

The Holy Days
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
September 8, 2007

A magician is trained at deception – watch the right hand and you are distracted from the left. It's all an illusion.

Show attached examples of illusions.

Communications are similar. I can give a compliment to a person about ... what does that say about my opinion about their ... -- nothing! It may mean I have thought about it at all; it may mean I don't like it; it may mean I don't want to discuss it; it may mean I hate the thought of it.

Politicians are well trained at this form of communications. Hillary and Obama and Osama – it doesn't matter who it is.

Today's Religion page of the Dallas Morning News had an article about the meaning of the Hindu word "Ishvara":

- "Hinduism recognizes one supreme God that takes a number of different forms. The concept of that one deity as a personal Lord is called Ishvara. Ishvara encourages Hindus to think of God not in abstract, theoretical terms but in a concrete fashion – God as a parental figure, signaling the importance of people in the hierarchy of all Earth's creatures. In the Bhagavad-Gita, Ishvara is described as 'the beginning, the middle and the end as well of all living entities.'"

In the August 31 issue of "The Week", an article ran entitled "Is Allah the same god as God?"

- "A Roman Catholic bishop has proposed that Dutch Christians call God "Allah," said the *Apeldoorn Reformatorisch Dagblad* in an editorial. Tiny Muskens, bishop of Breda, dropped that bombshell on us last week, during a television interview. He pointed out that in Indonesia, where he once served as a pastor, Christians call the God of the Bible "Allah". The word is simply Arabic for "god". So why, he asked, should all monotheists call the deity by the same name? Wouldn't it bring us all closer together? Needless to say, the suggestion didn't go over very well. In a joint poll by two major newspapers, more than three-quarters of Dutch citizens "shot down the proposal". It's tempting, in fact, just to shrug off the idea as just another one of Muskens' iconoclastic schemes. This is the priest, remember, who once said the hungry were entitled to steal bread, and who promotes condom usage to prevent AIDS. But there's a real theological issue at stake. "The Allah of Islam is not the same as God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ". Muslims believe Jesus to be just another prophet, while Christians worship him as the Redeemer, the Son of God. Using the same name for two very different conceptions of the Almighty "cannot erase our differences."

If you forget for a moment all you know about the Bible, this proposal doesn't sound all that bad. If we are all worshipping the same deity, why can't we simply all agree to call

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Him by the same name?

Of course, we could most likely never agree on which name to use – Jesus, God, Allah, Ishvara, YHWH, Jehovah, or Joe. Some may insist on “Sally”.

But it is all an illusion! It is a human logical approach to trying to solve issues that divide us.

Isaiah 59:

- 8 The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

Romans 3:

- 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;
- 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.
- 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."
- 13 "Their throat is an open tomb; **With their tongues they have practiced deceit**"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";
 - deceit = illusion
 - it is not the devil – it is the human beings who are deceitful
- 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."
- 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;
- 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;
- 17 And the way of peace they have not known."
- 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

The devil works this way. Christmas is loaded with “good” things – Luke’s version of the Nativity is truthful; there is nothing wrong with talk about peace and good will toward men; gifts to family and friends are not inherently bad. The traditions are enjoyable.

Colossians 2:

- 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The devil has only needed to plant the seed. Human beings have taken it from there. The devil's way does not tell people about his ability to divert people from God’s teachings – about God’s holy days.

We are 5 days past another federal holiday – Labor Day. This nation has a multitude of holidays – MLK, Presidents’ Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving. There is nothing

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inherently wrong with these days. They all have some redeeming qualities and they all divert peoples' attention from God's Holy Days.

April 20, 2002, we discussed spring and its references in the Bible – we found that spring was a time of war ... fall, however, is a time of harvest – of reaping what you have sown. God's holy days fall into 3 seasons according to Deuteronomy 16. The spring holy days, Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, have their ties to troubles and escape from them. The lone early summer holy day, Pentecost, has ties to the first harvest and the firstfruits of God's elect – the first resurrection.

In less than a week, we begin observing the fall Holy Days -- Trumpets, Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and The Last Great Day – all of which have ties to the final days – the reaping of the final harvest.

In the Statement of Beliefs of the Fairview Texas Church of God, we have a statement about the Holy Days:

11. HOLY DAYS

Seven Holy Days (also known as High Sabbaths) were set apart by God to be observed in three separate seasons of each year. They are Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Day of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Each has historical meaning, future implications and Messianic revelations.

Leviticus 23

- 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.
- 3 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.
 - Notice that the first “feast” is the weekly Sabbath. The Sabbath and God's Holy Days are inseparable in the Bible.
- 4 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.
- 5 'On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover.
- 6 'And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.
 - 7-8 describe the Days of Unleavened Bread
- 9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the

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firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

- - 11-14 discuss the rituals of the day
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- 15 'And you shall count for yourselves from (*beginning with*) the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.
- - 16-22 discuss the rituals of the day
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- 23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.
- 25 'You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'"
- - Trumpets has the least "instruction"
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- 26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
- 27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.
- - 28-32 give the requirements of the Day of Atonement
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- 33 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.
- 35 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.
- - 36-41 discuss the Feast of Tabernacles
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- 42 'You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,
- 43 'that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.'"
 - The focus is on **WHO** did it
- 44 So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

Zechariah 14

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- 16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall 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 whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.
- 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Luke 22

- 1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.
- 2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.
- 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.
- 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.
- 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.
- 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.
- 7 ¶ Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.
- 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."
 - Jesus had an opportunity to provide instruction that the Passover would no longer be valid, but He did not

John 7.

- 8 "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."
- 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.
- 10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.
 - Jesus attended the feast rather than indicate it would no longer be observed

Acts 2.

- 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
 - After the resurrection, the disciples still observed Pentecost as most Christian churches still do today

Acts 18

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- 20 When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent,
- 21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

Acts 27.

- 9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

1 Corinthians 5.

- 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 16.

- 8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

No where in the New Testament will you find anything that indicates the removal of the Old Testament Holy Days. In fact, all you will find is the insertion and clarification of how the Messiah is a fulfilling part of their meaning. There is no deception here. There are no illusions!

Matthew 5:

- 17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.
- 18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
- 19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

As we begin to celebrate the Fall Holy Days, let us always remember that they are the true Christian Holy Days!