

2ND QUARTER 2018



JEWISH VOICE TODAY MAGAZINE

9 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – ABOUT THE SPRING FEASTS



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SHALOM

Dear Partner in Ministry,

We know that Yeshua (Jesus) participated in the Jewish Feasts during His earthly ministry. Scripture tells us He was present for pilgrimage Feasts in Jerusalem both as a child with His family, and then later when He was an adult.

That shouldn't surprise us, since back then these festivals were central to the remembrance of God's faithfulness to the people of Israel, as it still is for observant Jews and Jewish Believers today. This is because:

- *The Feasts were ordained by God as times for the Jewish people to come before Him*
- *The Feasts commemorated God's faithfulness and desire to be in fellowship with His people*
- *The Feasts formed an annual cycle that provided order and structure to Jewish life*

All of **these things are still true**, and today we know the Spring Feasts also pointed to God's redemptive plan through the Messiah's coming almost 2,000 years ago. This means these **Spring Feasts reveal specific truths about the Messiah**, giving us a greater understanding of Jesus and His salvation.

The articles in this issue of "Jewish Voice Today" are intended to help you understand more about these Spring Feasts, found in Leviticus 23:5-22. They also will help show how these celebrations of God's provision can help you maintain the wonder of the Messiah and His ultimate redemption for us.

Simply said—**understanding more about these Spring Feasts will help you understand more about Jesus, our Messiah.**

As you read this magazine, please join me in praying for the Jewish people, that more and more might come to receive Yeshua as their Messiah. This is both the deepest desire of my heart, and it is the core ministry and mission of Jewish Voice Ministries International.

Because of the generous support provided by you and our many other ministry partners, Jewish Voice Ministries will continue to bring the Good News of healing and hope to Jewish people everywhere.

Thank you, and please enjoy this issue of "Jewish Voice Today."

Your co-laborer in Messiah,

Jonathan Bernis
 President and CEO
 Jewish Voice Ministries International



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9 QUESTIONS – AND ANSWERS – ABOUT THE BIBLICAL FEASTS

BY JONATHAN BERNIS



How much do you understand about the Feasts of the Old Testament Scriptures or their importance to us today? If you've never learned about the rich, biblical significance of these festivals, you may be missing out on a more complete understanding of who our Messiah really is.

Test your knowledge here: I ask—and answer—nine questions about the Biblical Feasts found in the book of Leviticus. I hope this whets your appetite to learn more about this important subject. I also hope it will encourage you to consider reading our latest book, *The Spring Feasts & Purim*.

And, speaking of appetites, the book also includes recipes so that you can easily prepare and serve popular traditional dishes that are appropriate to each feast!

So take a few moments to see how much you know, and then order your copy of this small but important book, and you'll learn so much more!

(And watch for the Fall Feasts sequel, coming soon!)

Q. *What are the feasts and where are they found in the Scriptures?*

A. They are listed below:

FEAST	HEBREW NAME	PRONUNCIATION	SCRIPTURE
Sabbath	Shabbat	Shah-BAHT	Leviticus 23:3
Passover	Pesach	PAY-sakh	Leviticus 23:5
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Chag HaMatzot	CHAHG Hah-MAT-zote	Leviticus 23:6
Firstfruits	Yom HaBikkurim	YOHM Hah-Bih-KUR-ihm	Leviticus 23:9-14
Feast of Weeks, Pentecost	Shavuot	SHAH-voe-ote	Leviticus 23:15-21
Feast of Trumpets	Yom Teruah, Rosh Hashanah	YOHM Tare-ooah ROSHE Hah-SHAH-nah	Leviticus 23:23-25
Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur	YOHM kip-PURR	Leviticus 23:26-32
Feast of Booths, Tabernacles, Feast of Ingathering	Sukkot	Soo-KOTE	Leviticus 23:33-43

Q. *I thought Purim was a Spring Feast, but I don't see it listed in the chart. Why not?*

A. The table below lists the cycle of feasts that are part of the annual Jewish calendar. Both Purim in the spring and Chanukah in the winter are additional observances added later in Jewish history. Both commemorate occasions when God delivered the Jewish people from destruction. Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people from wicked Haman's plot to annihilate them in Persia. Chanukah commemorates when God rescued His people from Antiochus IV and the Seleucid armies in the time of the Maccabees. According to legend, a miracle occurred, making one day's worth of Temple oil last eight days until more could be made and consecrated.

Q. *Whose feasts are they? Do they belong to the Jewish people?*

A. "These are My feasts," God told His people. The Hebrew word *moad* (MO-ed) means "appointed time," the plural being *moadim* (MO-eh-deem). God was telling Israel, "I want to meet with you."

These are the appointed moadim of Adonai, which you are to proclaim to be holy convocations—My moadim."

—Leviticus 23:1-2

Although these *moadim* are the primary celebrations of the Jewish people, they prophetically point to the Messiah and are the inheritance of every follower of the Messiah, Jesus, as sons and daughters of Abraham.

Q. What are the purposes of the feasts?

A. The Feasts of the Lord commemorate His faithfulness and the many miracles of deliverance He performed in setting apart Israel as His own people. They serve to remind God's people of His holiness, their own impurity and that, in spite of the disparity between them, God wants them to be in fellowship with Him. He wants them to draw near. That requires obedience, thanksgiving and sacrifice. These *moadim* are also designed to fulfill the obligation to hand down to our children the knowledge of God and His work of deliverance and redemption in our history.

Q. How important were the feasts in the lives of the people of Israel?

A. The Feasts formed the annual life cycle of the Israelites. In spring, they commemorate the great deliverance of Passover, God's provision of life-sustaining food, and the giving of the *Torah* (TOR-ah) that set them apart as a nation unto Him. In the fall, they celebrated their rest with the blowing of the shofar, or trumpets; made sacrifices for and received atonement for their sins; and remembered His presence with them when He caused them to live in tents in the wilderness. These appointed times set the rhythm of life for the Israelites and for the Jewish people today.

In ancient times, the men of Israel traveled great distances to Jerusalem three times a year to observe the "pilgrimage" feasts of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. The feasts, along with the Shabbat, are foundational to Jewish life.

Q. Are the feasts only about Israel's ancient history, or do they have meaning today?

A. Each of God's appointed times does remember a specific historical event. And each festival also reveals His plan of redemption and points specifically to the Messiah. Into His feasts, God wove not only a commemorative meaning that

looks backward in remembrance of what He has done, but also a prophetic significance that looks forward to what He plans to do, including both Comings of the Messiah. Therefore, these feasts are relevant to every Believer.

The Hebrew word *moad* can also be translated as "rehearsal." A rehearsal happens before the "real" event and is a form of practice designed to prepare for it. The Lord's appointed times are rehearsals! He instructed His people to observe these "practices" throughout all their generations.

