1; Father, Isa 63:16; Deliverer, 2 Sam 22:2; Saviour, Isa 43:3; Healer, Ex 15:26; Cleanser, 1 John 1:7; Baptiser, Mark 1:8, Bread of Life, John 6:35; Sanctifier, Ex 31:13, Comforter, Isa 51:12; Redeemer, Isa 49:7; Rewarder, Heb 11:6 and the Alpha and Omega, Rev 22:13.

### ***Praise Him for His Attributes***

He is Incomparable, 2 Sam 7:22; Inscrutable (wholly mysterious or impenetrable), Isa 40:28; Invisible, 1 Tim 1:17; Unchangeable, Mal 3:6; Unequaled, Isa 40:13-25; Unsearchable, Rom 11:33,34; Infinite, 1 Kings 8:27; Eternal, Isa 57:15; Omnipotent (All-powerful), Jer 32:17,27; Omnipresent (Ever-present), Ps 139:7-12; Omniscient (all-knowing), 1John 3:20; Good, Ps 73:1; Holy, Rev 4:8; Impartial, 1Peter 1:17; Just, Ps 89:14; Long-suffering, Ex 34:6,7; Love, 1 John 4:8,16; Merciful, Lam 3:22,23; Truth, Ps 117:2; All-wise, 1Tim 1:17; Faithful, Rev 19:11; Righteous, Deut 32:4; Perfect, Ps 18:30; Gentle, Matt 11:29; Forgiving, but not clearing the guilty, Num 14:18.

### ***Praise Him for What He has Done and is Doing***

#### ***1) His Creation***

There is nothing in the universe that is not a product of His creation –

*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was mad, John 1:3*

Yahweh, speaking through His prophet Isaiah, said:

Thus says Yahweh, Who created the heavens, Who is Elohim, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am Yahweh, and there is no other," Isa 45:18.

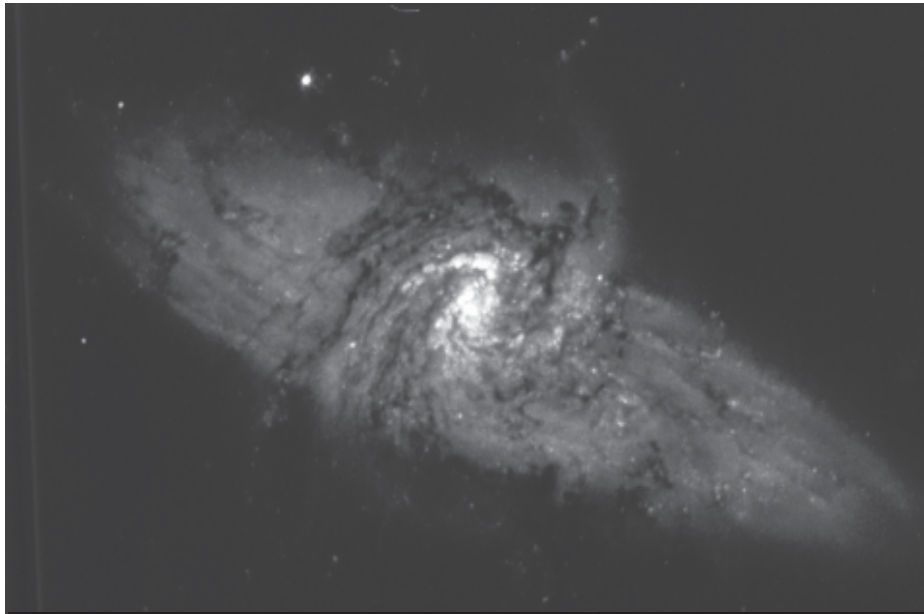
Such awesome wisdom and power that brought everything into being is greatly to be revered. No praise is too high, no honour too noble, no worship too excessive, for He is the Creator. Let all creation give honour to Him.

*Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for He commanded and they were created... Praise Yahweh from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl; Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children. Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for His Name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven, Ps 148:2-5; 7-13.*

Yes, "You are worthy, O Yahweh, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created," Rev 4:11.

