

What Does A Covenant Keeping God Have To Do With A Covenant Breaking People?

An Excerpt

Part One:

Traditions of Men

Tabernacles 2010 Edition

Leviticus 19

AND THE LORD spake unto Moses, saying:

² Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy.

³ Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I *am* the LORD your God.

. . . .

³⁰ Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.

. . . .

³⁷ Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I *am* the LORD.

The Times and the Laws Changed – The Annual Feasts and Sabbath Days

At the very seat of the controversy between our God and Satan, who was once Lucifer, is the particular issue of worship! God rightfully claims the worship of His created and redeemed beings! Satan has made the blasphemous claim that he will be just like the most High [Isaiah 14:13-14]! Satan covets the worship which rightfully belongs solely to the Creator. Therefore Satan exacts his claims upon men; that they will worship him.

Satan, who would be 'like the most High', extorts the worship of men using the powers of guile, fear and force.

⁴ And they worshipped the dragon [who is Satan, Revelations 12:9] which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the

beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, saving he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelations 13:4, 8, 15-17

Those, whose desire it is to follow God, ought to clearly understand this dispute, and the essential requirement of worship and its importance in the role of God's salvation. Therefore let us find our understanding in the Word of God.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and

with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁶ I *am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the house of bondage. ⁷ Thou shalt have none other gods before me. ⁸ Thou shalt not make thee *any* graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters beneath the earth: ⁹ Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a

⁵ And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD God; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I *am* the LORD your God; ⁶ In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which *is* the glory of all lands: ⁷ Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me, ¹⁰ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. ¹¹ Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Deuteronomy 5:6-11

¹⁰ Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. ¹¹ And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them. ¹² Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I *am* the Lord that sanctify them. ¹⁹ I *am* the LORD your God walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; ²⁰ And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

Ezekiel 20:5-7; 10-12; 19-20

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, ⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and

give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 14:6-7

The above verses taken from the holy Scriptures provide us with a guide with which we can begin to understand how to worship the Lord our God. We are to worship only our God who is the Creator, and none other! We are to worship Him who set us free from bondage! We are to, "...worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." We are to worship the Lord God as the Creator!

Not only are the Sabbaths of the Lord God a memorial of His creative work; but they are also a memorial of God bringing His people up out of Pharaoh's bondage. We are to ever remember Him who delivered us out of the iron furnace of Egypt; and ever remember His work of creation: He is our maker!

The Sabbaths of God [Leviticus 23:1-44] are a sign/seal between the Creator and His people, that He is their God. All of God's Sabbaths are a special part of the seal of the living God that will be sealed in the foreheads of the faithful believers!

In his heart, Lucifer said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation [môw'êd - feasts]... I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12-14. If the Sabbaths of God are the assurance, the seal, and the sign between God and His people that He is their God. What might you suppose would be the mark of the beast – what is Satan's sign upon his followers?

Does it not logically follow that the keeping of Satan's feasts [Christmas, Easter, Halloween, St. Valentine's Day.] is, in like manner, Satan's identifying mark [seal] upon his followers?

If it is so, then, Christmas, New Year's Day, Saint Valentine's Day, Easter, April Fool's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Halloween, the venerable day of the Sun even Sunday, and all the other days of pagan origin that the world revels in are the seal of Satan upon his children. Did not Lucifer say, 'I will be like the most High'? As the Lord God seals His children through His Sabbaths; then, so must Satan also have a peculiar marking to distinguish his followers; that He may be like the most High?

Let us understand, most clearly, that not only did God ordain the seventh-day Sabbath of rest holy, but He also ordained the yearly and seasonal holy convocations or Sabbaths of rest! These additional seven Sabbaths of rest are: 1 - Passover and the First Sabbath of Unleavened Bread; 2 - Last Sabbath of Unleavened Bread; 3 - Pentecost or Feast of Weeks [fifty days after Passover]; 4 - Feast of Trumpets; 5 - Day of Atonement; 6 - First Sabbath of the Feast of Tabernacles; and, 7 - Last Sabbath of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Note that the Passover which is celebrated at the close of the fourteenth day at sunset, and the first Sabbath of Unleavened Bread which commences at the very beginning of the fifteenth day are not counted as two separate Sabbaths.

Deuteronomy 16:16 clearly states, "Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty." Are these holy convocations, and Sabbaths still to be observed? Does God expect us to keep them even yet today? How does the Old Testament instruct us? See also Exodus 23:14-17.

Of the Passover the Lord said:

- ²⁴ And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.
- ²⁵ And it shall come to pass
- when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this

service. ²⁶ And it shall come to pass when your children say unto you What mean ye by this service? ²⁷ That ye shall say, It *is* the sacrifice of the LORD's pass over, who passed over the houses of the

children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the People bowed the head and worshipped.