Q. Other than the time of year, are there specific differences between the Spring and Fall Feasts?

A. All the feasts have their own unique meaning and are tied primarily to the agricultural cycle. Passover commemorates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and therefore begins their redemptive history. Shavuot is the first harvest celebration.

After the Spring Feasts, there is a significant gap of time before the Fall Feasts of Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) begins. This is prophetically significant. It separates the Spring Feasts, which are connected to Messiah's sacrificial death and resurrection and the giving of the Holy Spirit, from the Fall Feasts, which are connected to His return.

For followers of Yeshua, the Spring Feasts point backward to Yeshua and reveal the redemptive plan of a God who is always reaching out to His people. They have reached their fullness in the revelation of the New Covenant. The Spring Feasts are commemorations and appointments to remember God's faithfulness to Israel and those who have now come into His salvation through the Messiah.

The Fall Feasts have not yet been prophetically fulfilled. They will be fulfilled at Yeshua's Second Coming. All the feasts of Leviticus reflect on a God who continually calls us to look back and remember what He has done as well as eagerly look ahead to the fulfillment of His future promises.

Q. How is the Jewish calendar different than the one we utilize today?

A. Most of the world uses the Gregorian calendar in which a year contains 365 days, begins in January, and runs through December. This system is based on a solar year, the time it takes the earth to orbit the sun. The Jewish calendar, however, is based on lunar cycles with each month beginning on the new moon.

This makes a Jewish year shorter than a Gregorian year. To compensate and stay in sync with the seasons of a solar year, much like a Leap Year, every 7 out of 19 years, the Jewish calendar includes a 13th month called Adar II. While Jewish holidays fall on the same Jewish calendar date each year, their appearances on the Gregorian calendar vary from year to year.

There is another difference between the two methods of documenting the passage of time. In the Gregorian system, a day starts and ends at midnight. In the Jewish order, a day follows the Bible's account of Creation, beginning and completing at sunset.

Q. In what way is it appropriate for non-Jewish Believers to take part in the feasts?

A. As Believers in Yeshua celebrating the Feasts of the Lord, we commemorate God's provision in Israel's history and the miracles He performed to deliver and preserve them.

God gave us the whole of Scripture. The Word, in turn, gives us reason and permission to understand and enter into His Feasts as part of the Jewish roots of our faith in Yeshua. Since the feasts all point to our Messiah and Savior, Jesus, in some way, they are the inheritance of every Believer in Jesus.

To overlook His Feasts as obsolete or irrelevant is to potentially miss the wonder of His redemption story meticulously told across thousands of years and through all generations.

Q. Did Jesus celebrate these Feasts?

A. Three times a year, God's people were commanded to travel to Jerusalem and bring their firstfruit offerings of the season. Passover, Weeks and Tabernacles are the pilgrimage feasts when all

who were physically able went up to the Temple to celebrate together.

During His lifetime, Yeshua observed the feasts and, as a child, these three pilgrimage feasts comprise the festivals that took Yeshua (Jesus) to Jerusalem during His life and ministry. It was during the Feast of Passover that He made his final trip to Jerusalem, when He made the triumphal entry into the city on what Christians commemorate as Palm Sunday and finally, a week later, was crucified, died and rose again. 🌿

But even more, the feasts have everything to do with Messiah Yeshua. He is the Firstfruits. He is the Sacrifice, the ultimate and perfect Passover Lamb. He is our Shabbat, our Sabbath Rest.

To not only learn about the feasts, but to achieve a much more complete understanding of the biblical picture of who our Messiah is, you'll want to read this important book about the Spring Feasts – and then watch for the Fall Feasts sequel, coming soon!

This latest book includes:

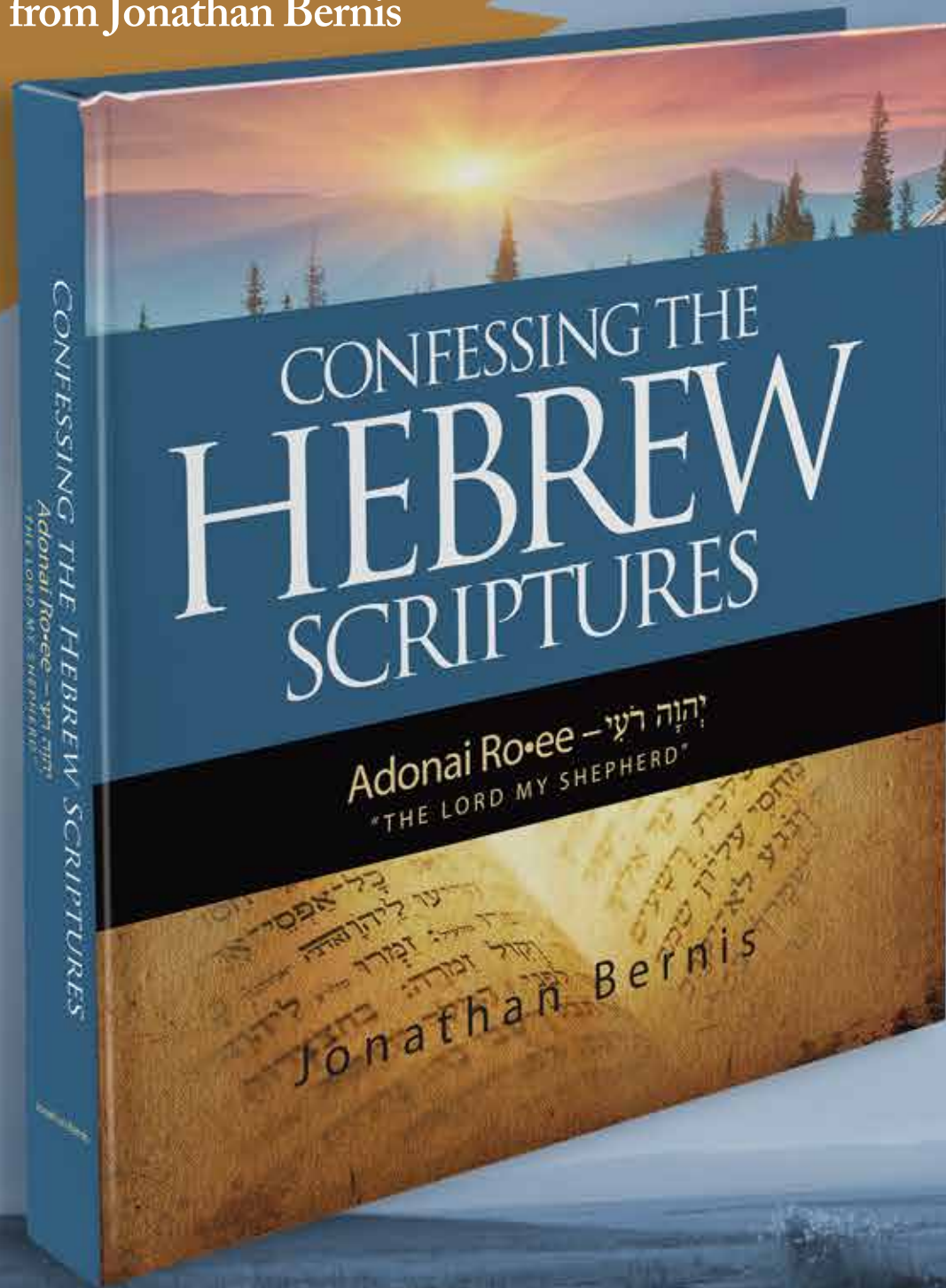
- A complete description of each of the Spring Feasts
- Details about how these events were celebrated in biblical times
- Interesting insight into celebrations today
- The true meaning of each of the feasts
- How each feast points directly to the ministry of Yeshua (Jesus)
- Easy-to-follow recipes so you can prepare traditional dishes from each feast
- Why the feasts are important to Believers today!



