

How Christ will rule the World - 12

We have looked at how the tutoring of the nations will include the keeping of special days and events - "From one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the Lord" - Isaiah 66:23. "The seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the Lord" - Leviticus 23:3.

In addition to the weekly Sabbaths, the Law of God also provided for monthly sacred assemblies "in the beginnings of your months," - Numbers 28:11, which were later called "new moons." In addition there were several annual feasts, all conveying the work of God with his people -

These were - Passover / Feast of Unleavened Bread - first day and seventh day, Feast of weeks / Pentecost, Day of Blowing Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Booths. - PASSOVER, held in Spring, will point back to the sacrifice of Jesus, "the lamb of God". The FEAST OF WEEKS was an offering from the first grain. As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:23, "each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming." The "harvest" of faithful believers will come at the end of Christ's reign - vv. 25-28.

The Day of BLOWING TRUMPETS will be a time to "Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute. Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day." This will be to remind one another of what God expects from His people, "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that (they) would walk in My ways!" - Psalms 81:1-13.

The Day of ATONEMENT was not a feast, but the opposite, when the worshippers were to "deny (or humble) yourselves, and shall do no work, neither the citizen nor the alien who resides among you. For on this day atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you; from all your sins you shall be clean before the Lord" - Leviticus 16:29. In participation, they learned the necessity of being cleansed of their sin in order to have fellowship with God, and the need to cease from sin - as Jesus said to the man he healed at the pool of Bethesda, and the woman taken in adultery, "sin no more."

The feast of BOOTHS was a call for renewed effort to serve God, with the reminder of the Rest which God had in store for all who "hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end" - Hebrews 3:6. In keeping this feast, the people were to "rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your manservant and your maidservant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates" - Deuteronomy 16:14.

This shows what God wants to see in his people - not only rejoicing in their relationship with Him, but also of the care and compassion on those in need - fulfilling His desire for them to "love your neighbor as yourself" - Leviticus 19:18.

God wants His people, in worshipping Him, to be happy, thankful and rejoicing - because they have placed their trust in Him. As foretold of those in Israel, when they will be guided by the new immortal shepherds, "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion ... their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow." - Jeremiah 31:12.