Exodus 12:24-27

The memory of how Yahuah [IAUA] wrought for His people, liberating them from Pharaoh's heavy servitude and hard bondage in the land of Egypt, and all His wonderful works is never to fade, nor diminish from our memories. This memory of His deliverance is to remain always vividly before our eyes.

Ask yourselves, Have we, no longer, any need of the Lord's great deliverance? Have we no further need of the cleansing and pardoning blood of Christ? Is there not yet a final deliverance still to be fulfilled? Indeed, we shall finally be delivered from bondage to all sin, and the bondage of death! We are, yet, to become perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect - even before our God comes to deliver us! Matthew 5:48; Genesis 17:1. We must keep strong faith in His deliverance!

Of the Feast of Weeks [Pentecost] the Lord God said to Moses in Leviticus 23:21, "And ye shall proclaim on the self-same 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."

The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost was and is a memorial of the giving of the law of God from mount Sinai; and it also commemorates the out pouring of Yahuah's Holy Spirit on the disciples in the upper room.

Two, yet to occur, future fulfillments of Pentecost will be: One, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit [latter rain] on the 144,000 to accomplish, with great power, Yahuah's last three angels' message and gracious offer of peace, pardon, and salvation to a dying world. Second, God's law shall be proclaimed

from mount Zion. As those who stood at mount Sinai were not left ignorant, no one will be ignorant of the requirements of our God. See Isaiah 2:3, and Micah 4:2. "...For the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Of the Feast of Tabernacles, in chapter fourteen of Zechariah, we read an end-time prophecy. Which prophecy clearly foretells the Lord's third coming - remember, at the Lord's second coming He does not touch down, but remains in the air. The import of this fall feast is made explicitly clear; and there is clearly, yet, a future fulfillment to take place.

⁴ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. ⁵ And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains: for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, *and* all the saints with thee. ⁶ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the light shall not be clear, *nor* dark: ⁷ But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall

come to pass, *that* at evening time it shall be light. ⁸ And it shall be in that day, *that* living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. ⁹ And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt go not

up, and come not, that *have* no *rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD-will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of

Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:4-9, 16-19

Many who read the above Scriptures will have no problem recognizing these verses refer to apocalyptic prophecy. These verses speak of a future time when all the inhabitants of the earth shall observe to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Let us put forth this question: God has commanded us in Leviticus 23:41 [“And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.”] to keep the Feast of Tabernacles here on the earth. And since we can verily see in Zechariah’s writings that the Feast of Tabernacles will continue to be kept on the earth made new: then, for what possible reason would we cease to presently observe the Feast of Tabernacles now?

This grievous deception can be nothing more than the be-guiling of God’s people by the enemy of our souls, Satan! Those who are found faithful will once more tabernacle with God! This is a surety found in Revelations 21:3.

So, how does the New Testament speak to us and instruct us of, and about the annual Sabbaths and holy convocations which God ordained in the Old Testament writings of the law and the prophets?

Colossians 2:16-18 proclaims a warning to all those who follow Yashua Mashiyach [Jesus Christ] in spirit and in truth.

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sab-

bath *days*. ¹⁷ Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

Colossians 2:16-17

In verse seventeen [Colossians 2:17] where we read “...but the body *‘is’* of Christ.”, the word *‘is’* has been added by the translators of the text – that is why we see it in italics. Consider that if the added word *‘is’* was not originally meant to be used, then the text would be saying – ‘Do not let unbelievers judge you, but let the believers in the church [the body of Christ] judge you.’

In verses sixteen through eighteen consider that the essence of the thought might be more easily understood if expressed in the following manner. ¹⁶ Let no pagan unbeliever judge you regarding or concerning your keeping of God’s holy convocations, feasts, and Sabbath days; ... ¹⁷ but let your judgment be by the congregation and members of the true church, the body of Christ, who do believe; and worship in spirit and in truth. ¹⁸ Do not allow yourself to be deceived or confused by unbelievers and their unholy worship, that you voluntarily give up or lose your reward which is found in worshiping the true and living God... - do not acquiesce; give into; consent; agree; submit; or comply with them to join in their unholy worship whereby you voluntarily give up your reward found in Christ....’

Here, as a point of critical import, and essential need for understanding, let us examine Colossians 2:14: the “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was **against us**, which was **contrary to us**, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross [stake].” The reader must realize that, that which is blotted out was something that was against us and contrary to us.

