



Your Partner Teaching!

August 2006

from Pastor/Evangelist Errol Eardly

Together bringing Salvation, Healing & Deliverance to un-reached millions in Sri Lanka!

THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD (7 JEWISH FEASTS) P 1

Dearly beloved, our precious Lord during the beginning of 2006 began to give me new insight into the Feasts of the Lord. One day during my prayer time I was reading and meditating on the book of Amos, I came across the feasts that God hates (Amos 5:21-27). These words just burned in my heart and I knew God was showing me something very powerful. I realized that these were man made, religious pagan feasts that God has not ordained in His word. I then searched for the Lord's feasts from the Word of God and I was blessed from what I found. As I began studying it deeply, I found out that we were not celebrating the Lord's feasts in the way and during the times He wanted us to celebrate. I was also amazed at the seven promises God gave to those who celebrated His feasts.

One of the questions that I always had about the Body of Christ was answered here. I then understood why the majority of Christians were sick and sometimes not healed, had no protection and frequently attacked by demons, oppressed etc, because they were not keeping the Feasts as God commanded. I then decided I will do my very best to keep these feasts even if others don't agree. I also received material from a Pastor friend of mine who celebrates these feasts and the favour of God is on him and which gave me a clearer understanding of the Feasts of the Lord. I was able to celebrate the Passover with him and with many Pastors and believers last year.

These feasts can be celebrated with the family and also with fellow believers if not allowed in your Church. These celebrations are also real fun for the children. We of course don't need to celebrate it to the letter as our brothers and sisters the Jews, but taking part on the day that the feasts are celebrated is really blessed, joyful and the Lord's presence is felt too. The other blessing is that the Old Testament scriptures and the New Testament fulfillments are read and explained by the Parent of the family and the family gets a deeper and richer understanding about God's Word and their foundation of the Christian faith is strengthened. God commanded us to teach our children of these holy days. (Exodus 13:8) Each family can determine the best way to celebrate these feasts as long as we can be a part of it.

When we celebrate these feasts, we are also one with the Jewish people, who are God's chosen and beloved children and the answer to the prayer of our precious Lord in John 17:22, *"That they all may be one."* Many Christians too celebrate these feasts and also the born again Jews. We Christians are also spiritual Israel and Abraham's seed.

God designed SEVEN feasts for His people (Leviticus 23). These feasts were God's own holy days and special instructions were given for its observance. The Hebrew word for feasts means 'appointed times'. God Himself gave them the sequence and times for these feasts to be observed. The Seven Feasts were commanded by God to be celebrated each year, **plus the Sabbath** every week which is our Sunday celebration.

Unfortunately in AD 325, the Roman Emperor Constantine stopped the Passover as a Church practice and changed it to Easter, which is also celebrated during the same time. Since then the Holy Convocations (the feasts of the Lord) have not been observed by Christians. Amazingly Easter was named after the Babylonian goddess 'Ishtar', a pagan goddess of fertility and the symbols of fertility used were cute rabbits, dyed eggs and new clothing were worn. These have nothing to do with the death and resurrection of our precious Lord Jesus. We as Christians can celebrate the Passover without the paganism in it, which will truly please our wonderful Saviour.

I. God Himself Declared that these are His Appointed Feasts

A. *"These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."* Leviticus 23:4 KJV

(i) Lev 23:2 *Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies."*

#1- Passover, Pesah: Jesus on the Cross... While Passover was being celebrated, which included the slaying of an unblemished Lamb, Jesus (Yeshua) was being slain on the Cross (1Cor.5:7-8).

#2- Unleavened Bread, Hag HaMatzah: For one week after Passover. It is a picture of sanctification, as Jesus (Yeshua) was buried. Leaven is representative of sin, of which Jesus had none, and conquered it for us, He paid for all our sins, He cleaned out the old leaven...Sin! (1Cor.5:7-8, Gal.5:9).

#3- Firstfruits, Yom HaBikkurim: The last day of Unleavened Bread ...Resurrection of Jesus.... symbolic of Jesus being the first of the Firstfruits (1Cor.15:23).