## 2) His Salvation Plan

When Adam and Eve disobeyed Yahweh and were driven out of the garden, neither they nor Satan had derailed Yahweh's plan. Yahweh knew before the foundation of the world



Part of Yahweh's creation taken using the Hubble telescope

exactly what the first couple would have done, and had a plan in place for the redemption of mankind through His Son Yahshua. Peter tells us in 1Pet 1:20 that Yahshua

*was foreordained [for this purpose] before the foundation of the world.*

Therefore, at the correct time in Yahweh's timetable, He sent His Son to die in our place.

*Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, John 3:16.*

This was an essential part of Yahweh's plan

*that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in the Messiah, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him, Eph 1:9-10.*

The Son of Yahweh became a son of man so that sons of men can become sons of Yahweh. In this life the transformation will begin for those who believe in and are disciples of Yahshua. But that is not all.

*Beloved, now we are children of Yahweh; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is, 1John 3:2.*

We shall be changed and our inheritance will far exceed anything we could imagine.

*As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which Yahweh has prepared for those who love Him," 1Cor 2:9.*

We do not have to wait until we meet Yahshua to join the countless throng in saying:

*Halleluyah!*

*For Yahweh Elohim Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, Rev 19:6b-7a.*

When we consider the privilege Yahweh has given to us, mere mortals, by investing such a *treasure in earthen vessels in whom* He can manifest the excellent greatness of His power (2 Cor 4:7), how can we fail to burst forth in rapturous praise and thanksgiving to Him? What is more, Yahweh, the Everlasting Elohim, Omnipotent Creator and Sovereign is coming to a new earth to tabernacle with us!

*He will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things [will] have passed away, Rev 21:4. Read also Rev 21:1-3.*

With this assurance how can you ever lack exuberance in praising Yahweh? Praise Yahweh for His great and marvellous plan to redeem fallen man. Praise Him for the matchless love He has bestowed upon you, a sinner condemned to die. Praise Him that He chose to open your blinded eyes and to lead you into His paths of righteousness. Praise Him, for eternal life is within your grasp and if you are true and faithful will become a reality for YOU! Halleluyah!

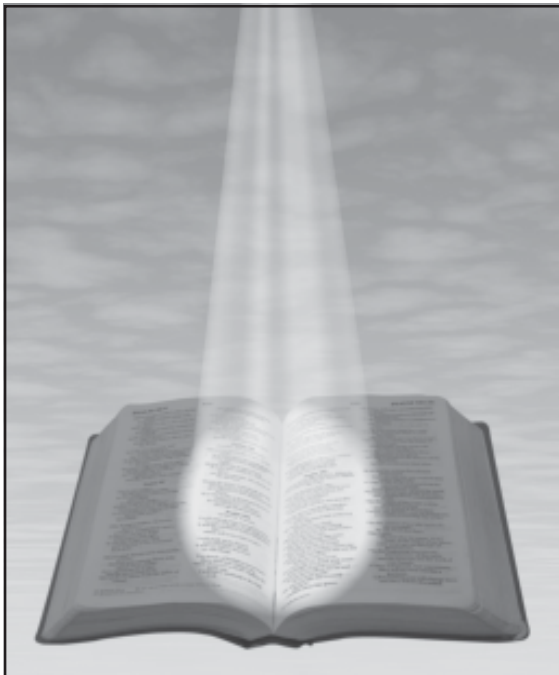


## ***Praise Him for His Word***

Since creation Yahweh's word has been powerful. Through His word light shone to dispel darkness, the sky was made, the waters and the land were separated, the earth produced vegetation, the sun, moon and stars were formed to give light, separate day and night and to mark the seasons, the sea brought forth fish, the earth living creatures, and birds were created. (Gen 1:1-25).

The prophets of old spoke the authoritative word of Yahweh and through it performed great deeds and declared Yahweh's prophecies and promises that have/will come to pass.