To avoid any misconception and all controversy, we need to know exactly what was, and is nailed to the ‘cross’. That which is nailed to the stake is the **curses of the covenant**, and ultimately the penalty of our sin – **death, the second death!** “For the wages of sin *is* death....” Romans 6:23. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27. The death that is referred to in Romans 6:23 is the second death – eternal death! Those who will by faith

accept the atonement made by the Saviour's sacrifice are set free from the second death.

The **curses** and **second death** were nailed to the cross: that is what was/is contrary to us and against us. It is not God's laws, ordinances, statutes, precepts, and counsels for these things are for our good! "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelations 2:11; 20:6; 20:14. The annual feasts of our God are just as much a part of His moral law, as is the seventh day Sabbath a part of His moral law.

There is a commonly heard proverb that speaks of the carelessness and foolishness of throwing out the baby with the dirty bathwater. To discard the feast days that God has commanded along with the 'ceremonial law' is tantamount to tossing out the Saviour and His salvation along with the ceremonial law. It is the carelessness and/or foolishness of those who desire not to obey the voice of their Creator. Is it anything less than rebellion against God?

The Sabbaths of God, the holy convocations of God, and the annual feasts of our God were never against us, nor are they now against us or contrary to us in any manner whatsoever. The Sabbaths of God, His holy convocations, and the feasts of our Lord **were** and **are** for our benefit. They all direct the seeker of truth to Christ; and they teach God's plan of redemption and salvation to generations of people who have fallen into sin through Adam's original sin.

One must ask, 'Have we no further need of the Christ since or after He sacrificed His life as an atonement for us at the stake on the hill of Golgotha - if this should be so who, then, is presently interceding for us in the most holy place of the temple of God in heaven?' Is our salvation an accomplished fact, a done deal, as it were - 'once saved, always saved'? The Scriptures teach no such erroneous doctrine as 'once saved, always saved!'

The truth is: We, even now, have the greatest necessity of our Saviour and High Priest, and the salvation of our God!

The Sabbaths, the holy convocations, and the feasts of our God were designed by our God to give us hope, peace, and the consolation of His great Salvation!. They are most absolutely for our good. The Sabbaths of God, the holy convocations of our God, and His annual feasts were neither taken out of the way, nor nailed to the “cross” [the stake upon which Christ was sacrificed to make atonement for us].

Let us look at some additional New Testament writings. We know that Y’shua Mashiyach [Jesus Christ] kept the feast while He was still alive on this earth. In Luke 2:40-52 we read of the young Christ keeping what would have been His first Feast of Passover at the age of twelve years with His parents in Jerusalem.

In Matthew chapter twenty-six we read of the last Feast of Passover that Christ celebrated on the earth. Listen to the voice of Yashua instructing His disciples; and all who have ears to hear: “Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover** at thy house with my disciples.” The Christ kept the Passover!

Whereof the physician Luke recorded these words spoken by the Saviour at the last supper: “With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, **until it [Passover] be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**” Luke 22:15-16. Clearly, the fulfillment of the Passover has a yet future date in the kingdom of God. Those who argue that the feasts of God have met their fulfillment in the death and sacrifice of the Mashiyach [Christ] when He was murdered on the stake are obviously in some considerable error!

Paul speaks of keeping the Passover with sincerity, and truth – might this truly be ‘worshiping in spirit and in truth’?

⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?
⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸ There-

fore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity [purity, as a beam of sunshine] and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

According to Luke's testimony the miraculous account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at Pentecost is, the original, foremost, and earliest example of the apostles continued observance of the feast days after the death and resurrection of Y'shua Mashiyach, the Christ and Son of God.

The apostles were, 'all of one accord gathered in one place at the day of Pentecost', in obedience to the voice of the Son of God, Yashua. This is the very first recorded example of the apostles continuing to comply with the requirements of the feast day ordinances and statutes even after the death and resurrection of the Lord. Please read Luke chapter two.

Most certainly there are many other New and Old Testament Scriptures that testify to the past and present validity of the feasts of our God. Let the sincere seeker of Jehovah [Yashua Mashiyach] search with a whole heart for the entire truth, and the holy Spirit will lead him into all truth. That is the promise of John 16:13, and also of John 14:26. But before we depart from this topic, let us look, once more, at some of the words and actions of the apostle Paul in the New Testament.

We find Paul in the city of Corinth where he had tarried long time teaching the Jews every Sabbath day in the synagogue; and teaching the Gentiles in homes and houses for at least one and one-half years; but at the closure of his stay in Corinth, Paul sailed to Syria, and from there to Ephesus where he reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue.