These three feasts are celebrated during April or May and in succession and celebrated as one feast.

#4- Pentecost, Shavuot (Harvest Offering): Fifty days after Passover, is the Feast of Weeks. The Holy Spirit in Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection (Act.2)... two loaves of bread are offered, which is a picture of the Old and New Testaments.

Then there is a break until September or October and three more feasts are scheduled also in succession:

#5- Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashanah: For 10 days... the Second Coming of Jesus, and it may occur on a Rosh Hashanah, as Calvary came on a Passover (Mat.24:29-31, 1Thes.4:16-18, 1Cor.15:51-52).

#6- The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur: At the end of Rosh Hashanah, ten days later... It is Final Judgment and it may fall on a Yom Kippur (Rom.2:5-11, Mat.25:31-46, Rev.20:11-15).

#7- The Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, Sukkot: Five days later... It is Eternal Heaven...or eternal Hell!..the last celebration for good or bad, for ever and ever (Mat.25:31-46, Rev.20:11-15, Rom.2:5-11) .

B. These seven feasts were divided into three feast seasons, **Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles**. God commanded every Jew (especially every male) to celebrate them three times a year - *"Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. ¹⁵Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)" ¹⁶And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. ¹⁷Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD."* Exodus 23:14 -17.

C. The first three feasts namely **Passover, Unleavened Bread** and **Firstfruits** are celebrated during April or May and in succession and celebrated as one feast the **Passover** season. The second is **Pentecost** season and is celebrated as one feast 50 days later. The third feast season **Tabernacles** also has three feasts, namely **Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement** and the **feast of Tabernacles** and are celebrated in succession one after each other after a break during September or October.

(i) Our Lord Jesus went up to Jerusalem on these Feast days and celebrated them: When He was 12, went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, He was lost and found in the Temple (Luke.2:41-50)... during His 3 years of public ministry the Gospels relate He went to Jerusalem for the 3 feasts, and it was the opportunity to preach the Gospel, (John 7:2, 10-52, John 10:22-39, Mark 14:12-16, 17) in the last Passover He was crucified.

(ii) These three great celebrations are related to the liberation of Egypt:

a)Passover - the day of liberation.

b)Pentecost - the giving of the Decalogue to Moses.

c)Tabernacles - the 40 years wandering in the desert.

D. God commanded that they celebrated it throughout their generations forever. *"So this day shall be to you a memorial, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance". "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever".* Exodus 12:14 & 24

E. Four of these seven feasts have been fulfilled and there are three more to be fulfilled. Our precious Lord Jesus fulfilled the first three with his life, death and resurrection and the fourth when He sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We are now living in the time between the feast of Pentecost and last three feasts of Tabernacles (namely Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the feast of Tabernacles). Our wonderful Lord Jesus will fulfill the final three feasts at His second coming. We are living in the time when our glorious Lord Jesus will come in the clouds to take us home. Isn't that wonderful? So let us do all we can to preach the gospel to every creature before He comes. " ¹⁴*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*" Matthew 24: 14

F. The Feasts are still celebrated today by the Jewish people. The Messianic Jews also celebrate the feasts but they do so with an understanding of the fulfillment and yet with an expectancy that the last 3 feasts will be fulfilled. Many Christians even today celebrate these feasts. Amazingly these four feasts were fulfilled on the exact dates of the Jewish calendar.

II. The Seven Blessings of Celebrating The Feasts.

A. *"Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. ¹⁵Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)" ¹⁶And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. ¹⁷Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD."* Exodus 23: 14 -17

1. God will send an angel for your protection.

"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared." Exodus 23: 20

2. God will be an enemy to your enemies.

"²²But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries". Exodus 23: 22

3. God will prosper you.

"²⁵And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water..." Exodus 23: 25a

4. God will take sickness away from you.

"...and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee". Exodus 23: 25b

5. God will make you fruitful.

"²⁶There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill". Exodus 23: 26

6. God will bring you increase and wealth.

"³⁰By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land." Exodus 23: 30

7. God will give you the lost.

"³¹And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand;" Exodus 23: 31

B. Beloved partner, now I understood one of the reasons why most Christians have not received these promised blessings, because they don't keep the command. I pray that as my beloved partner you will celebrate these feasts and receive these promised blessings even if others don't agree.