Not one thing has failed of all the good things which Yahweh your Elohim spoke concerning you. All have



Yahweh's Word shines to enlighten the world

come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed, Josh 23:14.

*As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it, Isa 55:10.*

The word of Yahweh is described as Pure, Ps19:8; Restraining, Ps119:11; Perfect, Ps 19:7; Sure, Ps 111:7,8; Truth, Ps 119:160; Right, Ps 33:4; Enduring, 1 Pet 1:25; Effectual, Isa 55:11; Sanctifying, Eph 5:26; Inspired, 2 Pet 1:21; Living and Penetrating, Heb 4:12.

It is compared to a lamp or light, Ps 119:105; fire, Jer 5:14; hammer, Jer 23:29; seed, Luke 8:11; sword, Eph 6:17; and a rock or firm foundation, Matt 7:24.

The word can Heal, Ps 107:20; make Free, John 8:32; Illuminate, Ps 119:130; bear Witness, John 20:31; produce Faith, Rom 10:17; and make Wise, 2 Tim 3:15-17.

Yahshua, the Word of Yahweh, *became flesh and dwelt among us,* John 1:14.

Yahshua demonstrated the power of the word in transforming lives, triumphing over all opposition, including Satan, raising the dead, healing the sick, calming storms, and making significant prophecies, most notable of which is the Book of Revelation.

*Yahweh, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds,* Heb 1:1-2.

Through the pure, undiluted and authentic word of Yahweh, lives have been and are being transformed,

hope replacing despair, knowledge ignorance and light darkness.

Our best expression of praise to Yahweh for His word is to live by it. Practise what it says, and in so doing, glorify Yahweh who condescended to reveal His truths to us. Praise Yahweh for the written word, including His prophecies and promises. Praise Him for His Word that became flesh, and which, today, is still being made flesh in transformed lives. Halleluyah!

## ***Other reasons to praise Him***

- He is worthy to be praised, Ps 18:3;
- We are commanded to worship Him: *you shall worship Yahweh your Elohim, and Him only you shall serve.* Matt 4:10. Our love of Yahweh is demonstrated by our obedience to His word. Yahshua said, *"If you love Me, keep {NU-Text reads you will keep.} My commandments."* John 14:15. If we say we love Yahweh, yet fail to do what He says, we are displeasing Him and His truth is not in us. The Scriptures are filled with many commands to praise, bless, worship and exalt Yahweh. Praising Yahweh is not an optional extra.
- We are totally dependent upon Him. As Yahshua said, *"without Me you can do nothing."* John 15:5
- He is far higher than man and says of Himself *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts,* Isa 55:8-9.

He is truly unique.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are El,* Ps 90:2.

Only Yahweh has this prestigious and unrivalled position. That alone demands the highest esteem.

The most vocal atheists cannot humble Him. Doubting agnostics cannot diminish Him. Attitudes of defiance cannot shake Him. Brilliant thinkers cannot categorise Him. Sophisticated technology cannot reach Him. Nature obeys His commands. At His voice death recoils and gives up its captives. He is far above all principalities and powers in the heavens or on the earth. He existed before man without man's approval and

does not need man's recognition in order to continue to be. He is supreme over all - those who acknowledge Him and those who do not. Like gravity, His awesome power prevails whether or not you believe in it.

He is the quintessence of the highest and best qualities. He is the unattainable level to which neither finite man nor immortal angels can rise. He has been and will always be without equal or rival and is worthy of our praise,

*For You, Yahweh, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all [the mighty ones], Ps 97:9.*

## When to Praise

There is never a wrong time to praise Yahweh. While we have breath and have our mental faculties we should praise Him.