See page 27 for additional information.

NEW

from Jonathan Bernis



“Adonai is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for His Name’s sake.”

—PSALM 23:1-3

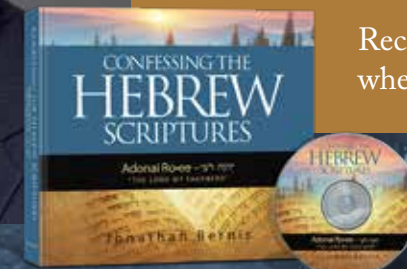
Throughout Scripture, God presents Himself as a good shepherd who cares for His flock. In this fifth volume of Jonathan Bernis’ *Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures* series, *Adonai Roe-e, The Lord My Shepherd*, you’ll find breathtaking photographs alongside inspiring verses from the Old and New Covenants. Confessing the truth of God’s Word transforms us. Here,

in this profound collection, you will receive Scriptures written in English, Hebrew and the transliteration from Hebrew. An audio CD includes Scriptures spoken in Hebrew, enabling you to learn pronunciation and begin confessing these comforting verses in the *Lashon HaKodesh*, the Holy language of Hebrew.



Receive *Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures: Adonai Roe-e, The Lord My Shepherd* by Jonathan Bernis as a thank you for your gift of \$40 or more to support the international outreaches of Jewish Voice Ministries International. 8700

Receive a signed copy by Jonathan Bernis when you send a gift of \$100 or more! 8701



A Good Map Makes for an Easier Journey

By Rabbi Eric Tokajer



Passover



Feast of Unleavened Bread



Feast of Firstfruits

What if I told you that the upcoming Biblical Spring Feasts could provide the answers we need for unity within the Body of Believers, and, with that unity, the mechanism for great revival and restoration?

We live in a world filled with lost people who are desperately in need of redemption and restoration. With changing demographics, adjusting morality, and changing perspectives, the statement, “the blind are leading the blind,” is even more relevant than ever.

People today have ready and convenient access to more Biblical information and materials than at any other time in history. But, instead of the Body of Messiah moving closer together in unity and understanding, the Body continues to schism and become divided over an ever-increasing list of quasi-

doctrinal understandings. Yet, the solution to these divisions is not only within our reach, the answers are within our hands.

The reason the Body of Messiah seems to be heading in every direction at the same time is, to a great extent, the result of our collective decision to view the Bible as a lifestyle manual. In truth, it is an instruction manual or, better yet, a road map through history.

The most accurate cartographer in history, God himself, wrote this map. The map is complete with turn-by-turn instructions and warnings about where travel might be dangerous. On the map itself is printed a detailed layout of all road signs, including redundant reminders for weary travelers.

From the very first page of our Bibles, we are introduced to these road signs and, as with all good vehicles for travel, the map light was turned on first. In Genesis 1:3, we read where God says, “*Let there be light.*” This is before the sun, moon and other planets are spoken into being.

In Genesis 1:14, we read,

“Then God said, ‘Let lights in the expanse of the sky be for separating the day from the night. They will be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.’” In verse 14, the word translated “seasons” is actually the Hebrew word *moadim*, which means “appointed times.” This same word is used to describe the Feasts listed in Leviticus 23. So we see that the sun and other planets were created to provide a way for man to know when the appointed times were to take place.

You may be thinking, “Okay, so we now know that the planetary bodies were created, not just to provide light, but to provide a means to know when to keep the Feast Days, but what does that have to do with unity and redemption?”

Good question. Just as the sun and stars were created for more than simply being a source of light, the Feasts were created to be more than a time of celebration.

Each Feast Day listed in

Let lights in the expanse of the sky be for separating the day from the night. They will be for signs and for season and for days and years.

—GENESIS 1:14

Leviticus serves as part of the road map that leads us from Creation to Messiah and from Messiah to Salvation. They were designed and entered into the biblical map so that Israel would be led straight to Yeshua. Then Israel would become a “Light to the Nations” that would then lead the Nations to the blessing promised through Abraham in Genesis 12:3.

The Feast Days, while given by God for Israel to observe, were never intended to simply be “Jewish Holidays” or “Old Testament Celebrations.” These days were perfectly planned and laid out so that all who looked at the map would follow the “Feast Day” road signs and end up looking directly into the open arms of Yeshua.

There is a reason that Yeshua was executed on Pesach (Passover), rose on the celebration of the First Fruits of the barley harvest, and that the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit) was poured out on the Day of Shavuot (Pentecost). The intersection of these Feast Days was laid out on the Biblical road map so that all who were following the signs provided on the map would be led directly to their Messiah, Yeshua.

Unfortunately, over the years, Israel began to replace some of

the road signs with man-made traditions, which distorted the map and caused many Jews to not recognize Yeshua when He came the first time. Historically, we know hundreds of thousands of Jews did follow the map and found Yeshua to be the Messiah of Israel and began to shine as a light to the Nations. The world saw the historical and prophetic joining together of Jewish Believers and Gentile Believers into one body. However, due to both religious and political forces, this new body also began to remove or replace the “Feast Day” road signs with traditions of their own.

So we have had about 2,000 years of history during which the Body of Messiah largely has traveled along the journey of faith with many of the road signs either removed or replaced. The result of this is religious gridlock and major spiritual traffic jams, which keep both Jewish people and non-Jewish people from easily finding their way to Yeshua for their redemption.

Over the past 50 years, through a unique restorative revival, God has been reconnecting Jewish and non-Jewish Believers in Yeshua through the understanding of the Feast Days. As more light continues to be shined upon them,

more and more Believers have begun to choose to participate and celebrate the Feasts together. This renewal has not only brought more unity in the Body, but the restoration of the road signs has once again provided clear directions for Jewish people to follow those signs to their Messiah, Yeshua.

