

The Holy Days – The Law I
April 1, 2006

As we begin the Spring Holy Day season, it will serve us well to review them all to see how they fit together, what they represent and what they mean to us today.

During the year, there are 9 designated Holy Days within 7 designated periods:

1. Passover
2. Unleavened Bread (2)
3. Firstfruits
4. Pentecost
5. Trumpets
6. Atonement
7. Feast of Tabernacles (2)

The main descriptions of these are found in Exodus 12, Leviticus 23, Numbers 28-29 and Deuteronomy 16.

There are 3 Feasts:

1. Unleavened Bread
2. Pentecost
3. Tabernacles

These are the 3 times each year that all males were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem.

Exodus 23

- 14 "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:
- 15 "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);
- 16 "and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.
- 17 "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.
- 18 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My sacrifice remain until morning.
- 19 "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

Some of the questions surrounding the holy days that have come up over the past several weeks include:

1. How do we know when the holy days should be observed?
2. How should we observe them?
3. What is their historical significance?
4. What is their Christian significance?
5. What is their meaning for the future?
6. What are the penalties for non-observance?

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7. What are the penalties for erroneous observance?
8. How do the holy days and the Sabbath relate?
9. What is the difference between a holy day and a feast?
10. How do the Jews look at these days differently than we?

This study may last for quite some time and will consist of studying the majority of the Torah, the Pentateuch – the 1st five books of the Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It will be very important that everyone be involved, regardless of your level of understanding. Some have studied these books in depth already and some have not. My hope and desire is that, when we have completed the study, each and every one of us will have the same understanding of the Holy Days as well as any differences we may still have at its completion.

Our first step will be to look, in less detail, at the events leading up to the Exodus, starting with the creation. It is important, to our understanding of the Bible, to have a complete understanding of the Torah for it is the entire Torah that is referenced as “The Law”. As we saw in our last study, the only part of “The Law” that was replaced was the priesthood along with its rituals and sacrifices since Christ became our High Priest with His sacrifice.

Genesis 1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - God = 430 = elohiym – plural of 433 elowahh
 - One personage did not do the creation alone
 - The One God was the leader of the creation

John 1

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - Jesus was with God before the earth was created
- 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - Jesus was the member of the elohim that God assigned to oversee the creation
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - And He created life - Adam

Genesis 1

- 2 The earth was (*became*) without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - It is important to understand that there was earth before Adam was created
 - These were the times of dinosaurs
 - Spirit = 7307 – ruwach – spirit, wind, breath

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To show how difficult the interpretations are at times, let me read the literal translation of the 1st two verses:

- The earth the earth and the heavens Gods created the in beginning Gods the and of Spirit deep the on of high face and darkness and empty without form became
- The earth the earth and the sky Gods created the in the first place Gods the and of Spirit deep the on of high face and darkness and undistinguishable ruin waste or wilderness became

Genesis 1

- 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
 - Image = 6754 – resemblance
 - Dominion = 7287 – rule over
 - We are meant to take care of the earth and its inhabitants
 - We aren't really doing very well with the oil and the animals, are we?
- 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- 29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."
 - Some believe this excludes mushrooms from being clean since it has no seed
- 30 "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.
 - Some use this verse to say all animals are ok to eat
 - By applying the same logic, people would eat poison ivy or poison sumac
 - Acknowledging that some plants are not made to be edible, we must apply the same logic to animals

Genesis 2

- 1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.
- 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
- 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
 - God established the Sabbath early on in the creation process

Genesis 2

- 8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.
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- 10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.
- 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
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- 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.
- 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel (*Tigris*); it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.
 - The Garden of Eden was in Iraq
- 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
- 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
- 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Revelation 2

- 7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
 - The tree of life will again exist and we will have access to its fruit

Revelation 22

- 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 - The tree of life is in the midst of the New Jerusalem

Revelation 22

- 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.
 - The tree of life is the "parenthesis" of the Bible
 - It was in the Garden of Eden and will be in the New Jerusalem – God's Kingdom

Genesis 4

- 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.
- 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,
 - offerings were made to the Lord
 - Lord = Jehovah – 3068 the Tetragrammaton
 - YHWH
 - God = 430 – Elohim
 - Lord God = YHWH Elohim – specifying the singular person of many

Genesis 6

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- 1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
- 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
 - Sons of God is an interpretive challenge
 - Some feel they are of Seth's lineage as opposed to Cain's, who were felt to be godless – most likely
 - Some believe they were superior angels who left heaven to take women as their wives – not likely
- 3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
- 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.
 - Giants = nephilim - 5303 = a bully or a tyrant –
 - Some say "great men" or "mighty ones"
- 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
- 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."
- 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
 - This was the history leading up to the flood
 - It is interesting that nearly every religion on earth has a story of a great flood in its history

Genesis 7

- 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.
- 2 "You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;
- 3 "also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

Genesis 8

- 20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
 - Did you catch that?
 - Noah knew of the clean and unclean animals!
 - They were not identified in the Torah until Leviticus 11!

Genesis 11

- 1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

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- 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.
- 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.
- 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
 - They were building a monument to human ability
 - With a singular language, communication was simpler
- 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
- 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.
- 7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."
- 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.
- 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.
 - The beginning of miscommunication!
 - Babel = balal = confusion
 - Most scholars link Babel with the origins of the city of Babylon

Genesis 12

- 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.
- 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
- 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- 4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him,
 - He just left!!!!

Hebrews 11

- 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;
- 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abram went into Egypt, then into Canaan. In Chapter 13 is the story of Abram inheriting the land of Canaan and splitting it with Lot, his nephew. Chapter 14 covers the story of

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Lot's captivity and rescue followed by the verses we read a few weeks ago about Abram giving tithes to Melchizedek (as we covered a few weeks ago.

Next week, we will begin with Chapter 15.