“When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not: But bade them farewell, saying, **I must by all means keep this feast** [Passover and Unleavened Bread] **that cometh in Jerusalem:** but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.” Acts 18:1-21.

The converted Saul, who then became the apostle Paul, was indeed, in every sense, a feast keeper. In Acts chapter twenty we read that ‘after the days of Unleavened Bread’, Paul and his companions left Philippi [Paul had kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread with believers in Philippi because it had become apparent that it was no longer possible to be in Jerusalem by Passover], and sailed into Troas where they abode with believers for seven days. And on Paul’s last day there he preached to them on the beginning of first day of the week [at even or sunset at the end of Sabbath] until midnight.

This is where the young man Eutychus, because of Paul’s long preaching dropped into a deep sleep, fell from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul descended down and fell on Eutycus and embraced him and said, “Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.” And when he had come up again they broke bread and ate; and Paul continued talking to them even until the break of day whereupon he departed from them.

And Paul with his companions traveled toward Jerusalem making stops in Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, and Trogyllium and then Miletus. “For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: **for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.**” Acts 20:16. It is not difficult to see that the apostle Paul evidently kept the feasts mandated and ordained by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Paul and the disciples were still keeping the annual feast of the Lord God well after the death of the Son of God on this earth. That the annual feasts of the Lord have passed from the memory of men is nothing more than another manifestation

of the prophesying of Daniel. Which prophecy is recorded in the writings of Daniel in chapter seven.

²⁵ And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and **think to change times and laws:** and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:25

[See also Daniel 7:7-8]

Should we not follow the apostle Paul's example? Most assuredly Paul left neither an ambiguous, nor a confusing testimony of the necessity to observe God's annual feast days and holy Sabbaths. In his very actions and deeds, Paul left us a very plain and clear testimony!

Only believe, and obey the voice of God! "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation..." Exodus 19:5-6.

Remember that, '...he who would come to God must believe that He is who He said He is; and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek him with a clean heart.' Therefore let us with joyful and grateful hearts celebrate and keep the feast!

We have been studying feast of our Lord and 'the times and the laws changed'. Let us turn our attention to the means by which these changes 'are/were thought to be accomplished'.

The Traditions of Easter and Christmas

It is through the **traditions of men** that the satanic little horn power of the seventh chapter of Daniel has sought to change the times and the laws of our God. The tradition of first-day worship - which is Sunday worship - in the place of the seventh-day Sabbath of the Creator God has nearly obliterated from the minds of men the command to keep the Sabbath day holy. Sunday worship is a spurious counterfeit for

true Sabbath worship. Almost the entire Christian world follows after the beast and worships on the first day of the week. .

The traditions of 'Easter' and 'Christmas' have obscured, and nearly erased from the minds of men the memory of the celebration of God's appointed and set times, the *môw'êds* or holy festivals and the seven annual Sabbaths. God's ordained these feasts: the seventh day Sabbath; Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread; Pentecost; and the feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the feast of Tabernacles. But they are now utterly vanished from the minds of men. These feasts are almost universally the objects of ridicule and scorn even amongst those who claim to be faithful and true 'Christians'.

The Easter tradition as celebrated by this world is far more than just a corruption of the set or appointed times of the feast of the celebration of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread of our God. The Easter/Ishtar tradition is a clear manifestation of Daniel 7:25, "And he [the Satanic little horn power] ... shall think to change times and laws..." The Easter tradition is a clearly evident and obvious example of the changing of both the time and the law. We shall examine both aspects of change that the 'little horn power has thought to implement.

So, first, let us just briefly look at the timing of the event of the Easter tradition. Easter is always celebrated on the first day of the week which is a Sunday. Whereas God ordained that the feast of Passover must be celebrated on the fourteenth day of Abib [Nisan], which occurs during the full moon, **regardless** of what day of the week that it may fall on.

Sometimes the spurious and counterfeit Easter tradition is celebrated in an entirely different month than God's appointed time of His true feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. There can be considerable confusion. That happened in the year 2010. Satan is the author of confusion; God is not the author of confusion! There is great confusion and division over

the date on which the Passover is to be kept. Satan is glorified in confusion and division – they gender doubt and distrust!

Different religious groups use different methods to determine the date of the Passover. Some say that the Passover date is reckoned by the ‘full moon’ *nearest* the Vernal Equinox. Others say that the date is fixed by the ‘full moon’ following the first ‘new moon’ *on* or *after* the Vernal Equinox, and some say that the determining factor is the ‘full moon’ following the first ‘new moon’ *after* the Vernal Equinox. And some say that it is the Barley Harvest that determines the date!