Yes, it is possible to find Yeshua without understanding the Feast Days, just as it is possible to cross the country without a road map, but having a well-marked and thoroughly signed roadway makes the journey much more pleasant to travel together. It also allows both Jewish and non-Jewish Believers to walk together, in the same direction, in unity. Our eyes can remain focused on the signs leading to

the finish line, instead of having to keep our eyes on the ground stumbling to find the right path.

So this year, as the Spring Feast Days of Passover and Shavuot arrive, rejoice so that the light of Messiah shines so brightly that those around you may see the “Road Signs” that lead to the redemption provided by the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Yeshua. 🇲

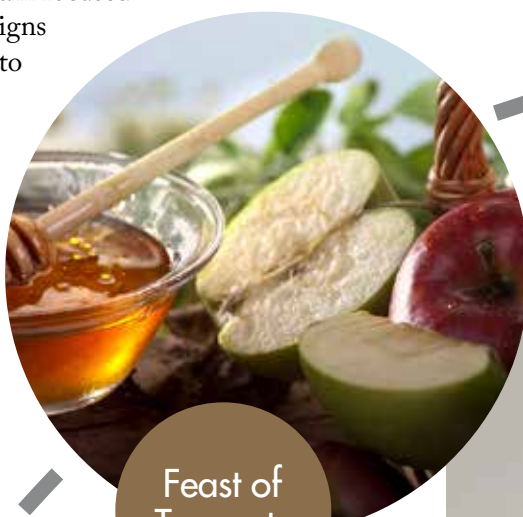
Rabbi Eric Tokajer

Rabbi Eric Tokajer is the director and publisher of *The Messianic Times*. He also founded and leads Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue in Pensacola, Florida. Tokajer has authored several books, *Oy! How Did I Get Here*, a practical guide on ministry targeted at up and coming leaders, *Transient Singularity*, a sci-fi novel and his newest book, *With Me In Paradise*, about the conversation between Yeshua and the thief on the tree.



Day of Atonement

Feast of Booths, Tabernacles, Feast of Ingathering



Feast of Trumpets



Feast of Weeks, Pentecost

The Feast Days were perfectly planned and laid out so that all could follow the signs directly to Yeshua.

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Jewish Voice has partnered with Financial Planning Ministry to provide FREE WILL AND TRUST PLANNING to JVMI partners like you if you have a need. You will have peace of mind knowing your gifts will be blessing God's Kingdom well into the future.

Also, if you choose to participate in the Abraham Promise Fund, you will make a lasting, long-term impact on countless lives.

When you make a legacy gift to the Abraham Promise Fund, you will be a part of proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua to hurting Jewish people all around the globe for generations to come.

JOIN with us and create an enduring legacy of reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel!

Call 1-855-550-1455 or visit jewishvoice.org/apf to learn more.





A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO BLESS ISRAEL

JEWISH VOICE STAFF WRITER

For more than 50 years, Jewish Voice Ministries has had a clear and concise vision.

We exist to transform lives and see all Israel saved. **Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel, grow the Messianic Jewish community and engage the Church concerning Israel and the Jewish people.**

Our heart for Israel and God's Chosen People is the catalyst for Jewish Voice providing desperately needed humanitarian aid efforts through our Medical Outreaches in remote areas of the world—wherever descendants of the “Lost Tribes of Israel” have been found.

While those efforts have taken us to Africa, India and beyond, some of our most urgent efforts are focused in the heart of Israel.

You're probably already familiar with our ongoing Outreach to Holocaust survivors living in Israel. By providing eye care, free eyeglasses and extensive dental care, we are able to help hundreds of these precious



survivors as a result of your generous support.

But you might not be aware just how wide our scope is of ongoing care in Israel.

We partner with and send funds monthly to more than 60 “boots on the ground” organizations in Israel to help those in need—and most of all, to help bring the Gospel to Jewish people living there.

Avi Mizrachi with Dugit Messianic Outreach is a dedicated Israeli follower of Jesus and just one of the dozens of Believers we work with on an ongoing basis in the Land.

Dugit Messianic Outreach takes its name from the Hebrew word for “little fishing boat.” It's a reference to the small boats used in Israel for millennia, most famously by Peter and some of the other original followers of Jesus, who were fishermen when He called them to be His disciples. The name also serves as a reminder that even today we are called to be “fishers of men.”

Dugit Messianic Outreach is based in downtown



Tel Aviv, where it functions as a center for street evangelism and distributes food for the hungry. Members of the team also provide Messianic materials in

various languages and share through one-on-one evangelism the Good News that the Jewish Messiah of Israel has come.

In Tel Aviv and beyond, The Living Israel Messianic Congregation, led by Gleb Samburski, is an organization of Russian-speaking Jewish Believers, mostly from the former Soviet Union, who have been together for more than 20 years. The congregation has experienced tremendous growth and now hosts meetings in Beer Sheva, Jerusalem, Haifa and many other communities throughout Israel. One of their initiatives is to help newly arrived immigrants. They also reach out to serve the sick and elderly.

In 2003, Living Israel opened the first center for those suffering with drug and alcohol addiction, bringing rehabilitation and restoration through a new life of faith in Jesus.

The needs are great throughout Israel. Our partner organizations there include teaching ministries and Bible schools, as well as those that address specific and immediate needs.

For instance, Israel has some of the world's most liberal abortion laws. Several centers supported by Jewish Voice help women choose not to abort their babies and provide for the practical needs of those new mothers, from housing to medical care to equipment, such as cribs to diapers and baby food each month for a child's first year of life.

We also work with centers that help women who are victims of domestic abuse or human trafficking. Other partner ministries reach out to members of the IDF, Israel's army, or those who need employment and housing assistance.

In partnership with you, we support these ministries because they are making an incredible impact in Israel.

When you give to support Jewish Voice, you are partnering with us to “see all Israel saved.”

And that purpose calls us to work beyond Israel's borders as well.

We work with churches, ministries and Messianic congregations across the U.S. to educate Believers about the need to stand with Israel and bless God's Chosen People. Their leaders are learning to proclaim the truth of God's Word and His prophetic purposes for Israel in these Last Days.

Our ministry partners are mobilizing leaders and Believers to advance God's Kingdom in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.

Just one example is the Kiev Jewish Messianic Congregation (KJMC), formed in 1995 as a result of Jonathan Bernis' first Ukrainian Festival of Jewish Music and Dance through Hear O' Israel! Ministries, as countries of the former Soviet Union were opening to the Gospel. These festivals reached tens of thousands of Jewish people, reacquainting them with their Jewish heritage and presenting the Good News of the Messiah. The festivals also reminded Christians that the Lord they serve is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

KJMC has since planted 12 Messianic congregations and ministers in more than a dozen cities in Ukraine and Russia. Intercession is an essential part of the life of KJMC. There are prayer meetings every night of the week devoted to intercession for Israel and other spiritual needs of the people in their area, Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

In 2006, Jewish Voice provided essential funding to start a School of Messianic Leadership in Kiev that prepares leaders for the End-Time revival of the Jewish people.