*I will sing to Yahweh as long as I live; I will sing praise to my El while I have my being, Ps 104:33.*

*From the rising of the sun to its going down Yahweh's name is to be praised, Ps 113:3.*

*I will bless Yahweh at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth, Ps 34:1b.*

David said in Psalm 35:28 *my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long.* In Psalm 119:164 the Psalmist said: *Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments.* In verse 62, he states *"at midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments."*

Praising Yahweh should be part of our daily experience and expression. It should be the prelude and epilogue of all our prayers. It should be the spontaneous overflow of our hearts that are constantly filled with adoration and appreciation of Yahweh, and the product of our minds that are continually focused upon Him. Anytime and every time, anywhere and everywhere, for as long we live, our lives, lips and hearts should never cease to praise Him.

## Sacrifice of Praise

Praising Yahweh continually means we do not pick and choose the times to praise Him. We ought to praise Yahweh whether or not we feel like doing so, whether we are up or are down, stressed or relaxed, and whether it is convenient or inconvenient; for praising Him ought not to be dependent upon the state of our feelings. Feelings may vary from moment to moment, but Yahweh never changes. He will always be the Everlasting, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Merciful Creator, Sovereign, and Father who is always worthy to be praised.

*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to Yahweh, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name, Heb 13:15.*

You may ask, "Is it normal to ignore or escape the reality of life and appear happy in the midst of intense gloom, pain or excessive stress?" No, it is not normal and it is often impossible to lift yourself when overburdened with pressures. Praising Yahweh is not about putting on 'a happy face' as a well-known song suggests. What is being recommended here is not to pretend that the present does not exist, and to float along on an imagined cloud of ecstasy, but rather to be vigilant that absolutely nothing is allowed to dethrone Yahweh from the rightful place in your heart, and to take remedial action when your circumstances are the dominant factor in your life instead of Yahweh. Sacrificial praise goes beyond praising Yahweh because of your blessing. On the contrary, when you may find it difficult to "count your blessings" or you are overwhelmed, then sacrificial praise is the only praise you can give. Because praising is not about you but Yahweh; sacrificial praise is not masochistic. It is not about praising Yahweh for your suffering, but rather in spite of what you are experiencing.

Like Paul, we must be always able to assert that nothing and no one *"shall separate us from the love of the Messiah, Rom 8:35a.* While in prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to Yahweh. The securest prison walls

could not restrict them. Soldiers could not hinder them. Their bodies were shackled but their lips and their minds were free. They did not pray for deliverance. Instead they sang and praised Yahweh. Yahweh turned up.

*Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed, Acts 16:26.*

That is the power of sacrificial praise. The chains fell from Paul and Silas as well as from all the prisoners. You do not know the deliverance that can occur in your life and that of others when you become immersed in praising Yahweh in spite of what you are going through. Divine power comes when our praises are Yahweh-centred and not self-centered, giving praise to the Giver and not because of the expectation of His gifts.

Every one of life's problems provides an opportunity to demonstrate who or what is your first love. The thing by which you are most absorbed, indicates your priority. By placing too great an emphasis on the occurrences of this life, you can easily displace Yahweh from His rightful prime position in your heart. The greater the distraction, the more intense is the effort required to restore Yahweh to the exalted place in your life. Praising Yahweh then with all your heart and mind, and in defiance of your circumstances, is a guaranteed method of readjusting the balance. In the end, it pays real dividends as you become engrossed in Him and not your own challenging situation.

When adverse changes come your way, it is the right time to fix your attention upon Yahweh, who is unchanging, and to worship Him. When you are not in control and everything seems to be falling apart, turn to Him and become absorbed in the only One who is always in total control and cannot fail. Quote or compose psalms of praise and thanksgiving, sing songs of praise and worship Him with all your heart. There is no better way to oppose Satan than to give praise to Yahweh when the time

seems wrong. There is no nobler sacrifice you can give to Yahweh than the sacrifice of your heavy heart in praising Him. There is no more superior technique to overcome the hindrances you face than to defiantly bring your whole being to concentrate on the majesty, supremacy and greatness of Yahweh at seemingly inappropriate times. There is no more uplifting pastime than praising Yahweh, so get into the praising habit starting from now. Such a practice is more noteworthy than merely praying although it can lead to prayer, for the motivation is not to ask anything of Yahweh but to *give unto [Yahweh] the glory due to His name and to worship [Yahweh] in the beauty of holiness*, Ps 29:2. In Acts 20:35b we are told: *It is more blessed to give than to receive*, so start to practice the more blessed thing and freely give to Yahweh the praise and honour that belong to Him.