Curiously, the barley harvest advocates say that the celebration of Passover is determined by the new moon nearest to the ripening of the barley regardless of the season, winter or spring. The Passover may then be celebrated during the ‘full moon’ fourteen days later in the spring of the year. Many times the first day of their year will begin in the winter, and two weeks later at Passover it has already become spring.

The verses in Leviticus 23:9-11 are the key to their understanding of this mystery. The reader is admonished to read all of Leviticus 23, so that nothing will be left out of context. The Lord is speaking to Moses in this chapter, and God said, “...The feast of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* my feasts. Six day shall work be done:”

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first-

fruits of your harvest unto the priest: ¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

Leviticus 23:9-11

Leviticus 23:9-11 imparts the formal details regarding the offering of the wave sheaf during the feast of Unleavened Bread on the morrow after the Sabbath.

The offering of the wave sheaf must be brought from the **harvested** crop. The main crop that is harvested in the early spring season of the year is the barley crop. And, of course, it is not harvested until it ripens; and likewise, neither is it harvested when it is all burnt, parched, and scorched by the sun. Therefore, if the **barley in Judea** is not yet ripened to harvest, then the Passover must be celebrated on the next full moon.

When this happens, an extra month [an abbreviated thirteenth month which delays the beginning of the new year] is inserted into the calendar [which causes the lunar cycle to be adjusted to the solar cycle because the two cycles are not identical]. Passover and Unleavened Bread are generally, therefore, celebrated on different dates than the celebration of the world's 'Easter' tradition.

Because God **always** places a distinction between the holy and the common; between the sacred and the profane; between the clean and the unclean: I believe that the beginning of God's year is always in the spring of the year. You will recall that Satan has impressed or forced upon the world a year that begins in the depths of winter – after the winter solstice.

I arrantly believe that the first day of God's new year must and does occur in the spring season of the year [Exodus 12:1-2]. Therefore it cannot possibly arrive before first new moon which follows the vernal equinox which firmly establishes the first day of the year within the spring season. It would be very illogical for the first day of the year to begin in the winter season, and just two weeks later for the fourteenth day of that month to be in the spring season. God is not the author of confusion!

As for the 'barley harvest' method, know that men have power to manipulate the barley. Things such as genetic engineering, selective breeding, chemicals, pollution, and even simpler things such as irrigation, cultivation, and fertilization have power to impact the barley harvest. Men have no power to manipulate the vernal equinox: hence it is the more reliable

sign! Consider this very carefully, ‘Has not Yahuah, the Creator of the universe, power, to ripen the barley at the **set** time?’

Cannot God’s people come into harmony with one another as to the timing of the feasts of God? Did not Yashua pray fervently before He was put to death on the stake that we would all be ‘one’? “Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you...” 1 Corinthians 1:10.

Thus, with some rudimentary knowledge of how that the time [‘And he shall...think to change times...’] of the Passover has been altered to suit the counterfeit ‘Easter/Ishtar’ tradition of men; let us move on to the second matter of our examination of this worldly feast of Easter; and that is ‘the law changed’.

The law that the ‘little horn power’ has cleverly sought to change is the first command of the law of God, the very first of the Ten Commandments of the Creator: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3. Are you surprised?

Ponder and consider that the name, ‘Easter’, is really none other than the name of the god/goddess Ishtar. Ishtar is the name of the Mesopotamian goddess of fertility. Furthermore, imagine what possible purpose could decorated chicken [Easter/Ishtar] eggs, and baby ‘bunny’ rabbits serve in the celebration of the Easter tradition. Both colored chicken eggs [remember the *seemingly innocent* Easter egg hunt] and ‘bunny rabbits’ are obvious pagan fertility icons: it is the brazenly open worship of pagan fertility symbols, icons, and emblems!

The ritual tradition of the Ishtar celebration, in the light of what has just been revealed, is nothing other than blatant pagan worship of the Mesopotamian fertility goddess, Ishtar aka Easter; and it is also the sin of idolatry. Idolatry of the pagan fertility icons even chocolate rabbits, colored chicken eggs, and live bunnies. It is a clear violation of God’s commandments - the most grievous law breaking; and breach of God’s covenant!

How else, might you suppose that this 'little horn power' has sought to change God's laws, statutes, commandments, precepts, judgments, and counsels? Let us turn back to the book of Genesis and study the story told in chapters seventeen through nineteen. For in such a study we may learn much. And when we have so examined the Scriptures found there we will be able to make some revealing comparisons between the celebration of God's appointed and set time of Passover and Unleavened Bread; and the very worldly celebration of Easter or Ishtar.