None of this would be possible without your faithful prayers and financial support.

1. Please pray now for:

- **The ministries that Jewish Voice partners with and supports** in Israel and around the world to flourish and be effective in their kingdom mandates.
- **The peace of Jerusalem**, as we are commanded to do in Psalm 122:6. Pray for God's peace plan for Jew and Arab



alike to be accomplished through the Prince of Peace.

- **The salvation of the Jewish people** everywhere. This salvation can only be found in Jesus the Messiah, for He is “the only name given under Heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
 - **The establishment of God’s Kingdom**, which can only occur when Yeshua our Messiah and King comes to reign and rule forever.
2. **Please consider giving now to continue to help make all these essential ministries and outreaches possible.**

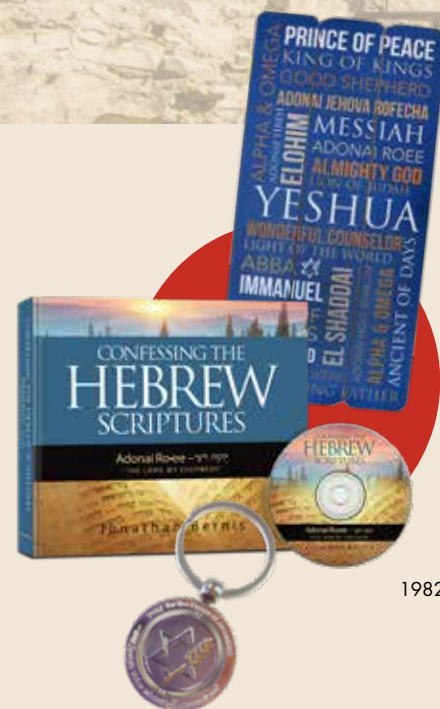
When you support Jewish Voice, you are linking hands and joining hearts with like-minded Believers all over the world to proclaim the Gospel, grow the Messianic community, and engage the Church concerning Israel and the Jewish people.



God hasn’t changed His mind about Israel, and neither have we. We are more committed than ever to follow the mandate and mission we have received. Are you ready to play a larger role in this important work?

Please send the best gift you can today to make a GLOBAL IMPACT with Jewish Voice Ministries.

The need remains urgent. The enemies of Israel aren’t stopping. Israel continues to face challenges to her existence every day. This is the time to send a clear message that we stand with Israel and the Jewish people. 🇮🇱



For your gift of \$60 or more:

Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures – Adonai Roe, The Lord My Shepherd, book by Jonathan Bernis

Jewish Voice Ministries Keychain

The Star of David and wheat sheaf of the Jewish Voice logo represent the spiritual harvest Yeshua spoke of in the Scriptures. One side of the keychain bears the important reminder to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, while the other offers the encouragement of Psalm 46:10 (NIV), “Be still and know that I am God.” This handy keychain will secure your keys and also be a symbol of your compassionate investment to reach Jewish people around the world with the Good News of Yeshua (Jesus). It will inspire you every day with the Jewish Voice Ministries vision: to transform lives and see all Israel saved.

Names of God Plaque

You’ll be encouraged every time you look at this Names of God plaque! From King of Kings to Abba, every name will inspire you and draw you closer to our Lamb of God and Everlasting Father. (Wall art measures 23” H x 11.5” W and includes keyhole-style hanging design on back.)

For your gift of \$90 or more:

Jewish Voice Ministries Keychain

Names of God Plaque

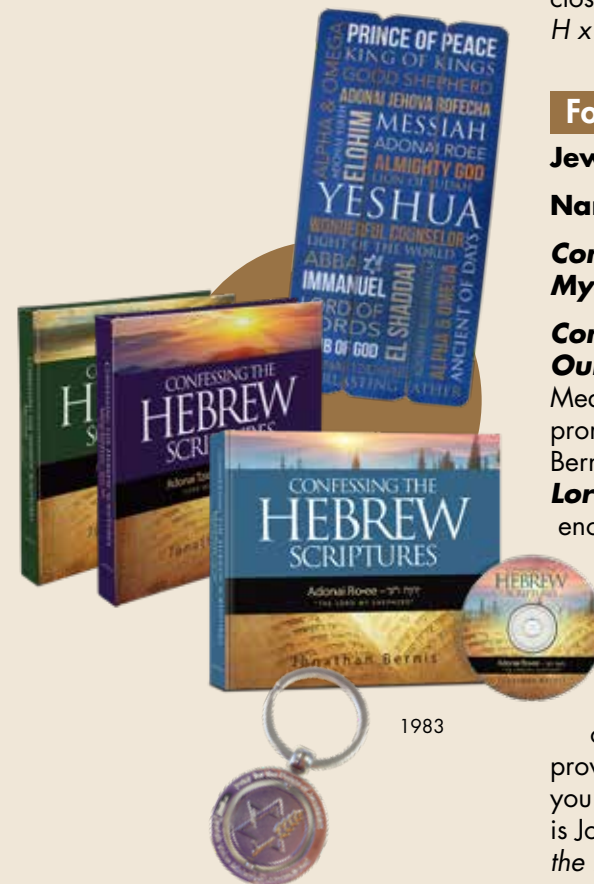
Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures – Adonai Roe, The Lord My Shepherd, book by Jonathan Bernis

Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures – Adonai Tzidkenu, Lord Our Righteousness, book by Jonathan Bernis

Meditate on the glorious righteousness of God and the transforming promises He makes to “the righteous” with the fourth edition of Jonathan Bernis’ *Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures* series, **Adonai Tzidkenu, Lord Our Righteousness**. You’ll be moved to awe over His holiness, encouraged through the strength He offers you, and inspired to stand on His promises given to us in Yeshua Messiah. **(BONUS: Includes Hebrew pronunciation audio CD)**

Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures – Adonai Yireh, The Lord Will Provide, book by Jonathan Bernis

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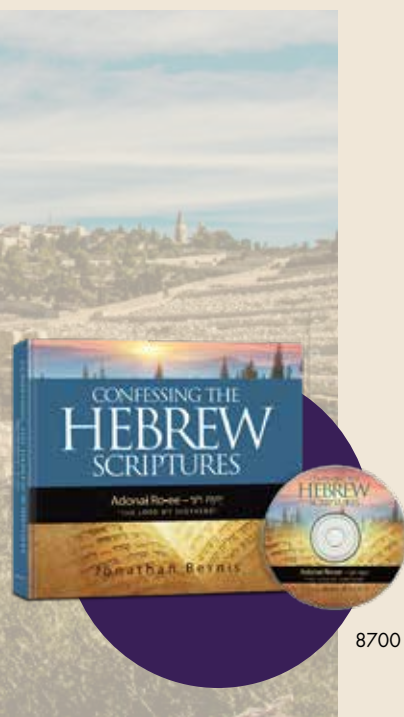
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THE Feasts of ISRAEL

BY ASHER INTRATER

THE STORY OF THE PASSOVER AND EXODUS FROM EGYPT PLAYS A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE LAW AND PROPHETS.

