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Mystery of Festivals Explained and Resolved

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In looking at our Jewish and Christian heritage as believers, we have been studying the seven



Festivals (aka Feasts) as listed in Leviticus, chapter 23.

This is one of the most important chapters in the Bible, as it concisely tells the whole story of the spiritual redemption of humankind from Genesis to Revelation.

Isaiah prophesies with these words: "Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning. And from ancient times things that are not yet done..." (Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV).

Here we find God declares or tells "the end of the story from the very beginning." Only God can predict the future 6,500 years ahead of time!

He gave the whole picture in Leviticus, Chapter 23. Of course we're still counting the years as the Last Days are not over yet.

In past columns, we have reviewed Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits, the three Spring Festivals.

We have reviewed the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost which comes 50 days after these Festivals.

Three Fall Festivals:

In my last column, we began the series of the Three Fall Festivals starting with The Day of Trum-

pets. I mentioned that the first four Festivals have been fulfilled, but the last three have not.

We look forward to the upcoming fulfillment of "Yom Teruah" or The Day of Trumpets. (For review, go to: www.EmotionallyFree.org).

The best way for you and me to know where we are on God's Time Clock is to study these Festivals and understand what they mean. It is also most important to personally experience them. We need to keep our lamps full of oil for Jesus says at the midnight hour He, the Bridegroom, will come (Matthew 25:6).

Yom Kippur: "Yom Kippur" or the Day of Atonement, is the Fall Festival, number six.

In Leviticus 23: 27 Yahweh says, "Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord."

This is one Festival that is not experienced by Judeo-Christians, as those who are ready have gone on to Heaven during the time of Jacob's Trouble.

The gates to Heaven are opened on the "Day of Trumpets" which we have studied. On this Feast, many will be sealed before the closing of the gates. In Matthew 25 in the account of the Virgin believers Jesus said, "Those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding; and the door was shut" (vs. 10b NKJV).

"Yom Kippur," the Jew's holiest Festival, was a day of confession and total fasting for 24 hours and

is yet today. While "Pesach" is for humankind's personal atonement, Yom Kippur is a picture of the National Redemption or Atonement of Israel, which is yet to be fulfilled (Romans 11:25,26).

The Chosen people may not have many friends at that time of testing, but they will not bow to any Anti-messiah (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4). The Jew's best defense is to stand back-to-back with their brethren in the Holy Land. This is how the Lord will find them regathered when He comes. (Zola Levitt, 1979, "The Seven Feasts of Israel.")

At a "Yom Kippur" celebration, people often wear white for purity. Near the end of the service you will hear a door slam shut. This reminds Jewish believers that the door to Heaven will close someday as the Day of "Hesed" (grace) is over, even as the door to Noah's Ark was closed by God.

The Shofar HaGadol is the trumpet sound given at this Festival. "HaGadol" means "The Great." This trumpet blast will herald the return of Messiah to rule on the earth during the Sabbath Millennium.

We will look at this concluding Festival in my next column. Keep listening for the joyful sound...

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