The account told in Genesis chapters seventeen through nineteen is the account of no more than just two days of both Abraham's and Lot's respective celebrations of the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread in those days. It is a most amazing and marvelous story chronicling God's appearing to faithful Abraham; and it also chronicles the obedience of righteous Lot; and many other wonderful events which took place on that Passover day, and on that first Sabbath of the feast of Unleavened Bread. 'O Lord, open our eyes! Amen and Amen.'

We pick up the story in the Scriptures of Genesis chapters seventeen. Therein is described a continuum of most astonishing events that occurred in two consecutive days. Again, the two days in which these events took place are: the first day, Passover during the day light hours of the fourteenth day of Abib [Nisan]; and the second day, the first Sabbath of Unleavened Bread on the fifteenth day of Abib in the first month of God's year.

It will take a very careful and prayerful reading of the Scriptures to discover the truth of this matter! Let us therefore say this prayer, 'Holy Father open thou the eyes of thy servants to see, and open thou our hearts to understand. Grant unto thy servants that seek thee with all our souls - wisdom and understanding and knowledge. Is anything too hard for the Lord Yahweh our God? No, nothing is too hard for the Lord

God! Thank you for the answer to our prayer Holy Father. Amen and Amen!

In Genesis chapter seventeen the Lord appears unto Abram when he is ninety and nine years old. And the Lord established a covenant with Abram to multiply him [give him offspring and descendents] exceedingly. The token of that covenant was to be circumcision. You will remember that while Abram had fathered the child Ishmael by Sarai's handmaid, Hagar; Abram's wife Sarai had remained barren. That day God changed Abram's name to Abraham and to Sarai gave He the name Sarah.

Reading in verse fifteen and onward:

¹⁵ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*. ¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations: kings of people shall be of

her. ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old bear?

Genesis 17:15-17

Continuing to read, now in verse twenty-one, "But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this **set** time in the next year." The words, **set** time, speak of an appointed feast of the Lord. The Hebrew word, **môw'êd** [yearly festival], was translated into the English word, 'set'. What we may understand here is that the day in which God appeared to Abraham was a feast day – 'At this **set** [**môw'êd**] time in the next year' Sarah would bear a child: and his name was to be Isaac.

Moving into chapter eighteen we find a retelling of these amazing events wherein a great many more details are revealed.

AND THE LORD appeared unto him in the plains of

Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

² And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, ³ And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: ⁴ Let a little water, I pray you,

be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: ⁵ And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

Genesis 18:1-5

Abraham and Sarah hastened to make ready a meal of milk, bread and butter, and a young calf in order to serve their guests. Sara kneaded the dough and baked it upon the hearth and Abraham dressed the calf and prepared it, and set the feast before them under the tree. Genesis 18:6-8.

⁹ And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. ¹⁰ And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life: and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah *were* old *and* well stricken in age; *and* it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² There-

fore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? ¹³ And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? ¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Genesis 18:9-14

Here again the word **appointed** comes from the Hebrew word **môw'êd**, or feast day. We continue to read the story:

¹⁶ And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them

on the way. ¹⁷ And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do? ... ²⁰ And the Lord said, Be-

cause the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; ²¹ I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will

know. ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

Genesis 18:16-17, 20-22

Abraham remained behind with the Lord and bargained for the lives of the inhabitants of Sodom should any righteous be found there. But the two 'men'/angels continued on to the city of Sodom. Where the account of their journey is told in chapter nineteen of Genesis beginning in verse one.

AND THERE came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; ² And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and

ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. ³ And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Genesis 19:1-3

The menu of the humble feast that Lot prepared for the two 'men' [angels], although quite simple and very plain, is one key to our understanding which feast day/s are being spoken about in Genesis chapters seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen. We have already discerned from the words 'set' and 'appointed' times [in reality from the Hebrew word *môw'êd*] that the Lord God was speaking about one of His yearly festivals. Lot prepared **unleavened bread** for his guests, and they did eat.

The daylight hours of the Passover day [14 Abib] had come to a close at even [sunset]; and now it was the feast of **Unleavened Bread** [15 Abib]. Earlier when the angels were the

guests of Abraham, Sarah had kneaded the bread. That should indicate to us [at least those who bake bread would know] that she was preparing leavened bread [there is no purpose in kneading unleavened bread because it contains no yeast]; therefore it was not yet the first Sabbath of Unleavened Bread..

Because we understand that angels are not constrained by physical distances as are men, we recognize that the two angels upon departing from Abraham in the plains of Mamre would have almost immediately arrived at the gates of the city of Sodom where they encountered Lot. For example, you might recall to mind the account of Philip the evangelist, and the Ethiopian eunuch, queen Candace's treasurer; and how "...the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more...." Acts 8:39.