The God of creation intervenes in human history to rescue an oppressed people, to bring about social justice, to establish universal moral law, and to create a group of “Chosen People” from the midst of the nations of the world. (And those people, it is worth noting, were even then a mixed multitude of both Jews and Gentiles).

Both the spring and fall holy days in Scripture have three main levels of revelatory meaning:

- 1. AGRICULTURAL**
(Natural provision from God as creator)
- 2. ISRAELITE**
(National deliverance from Egypt and the Aaronic priesthood)
- 3. MESSIANIC**
(Universal spiritual meaning connected to the Gospel of Yeshua)

The first level of meaning (agricultural) is common to all cultures. Included is a time of thanksgiving to a divine being (or to “nature” as a god) during the spring when the agricultural planting season begins. It is followed with a second time of thanksgiving at the end of the season as the harvest is finally gathered.

This natural level of revelation began with Adam and continued to the time of Abraham (approximately 2,000 years). The Israelite revelation began with Abraham and continued until the crucifixion of Yeshua (approximately 2,000 years). The Messianic or Gospel revelation began with the crucifixion and continues until today (again about 2,000 years).

A traditional Jewish view refers to these three time periods as:

- 1. Adam to Abraham** – 2,000 years for the Gentiles (in the Noachic sense of the word, not in the Luke 21 or Romans 11 sense).
- 2. Abraham to Second Temple destruction** – 2,000 years for the Torah (Law of Moses)
- 3. 2nd Temple destruction to present** – 2,000 years for the Messiah (!)

(The rabbinic meaning here is that it is the time for the Messiah to be revealed.

Obviously, that leaves an open question: Who is the Messiah being revealed?)

In the Gospel level of revelation, the group of holy days in the spring represents the first coming of Yeshua. Pesach symbolizes the crucifixion of Yeshua for the forgiveness of our sins. In the Feast of Firstfruits, we see Yeshua as the first sheaf who is being raised from the dead. Shavuot was the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Not only did those three great events of the Gospel fulfill the meaning of the spring feasts, the events also occurred on the very day that the feasts





were being celebrated. In other words, there was a perfect coordination not only of the spiritual meaning of the Torah and the Gospel, but also of the dates on which the Torah feasts and the Gospel events took place. That is not coincidence, but divine providence.

Not only are the Torah and Gospel dates coordinated by divine providence, both the Torah

and the Gospel are in turn coordinated to the agricultural and weather seasons. Jerusalem is hot in the summer and cold at night in the winter. The one “in between” month in the spring is Nisan and in the

fall is Tishrei. In those two months, the evenings in Jerusalem are particularly pleasant.

The biblical calendar is lunar-based, not solar. The first day of the month always has no moon; the 7th and 21st of the month always have a half moon; the 15th of the month always has a full moon. In other words, there are only two dates a year with perfect weather and a full moon: the 15th of Nisan, which is Passover, and the 15th of Tishrei, which is Tabernacles.

The Gospel is time-coordinated to the feasts of the Torah, which in turn are coordinated to the agricultural season. Or, in reverse, the agricultural season was designed to accommodate the feasts of the Torah, which in turn were designed to accommodate the events of the Gospel.

Why is there such perfect coordination? Because the same God who created the universe also gave us the moral law and the priesthood. And the same God who gave us the Law also gave us the Messiah.

We have only one God. Therefore natural creation, the Torah and the Gospel all go together. There is no contradiction. Before God created the world, the Temple priesthood and the Gospel message were already planned out. Creation was designed with both the Torah and the Gospel in mind (at least in the mind of God).

His works were finished since the foundation of the world.
—Hebrews 4:3

In the sovereignty of God, these three elements—Nature, the Torah and the Gospel—were all planned together before the foundation of the world. They are perfectly unified in meaning. The one God made one Creation, gave us one Law and sent us one Messiah. (Thus, nature can be understood as a parable explaining the meaning of the Bible message. See Matthew 13, Psalm 19.)

The yearly agricultural season and the yearly temple calendar are symbolic of the history of the plan of redemption. As the spring holy days represent the first coming of Yeshua, the fall holy days represent the second coming of Yeshua. Therefore, the meaning of the spring holy days has already been fulfilled, while the meaning of the fall holy days has not yet been fulfilled.

The Exodus happened at the fullness of its time in history, some 400 years after the patriarchs. God chose the season of Passover—the first full moon at the beginning of spring—as the setting, like a stage, to reveal His redemption.

The overall holy-day season is seven months: from the first month in spring with Passover to the seventh month in autumn with Tabernacles. The seven months, like the seven-day week, represent symbolically 7,000 years of human history, according to the biblical pattern.

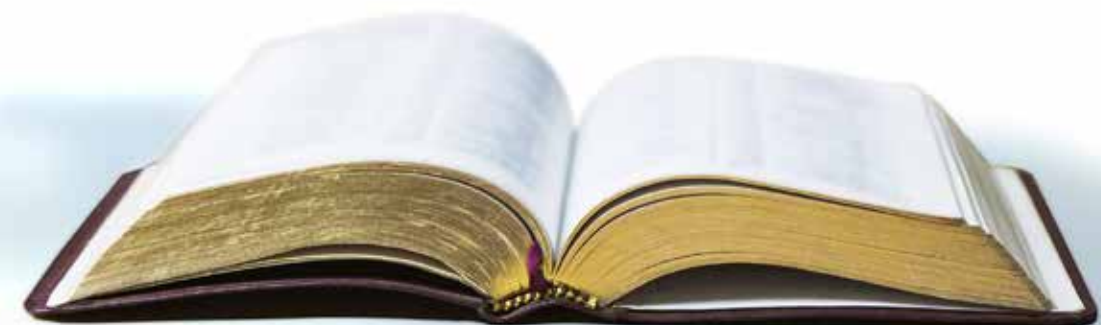
As we think about the different levels of meaning in these holy days, we are impressed by the fact that God has had a plan of redemption for the human race that was pre-destined before creation, imprinted on natural creation and symbolized by the priestly feasts. It is awe-inspiring to see how intricately the priestly symbols and the prophetic significance all fit together. 🇲

Asher Intrater

Asher Intrater is the founder and apostolic leader of Revive Israel Ministries and oversees congregations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Asher was one of the founders of Tikkun International with Dan Juster and Eitan Shishkoff and serves on the board of the Messianic Alliance of Israel and Aglow International.