Accept this challenge the next time you are overwhelmed, low, troubled, perplexed, tempted or angry. Find a quiet place if you can and simply open up your heart, mind and lips unhurriedly and whole heartedly in adoration of and praise to Yahweh, who was, is and shall ever be. Tell Him of His excellent greatness – the wonders He has done in the earth, sea and sky. Explore His wonderful deeds of the past and the glory that He has awaiting us. Thank Him that although He is Almighty, He sees each sparrow's fall and hears the cry of the feeblest heart. Thank Him for His incomparable love that caused Him to send Yahshua to die in your place. Thank Yahshua for the unique sacrifice He made by dying for you that you might be forgiven and inherit eternal life. Thank Him that He will never leave you nor forsake you. Use your own words. Let it be personal from your overflowing heart to Yahweh with love. The heavier your burden the more incessant must be your praise. Let no demon of depression or defeat take up residence within you. Their purpose is to separate you from Yahweh. Become absorbed not with them but with Yahweh. When you are

able to do this, it will then be possible for you to rise to the next level of being able to say with conviction that *He who is in [me] is greater than he who is in the world*, 1 John 4:4.

With such strong faith in Yahweh, no demon will conquer you, no force can overpower you, no problem can defeat you, for you will know beyond any doubt that you *can do all things through the Messiah who strengthens [you]*, Philp 4:13. You will discover that when you give to Him the sacrifice of praise, the Holy fire of His presence consumes your offering and even your self-centeredness, sending a sweet aroma heavenwards and leaving you with a refreshing fragrance of His presence. You may then wonder in amazement how the burden you were carrying was quietly replaced with the peace and joy of Yahweh. However, always remember that the blessings are the by-product and not the reason to praise.

It requires maturity to be more willing to give rather than to receive. Babies receive much but do not deliberately give anything. If you want to grow, how about shortening the shopping list you so quickly give to Yahweh and instead give to Him a 'reason-to-praise-You' list. Instead of 'Help me Father' flowing so readily from your lips, how about saying more often with all of your heart:

*You are worthy, O Yahweh, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created*, Rev 4:11.

Alternatively, *Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and You are exalted as head over all*, 1Chron 29:11.

Is this not in essence what Yahshua taught His disciples? His prayer began by giving honour to Yahweh:

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your*

*will be done on earth as it is in heaven*, Matt 6:9-10.

Yahshua was teaching His disciples the lesson we all need to practice, which is:

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name*, Ps 100:4.

After this introduction, He then made the requests but ended as He had begun in praise to Yahweh:

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever halleluyah!* Matt 6:13b.

Yahshua's model 'prayer' was thus mainly in honour and praise to the Father, with a smaller segment for personal petitions. Is this how you pray? Let your praises exceed your requests and be much more than lip service. Let it cost you something by giving priority to Yahweh before your pressing needs.

When praise is the prelude of prayer it enhances your faith and prepares you to believe Yahweh.

*He who comes to [ask anything of] Yahweh must [first] believe that He is*, Heb 11:6.

That is the first step in approaching Yahweh. We may think we know that He exists, but we need ever so often to reaffirm our faith in Him, especially when the road is dark, we feel alone and cannot see or hear Him. Before you ask anything of Yahweh remind yourself and tell Him of who He is.

*Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting*, Ps 93:2.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are El*, Ps 90:2.

*No one is holy like Yahweh, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our Elohim*, 1Sam 2:2.

When we first remind ourselves of these things we build up our faith in Him and we are then able to have the faith that *He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*, Heb 11:6b. The expression 'diligently seek Him' is referring to more than seeking Him with our petitions.

*When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Yahweh, I will seek," Ps 27:8.*

You and your self-interest must decrease and Yahweh and Yahshua must increase.