We can know that the first Sabbath of Unleavened Bread had commenced: either, as the two angels entered into the gates of Sodom, or just soon after that the two angels passed through the city gates: because Lot, obedient to God's word, had served his guests the required feast of Unleavened Bread. Earlier that day Abraham prepared a calf, and not a lamb..

Consequently we are now able to know with certainty that the **set appointed time/s** that the Lord God repeatedly refers to in this account are the time of Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread in the first month of the year, Abib: the spring time, and also the **time of life** [Exodus 12:1-28]. We should have, and normally would have, understood that the **time of life** refers to the spring season of the year.

By observing nature at work - where we see the trees budding; and blossoms sprouting forth in abundant profusion; and new growth everywhere turning the earth green once again; and we see the beast of the earth bringing forth their young ones. It is ever so evident and obvious that spring is the **time of life**. Moreover, the Lord God confirms it in these verses. "...Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the **time appointed**

[môw'êd – Passover] I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Through the study of this account found in Genesis chapters seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen, and its application to our lives we may greatly profit in our understanding of God and His requirements to keep holy His môw'êds, the set and appointed times.

Let us now make just two comparisons between the Passover and feast of Unleavened Bread that Abraham and Lot observed; and the very worldly observance of the traditional 'Easter' feast of men. These comparisons are of diet!

God has ordained two main menu items for Passover. The first is a lamb, a male yearling. 'Spotless and without blemish shall it be; it shall be taken out from the sheep or from the goats.' It is to be prepared and cooked in a very most peculiar manner. The second menu item is unleavened bread.

¹⁸ The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month

Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt. ... ²⁰ And none shall appear before me empty.

Exodus 34:18-20

Note: that, because type has met Anti-type in the sacrifice of the Son of God “Our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.” 1 Corinthians 5:7. Christ is the **Anti-type**; and the animal sacrifices were the **type** which typified the true Sacrifice of the Christ, on the stake at Golgotha. Therefore we no longer must slay the lamb. But we must still keep the feast. “Therefore, let us keep the feast...!” 1 Corinthians 5:8. And, forget not, that, even yet, there still remains a sacrifice to be made!

Our sacrifices now have become primarily [but not exclusively] spiritual in nature. But to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God is that which the apostle Paul says is our reasonable service. Please read all of

Romans chapter twelve. Some other acceptable sacrifices before God include humility, contrition, a broken heart, sacrifices of praise, and the keeping of and paying of our vows.

This second menu item, unleavened bread, is significant to us. It is to be eaten with the Passover dinner, and for seven days until and including the last Sabbath of Unleavened Bread. Please read Leviticus 23:4-8. "...Seven days ye must eat unleavened bread."

Leaven is a *biblical symbol* representing sin, and also the false teachings [doctrines] of religious leaders. See Matthew 16:6-12 - "Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." The application is to us one of removing all leaven from our households [Exodus 12:15] and that we are to remove all sin [leaven] from our lives [houses - soul temples]; and depart from sin, and let go of all false doctrines and teachings; and to depart from all false forms of worship.

Now let us consider, again, the first menu item of the Passover, a lamb. Today the main menu item for much of this world's traditional 'Easter' feast is ham. Ham prepared in any multitude and variety of ways. Ham with honey glazed pineapple, ham cooked with various sorts of liquors, baked ham with cloves, boiled ham, fried ham, pork pie, and even sausage and egg pie. But no matter how it may be prepared, it seems that, 'ham or pork' meat, it must be! Ham is pig meat, swine's flesh!

Please listen very carefully and thoughtfully to God's voice as recorded by the son of Amoz, Isaiah the prophet:

<p>² I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way <i>that was</i> not good, after their own thoughts; ³ A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face;</p>	<p>that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; ⁴ Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable <i>things is</i> in their</p>
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vessels; ⁵ Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These *are* a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. ¹² Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to

the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose *that* wherein I delighted not.

Isaiah 65:2-12

God's voice to Moses and Aaron is recorded for all to hear in the book of Leviticus in chapter eleven,. This chapter instructs God's people regarding the clean and un-clean foods.

⁴ Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: *as* the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. ⁵ And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. ⁶ And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth

not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. ⁷ And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he *is* unclean to you. ⁸ Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they *are* unclean to you.

Leviticus 11:4-8

Once more, In the book of Isaiah let us read the fate of those that eat swine's flesh.