...not coincidence, but divine providence.



THE Last Days AND THE Spring Feasts

BY DAN JUSTER, Th.D.



We soon will be celebrating Passover in Israel, just prior to the 70th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel in 1948 (5th Iyar, originally 14th of May). This Passover will be experienced by many Israelis as unusually important since our return to Israel as a people is prophesied in Jeremiah 16 and 23 as a new Exodus. But before we look at the important Last Days' meaning for the Spring Feasts, let's first review the fulfillment that took place at the time of Yeshua (Jesus).

Fulfillment at the Time of Yeshua

The Gospels are full of Exodus Passover imagery. In John 6, the feeding of the 5,000 takes place before a dialogue about Moses giving the children of Israel manna. What sign will Yeshua perform to show that He is the new Moses? Those who questioned Yeshua's credentials were amazingly blind to the reality that providing bread for the 5,000 was a parallel miracle to the provision of manna in Exodus.

The Gospel of John is built around Passover bookends. Passover is found at the beginning and the end of this Gospel. All four Gospels emphasize that Yeshua brought a fullness to the meaning of Passover and Exodus. His death and resurrection itself is described as the exodus He would endure (Luke 9:31).

At his Passover Supper, Yeshua presents Himself as the one whose blood is given for the forgiveness



of sin, prophesying that he is the true Passover Lamb. Luke shows that he fully follows the liturgy of that time, beginning the meal with the blessing over the wine, then the bread, and then finally the wine *after* the meal is said to be the blood of the New Covenant. His blood enables us to avoid the judgment, just as the Passover Lamb's blood on the door of the Israelite homes in ancient Egypt protected them from the angel of death, which killed the firstborn of Egypt (Exodus 12:7-8).

The crucifixion itself is the crucifixion or sacrifice of **the Passover Lamb** that takes away the sins of the world. In John's Gospel, the point made that his bones are not broken is a fulfillment of the meaning of the unblemished sacrificial lamb whose bones are not to be broken. (Exodus 12:46, John 19:36).

Yeshua's death and resurrection is an exodus through crucifixion, burial and resurrection. He ends up on the other side of the grave, just as Israel was on the other side of the sea. And

then the Bible says we must also undergo our own personal passover and exodus, a death and resurrection in Him (Romans 6:1-4).

Christian teachers, speaking about the fulfillment of the Feasts, usually say that Passover/Exodus and Shavuot/Pentecost have been fulfilled, but add that Tabernacles/Sukkot in the fall has not yet been fulfilled. This would suggest that Passover/Exodus as a Feast is done, and now we celebrate the death and resurrection of Yeshua as the full and total meaning of Passover and Exodus. But, as important as this fulfillment is, it is far from the truth that the fulfillment is total.



The Fulfillment Happening Now and Yet to Happen

Rather, the Bible speaks of a Last Days' Exodus and a worldwide Passover that are yet to come. The Last Days' prophetic meaning for Passover/Exodus is crucial, and we are living in those days, beginning with the dramatic events of the Holocaust and the resurrection of Israel as prophesied in Jeremiah 16 and 23.

In addition, there is coming a great judgment to the whole earth and a trial for Israel and the Church that parallels the period in Egypt before the Exodus. Amazingly, the Roman Catholic Catechism (1996) picks up on this and states: The Church will enter the glory of the kingdom only through this final Passover, when she will follow her Lord in His death and Resurrection (Revelation 19:1-9). The book of Revelation is rightly referenced as a fulfillment of a Passover trial yet to come.

The Book of Revelation itself is primarily based on the idea of a vast worldwide Passover and Exodus yet to come. The people of God—Israel and the Church—are described in chapter seven: 12,000 from every tribe of Israel, who are the Messianic Jews, and a multitude of Believers from all nations, who none can number. They are God's people who are to be protected and will not experience the wrath of God, though they will experience persecution and martyrdom from the enemies of God.

So we see the elements from the days of Egypt repeated: the

Last Days' Pharaoh, as the Antichrist (Revelation 13); the false prophets who are like the occult prophets/magicians of Pharaoh (Revelation 13); the two prophets in Jerusalem who announce the plagues, like Moses and Aaron (Revelation 11); and the final deliverance (Revelation 14, 19). (For more information, see my book *Passover, Key to the Book of Revelation.*)

As we enter into the celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary, which comes soon after Passover, it is not unreasonable to believe that we will be moving into the events of the Last Days in the near future. This time is fraught with meaning.

It is also important to note that the second spring feast, Shavuot/Pentecost, also points to the future. In Judaism, it is the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. The outpouring of the Spirit was at that time as well, which is fitting since only by the Spirit do we fulfill the Law of God.

However, it is again a mistake to

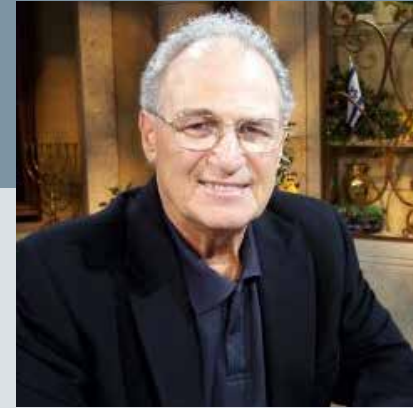


believe that this is in reference only to past fulfillment. The fulfillment in Acts 2 on the day of Shavuot was partial, for the Spirit is yet to be poured out on all flesh.

That is yet to come, and this is why we see world revival and outpouring as part of the events of the Last Days and the Second Coming. 🇲🇵

Daniel Juster, Th.D.

Daniel Juster, Th.D., of Restoration from Zion of Tikkun International oversees a network of congregations in America and supports the building of congregations in Israel. He is the author of 19 books. His book *Passover, Key to the Book of Revelation* further illuminates some content in this article.



TEACHER OF TRUTH RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

At Jewish Voice, Gil Kaplan may be best known as the son of founder Louis Kaplan. But all who know him have a deep respect for his humility, unwavering spirit of encouragement and diligent study of God's Word.

And recently, Pastor Kaplan was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Theology degree from Gateway International Bible Institute in Phoenix. This honor is reserved for those who have achieved a high level of excellence and compiled a substantial, credible and

recognizable body of work in their realm of ministry.

"In spite of being a profound and learned revelator of God's Word himself," said Chancellor Brian Alton, "Gil humbled himself and submitted to further training by enrolling as a student of our Bible Institute, when he very well could have taught the instructors."

Pastor Kaplan completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at Gateway, formerly Desert Rose Bible College, and became an ordained pastor and Messianic rabbi. He served two Messianic congregations, taught at various Bible colleges, and continues to be a popular speaker.