The ability to praise Yahweh at all times is the greatest instant source of strength we can find. No wonder we are told in Neh 8:10c *"the joy of the Yahweh is your strength."*

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, used the praising technique in 2 Chron 20. He was confronted with armies far more powerful than anything he could muster. At first he was fearful, but

*When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to Yahweh, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise Yahweh, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, Yahweh set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (Verses 21-22).*

When Jehoshaphat praised Yahweh, Yahweh came on the scene and routed the opposing armies. What Yahweh did for Jehoshaphat, Paul and Silas and countless others He will also do for you today. Offer your sacrifice of praise when your heart is heavy. In spite of your problems, praise Him anyway. Do not let your mountain of difficulties be the obstacle between you and Yahweh. Knock it down with a tornado of praise. No problem must be allowed to interrupt your connection with Yahweh. When you cease to praise Him, you do not see Him, but only the overpowering problem that towers before you. Defeat it by getting back to where you belong – in the presence of Yahweh.

## How to Praise Him

Yahshua's whole life was in praise of Yahweh. Our praise must not be merely of our lips, hands and musical instruments, but of our hearts, deeds and lives. Marilyn Baker sings 'everything that I do may it glorify you.' Our whole life must be an expression

of praise to Yahweh. This is the extent of our praise.

Since praise is the demonstration of our love to Yahweh, there can be no set way of expressing that love. We are commanded to *love Yahweh (our) Elohim with all (our) heart, with all (our) soul, and with all your strength,* Deut 6:5. David chose to express his love to Yahweh more extravagantly than any other person in the Bible. Yahweh did not condemn him for this.

*Then David danced before Yahweh with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod,* 2 Sam 6:14.

When Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before Yahweh, she despised him in her heart. When he returned to his house, she met David, and said,

*How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself! (verse 20)*

So David said to Michal,

*It was before Yahweh, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of Yahweh, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before Yahweh. And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight, verses 21-22a.*

It was not David who was punished for his unique and exuberant way of praising Yahweh, but Michal who despised him for his enthusiastic and unreserved outburst of praise. David said in Ps 103:1,

*Bless Yahweh, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!*

David was keen to put everything into his praise of Yahweh. Are you?

In praising Yahweh, nothing but our best will do. But praising Him is not a competition. Your best may seem negligible when compared with the expression of someone else. Yahweh sees the heart and it is He who decides what is acceptable and pleasing to Him, and what is not. Someone on their sick-bed lacking physical and/or mental energy cannot praise Yahweh with the gusto of a fit person, yet their

feeble expression of praise may be more precious to Yahweh than the extravagant praises of someone seeking only to impress others. Yahshua took note of the poor widow who out of her poverty put in all that she had into the treasury. He will also take note when in praising Him you give to Him your all, even if you may think that when compared to others your praise is feeble.

When we lose sight of the individual nature of praise even in communal worship, we have missed what Yahweh seeks. The command to love Yahweh with our heart, soul and strength is personal. So, too, is that expression of love.

Use every mode of expression you have and every aid you can find to assist you in giving praise to Yahweh. If you are not readily motivated to praise Yahweh, revisit the list of reasons given in this article under the heading "Why Praise Him?". Expand that list in your Bible study and print out a fuller "Reason-to-praise-Yahweh" list. Have it before you when next you want to praise Yahweh. It is not enough to keep on saying to Yahweh "Praise You" or "Halleluyah," although these words are invaluable in praising. Praise Him with your understanding. Tell Him why you are praising Him. As you think of all that Yahweh is, has done and has said, let your rivers of praise flow incessantly from an overflowing appreciative heart into Yahweh's infinite ocean of love.

When the praises that stirred within the heart of Charles Wesley were greater than his lips could express, he exclaimed, *"O for a thousand tongues to sing my Great Redeemer's praise!"* Just like an overflowing river that cannot fully empty itself, so you will experience an inadequacy to exhaust all the praises that well up within you when you are overfilled with adoration of Yahweh.