C. Some can misinterpret these verses as an excuse not to keep the feasts and to disobey the Lord, but that is not what the Apostle Paul is saying here. Col 2:16-17. *"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ (Messiah)."*

(i) Paul is definitely not asking us not to keep the Sabbath for it is one of the Ten Commandments. If we read the whole Chapter 2, Paul here is not taking about the feasts but about salvation that is not by keeping the law, vain philosophies or doing works but by grace

through faith in Christ. We cannot even keep the feasts or Sabbath or even be circumcised to be saved. It is only through Christ by repentance.

(ii) The Apostle Paul also celebrated the feasts. *"When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; ²¹But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus."* Acts 18: 20 & 21

(iii) The Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian Church to keep the feast without the old leaven. *"⁷Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."* 1 Corinthians 5: 7 & 8

III. The Celebration Days of the Lord's Feasts (Jewish Feasts) up to 2011

(Gregorian 2004/2011 or Hebrew 5764/5771)

NOTE: All holidays begin at sundown of the preceding day and end at nightfall of the final day of observance.

Passover (Pesach)

April 24, 2005 (15th of Nisan, 5765)
April 13, 2006 (15th of Nisan, 5766)
April 03, 2007 (15th of Nisan, 5767)
April 20, 2008 (15th of Nisan, 5768)
April 09, 2009 (15th of Nisan, 5769)
March 30, 2010 (15th of Nisan, 5770)
April 19, 2011 (15th of Nisan, 5771)

Pentecost (Shavuot)

June 13, 2005 (6th of Sivan, 5765)
June 02, 2006 (6th of Sivan, 5766)
May 23, 2007 (6th of Sivan, 5767)
June 09, 2008 (6th of Sivan, 5768)
May 29, 2009 (6th of Sivan, 5769)
May 19, 2010 (6th of Sivan, 5770)
June 08, 2011 (6th of Sivan, 5771)

Trumpets (Rosh Hashana)

September 16, 2004 (1st of Tishrei, 5765)
October 04, 2005 (1st of Tishrei, 5766)
September 23, 2006 (1st of Tishrei, 5767)
September 13, 2007 (1st of Tishrei, 5768)
September 30, 2008 (1st of Tishrei, 5769)
September 19, 2009 (1st of Tishrei, 5770)
September 09, 2010 (1st of Tishrei, 5771)
September 29, 2011 (1st of Tishrei, 5772)

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

October 13, 2005 (10th of Tishrei, 5766)
October 02, 2006 (10th of Tishrei, 5767)
September 22, 2007 (10th of Tishrei, 5768)
October 09, 2008 (10th of Tishrei, 5769)
September 28, 2009 (10th of Tishrei, 5770)
September 18, 2010 (10th of Tishrei, 5771)

Tabernacles (Sukkot)

October 18, 2005 (15th of Tishrei, 5766)
October 07, 2006 (15th of Tishrei, 5767)
September 27, 2007 (15th of Tishrei, 5768)
October 14, 2008 (15th of Tishrei, 5769)
October 03, 2009 (15th of Tishrei, 5770)
September 23, 2010 (15th of Tishrei, 5771)

Thanks a million once again for your love, prayers and support for our wonderful Lord's work in Sri Lanka! Without you and our precious Lord these would not be possible. Keep sowing your seed for your harvest and the Lord's harvest!

With my love for you and the lost!



Errol Eardly

Continued next month.....

Quote of the Month!

**Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless.
- Charles Spurgeon**

- ✓ Prayer Requests!
- ✓ Personal Ministry & Counseling!

Contact Pastor Errol on:

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**Pastors!
Please contact us for a
Miracle Crusade in your
Church!**

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