His teachings include studies on brokenness, tears, humility, suffering and the preciousness of time. His works are "profound, deep,

mature, thorough, systematic and challenging," according to Jonathan Bernis, president and CEO of Jewish Voice Ministries International, who participated in the conferral service.

Pastor Kaplan, with his wife Brenda, founded Builders of Unity Ministries International to unite and mobilize the Body of Messiah. His deep passion for God, profound knowledge of God's Word and enthusiasm for encouraging and unselfishly serving the Body of Messiah make this honor especially well-deserved.

Congratulations, Dr. Gil!
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Hebrew School

WITH RABBI JACK

While watching TV the other day, I saw commercials for Heinz Ketchup, Coca-Cola and Hershey's Kisses.

And, for the first time, the thought crossed my mind: "Why are these companies even advertising? After all, they've been getting their messages out for years; everybody already knows who they are!"

Everybody, that is, except the 2.5 million people who are born each week. They don't know and, like the rest of us did, they have to start their learning with the basics.

And that's why after 2,000 years of Bible teaching and instruction, there are still people who don't know that Yeshua is Jewish.

And I was once one of those people. I'll never forget the time I was walking on campus at college and saw a group called "Jews for Jesus." They were handing out tracts and literature about who they were saying my Messiah was. One of the representatives gave me a card and said, "It has a portrait of Jesus on it; look, He's Jewish!"

Many of you may have seen this card. On one side it has the verse from Revelation 3:20, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.*"

On the other side of the card is a color illustration of Jesus knocking on that door. A Jesus, mind you, with long blond hair and blue eyes. A Jesus who looks more Scandinavian than Israeli. A Jesus who was portrayed like a California surfer, not the itinerant Rabbi of His day.

Where do people come up with this stuff? Who kidnapped my Jewish Yeshua, and how much ransom had to be paid to get Him back?

The short answer to the first question is that since the early Church mistakenly accused the

Jewish people in their day of Deicide, what followed was an intentional effort to distance the Bible from everything and anything Jewish, even if it meant stripping Yeshua of His own Jewish identity.

But how do we know that He was, is and always will be Jewish? I mean, my traditional Jewish parents once told me that the reason we as Jews didn't accept Jesus as Messiah was because, while He was born Jewish, He decided one day to (supposedly) come to His senses and convert to Christianity, and that's the story.

The Bible, of course, tells a very different one. A Jew is a Jew because of a bloodline, an ancestry, a genealogy. If you are a descendant of one of the 12 tribes, you are Jewish. Just look at His family tree as it is detailed in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. It is the lineage of the Tribe of Judah. Yeshua—fulfilling prophecy—descends from King David. Note how He was circumcised on the 8th day, was taught Torah, observed the Jewish/Biblical Feasts and Festivals and even went to the synagogue on the Sabbath!

And perhaps the strongest evidence of all: If Yeshua said He was Jewish, who are we to argue with Him? Indeed, in the Aramaic translation of John 13:13, Yeshua identifies himself as a Jewish Rabbi.

And while some would say that He started out Jewish but then stripped Himself of His Jewish identity, Revelation 5 says otherwise. Verse 5 in that chapter tells us that when He comes back, Yeshua will be referred to as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Root of David.

I so enjoy this festival time of year because it reminds me that these precious feasts are not simply Jewish Feasts; they're Yeshua's feasts. He observed them all—and all of them are all about Him!

Chag Sameach! (Joyous festival!)

YESHUA IS A JEW!
(or, You Mean He Wasn't From Helsinki?)

God's Appointed Times

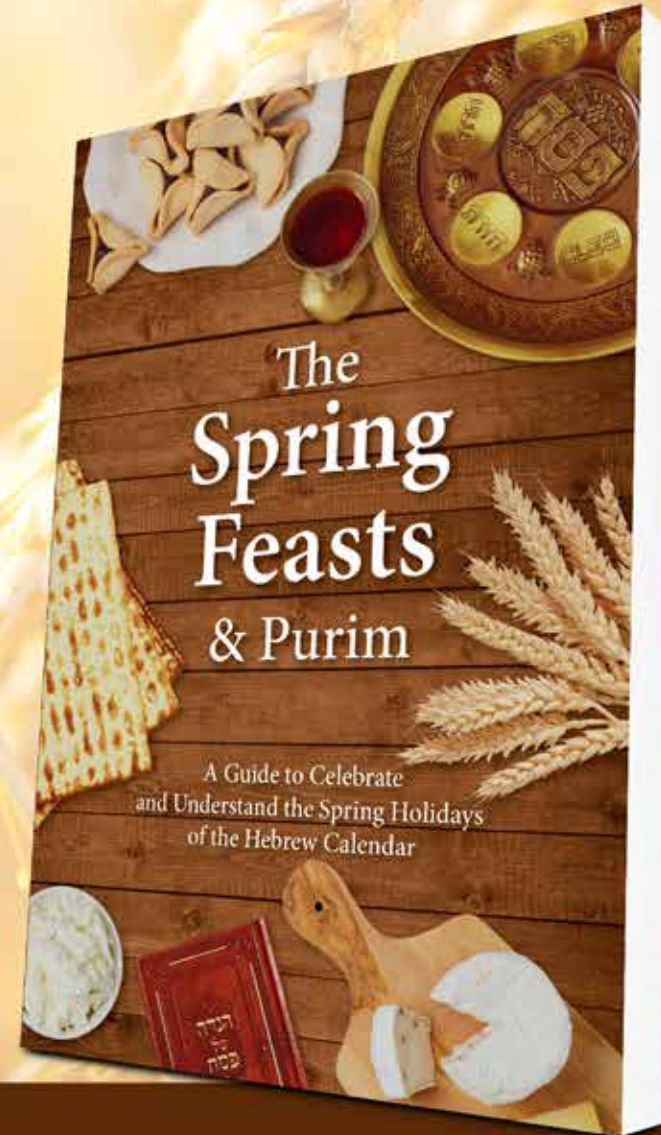
Celebrate and Understand the Spring Holidays

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is an amazingly detailed and inviting God. He set seven specific "appointments" with His people, calling them to meet with Him during the year. Through each of them, He reveals more of Himself and beckons His people into a deeper understanding and awe of Him. Gentile Believers in Yeshua (Jesus) have much to gain by observing these Feasts as well. You'll marvel at the intricate pictures of God's redemptive plan instilled into each of His "appointed times," or *moadim*.

Though it is not one of the biblical feasts, you'll see God's faithfulness in the Purim story and His great love for those who are His. You'll learn the history and prophetic significance of each Feast and the meaning it holds today for Believers in Jesus.

Holiday recipes will help you celebrate the Springs Feasts and Purim.

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