The Bible shows us how we can extend our ability to praise Yahweh by a variety of outlets, methods and aids. It advocates the use of instruments, dancing, clapping, singing and a joyful noise in praising Him. If Yahweh really means everything to you, you must use

all that you are and have, to praise Him. Use your voice, hands, musical instruments and your strength, holding back nothing.

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! (Ps 150:3)*

*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! (Ps 150:4)*

*Make a joyful shout to Elohim, all the earth! (Ps 66:1)*

*Sing aloud to Elohim our strength; make a joyful shout to the Elohim of Jacob, Ps 81:1.*

*Make a joyful shout to Yahweh, all your lands! (Ps 100: 1)*

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! (Ps 47:1)*

## Conclusion

It is only in giving to Yahweh that we truly acknowledge His goodness and sovereignty as we are commanded.

*Oh, give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of Yahweh say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, Psalm 107:1-2.*

What bliss we often forfeit by our preoccupation with ourselves and not with our Creator! May you earnestly desire and strive in spite of whatever you feel or may be going through, to demote yourself and enthrone Yahweh instead. Freely, regularly, spontaneously, as well as deliberately, communicate to Him in your own words or even with borrowed words your heartfelt adoration.

There is no situation you can ever face that is more important than to give honour to Yahweh. There is no time that is inappropriate, no heartache so severe, no stress so encompassing, no activity so enthralling or rewarding, that you cannot praise Him. When you rob Yahweh of praise you are robbing yourself of His presence. Praise Him! He is only "a praise" away.

There is no shortage of reasons to praise Yahweh. Praise Him for who He is. Praise Him for His attributes. Praise Him for what He has done in Creation. Praise Him for His plan of

salvation and for the prospects of spending eternity with Him. Praise Him for what He has said in His word, including His prophecies and promises that will all come true. We are not truly honouring Yahweh if we fail to praise Him as He commands us. Let us praise Yahweh!

*You who fear Yahweh, praise Him! (Ps 22:23)*

*Praise Yahweh! Praise the name of Yahweh; Praise Him, O you servants of Yahweh! (Ps 135:1)*

*Praise Yahweh, for Yahweh is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant, Ps 135:3.*

*Praise Yahweh! Praise El in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise Yahweh. Praise Yahweh! (Ps 150: 1-6)*

Start the praising habit today! Praise Him with your whole being.

*Oh, magnify Yahweh with me, and let us exalt His name together, Ps 34:3.*

*Blessing and honor and glory and power be to [You] who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! (Rev 5:13b)*

HALLELUYAH!

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**Elder Buel Hallpike**

### <Celebrate from page 13>

*before me, saith Yahweh, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith Yahweh, Isa 66:21-23.*

Why should they be set aside now? Obviously, they shouldn't and they were not intended to be!

The blessings and deeper faith we gain by keeping the Feasts extends

beyond today. In the Kingdom we can share, as priests and firstfruits, our experiences with Moses and the Israelites; with Paul and the other Apostles; with Yahshua Himself; and with those we will have the responsibility to teach.

Time thus spent now is truly a fellowship for all time. What other activity carries such significant fellowship with Yahweh and His people throughout all ages? The question on a sincere believer's mind, a person who desires above all else to be in that first resurrection, is not "Shall I go to the Feast?" The question is "Where will the Feast be held?" Yahweh's command is there: "Three times in a year you SHALL appear before Me." We are thus commanded to appear before Yahweh three times every year – during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and during the Feast of Tabernacles. When we remain faithful to what Yahweh tells us, He promises blessings.

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Elohim, Deut 28:2.*

In verses 3 – 14 of Deut 28, the blessings are listed for those who obey Yahweh's word. Read them. The remaining verses of Deut 28 (verses 15-68) speak of the curses upon those who choose not to obey Yahweh. Make the right choice – choose to obey Yahweh.

*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love Yahweh thy Elohim, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which Yahweh sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them, Deut 30:19-31.*

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**Elder Roger G. Meyer**

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