¹⁵ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

¹⁷ They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 66:15-17

And in the place of the unleavened bread that our God has commanded to be eaten; the world celebrates its Easter tradition with a vast array of ‘leavened’ breads, crackers, cakes, muffins, bagels, biscuits, cinnamon rolls, and hot cross buns. Satan has deceived the ‘whole’ world into celebrating his ‘holidays’ in a manner that is not good before the eyes of our God. Should we be surprised? After all, it is Satan’s express goal to destroy God’s people by guile, manipulation, and force.

Speaking of the satanic little horn’s power to deceive and beguile God’s children, the prophet Daniel writes:

²⁴ And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. ²⁵ And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Daniel 8:24-25

The Very Same Excuses!

It is utterly amazing that there is a well known church denomination that makes much ado about keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy. They maintain that in order to be partakers of the Lord God’s salvation that the keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy is a necessary act of worship and love [the performance of which is by faith in the Word of God, and it springs out of love to their Creator].

They claim that when one is knowledgeable about God’s requirement to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy; but does not do so; then it is sin; and sin unto death – the second death! Their witness and testimony is both powerful and true.

But the very same excuses, even the exact same excuses, that the other Protestant churches employ to justify their dis-

obedience in not keeping [and to avoid] the seventh-day Sabbath, the overwhelming majority of this church's denomination use to justify their disobedience in not keeping [and to avoid] the annual feasts, Sabbaths, that the Lord God who created the heavens and the earth has so commanded His people in the following verse.

¹⁶ Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty.

Deuteronomy 16:16

So what might these excuses be? They are none other than these: 'Those things were fulfilled when Jesus Christ died on the tree. We are no longer bound to keep them – they are nailed to the stake upon which He sacrificed His life as a ransom for many.' 'They are part of the ceremonial law which was done away with.' 'The ceremonial law was fulfilled when Christ was murdered on the stake.' 'We will not place ourselves in bondage to the law again!' 'Those things pertain only to the Jews.' And even, 'Most certainly the words 'for ever' cannot possibly mean **forever** – God was really meaning something altogether, and entirely different!'

Whatever else excuses you might imagine that Protestant 'Christians' employ to justify their disobedience to the Word of God in order that they should not keep the seventh-day Sabbath; most 'Seventh-day Adventist Christians', also use to justify their disobedience in order that they should not keep the feast days that the Lord God has commanded men to keep. How utterly strange and befuddling this is! Is it partiality in the law?

Do they pick and choose from the law that which seems good and fair to their thinking? But God has severely reprimanded them in Malachi 2:5-9. The accusation is made that they practice partiality in the teaching of, and the application of the law of the living God to their lives:

⁵ My covenant was with him of life and peace: and I gave them to him *for* the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

⁶ The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. ⁷ For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the mes-

senger of the LORD of hosts.

⁸ But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

⁹ Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

Malachi 2:5-9

The Sabbath Proclaimed More Fully!

Within the pages of the 'Spirit of Prophecy' it is written in the books, *Early Writings* pages 33 and 85, that, "At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully."

Out of Rancho Esperanza, a school of the prophets, in Baja del Norte de California; Mexico, the voice of pastor y profesor, doctor Hugo Gambetta is heard querying: 'How is it then, that the Sabbath shall be proclaimed more completely or fully than at the present, except that the remaining seven annual Sabbaths shall be proclaimed?'

Once again, of course, the seven annual Sabbaths of the Lord are: the two Sabbaths of Unleavened Bread at the Lord's Passover; Pentecost [or feast of Weeks, and/or feast of Harvest]; feast of Trumpets; day of Atonement [Yom Kippur]; and the first and last Sabbaths of the feast of Tabernacles.

Ellen G White, caught up in vision, compared the rising of the sun to its full height and the corresponding increase in the

intensity of the sun's rays as it rises; as to how the light [truth and knowledge] of the Sabbath will continue to increase until, upon reaching its apex, the saints shall have put on immortality.

As the sun rises into the sky its rays become stronger and stronger, warmer and warmer until it reaches its peak. So shall the truth of the Sabbath become greater and greater, increasingly shedding its sanctifying influence and work upon the saints; until, upon reaching its apex, our salvation shall have been accomplished. There is yet much, even more, light to shine forth; especially, Sabbath light - truth, and knowledge!

In the book of Ecclesiastes chapter twelve we read this very strong admonition written by the Preacher, the son of David, King in Jerusalem:

¹² And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his com-

mandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:12-14

There is an abundance of Sabbath truth yet to come to the light! 'Heavenly Father, strengthen thy children that we close not our minds to receive additional light of thy Sabbath days that thou hast commanded thy servants to observe and to keep 'for ever'. Grant us thy wisdom to know and understand all thy requirements that we may be true and faithful witnesses of your love and your salvation. Amen and Amen!'

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