

1. Over the past several years, my wife and I have been focused on a commitment for our family to do Bible things in Bible ways. Our desire has been to eliminate from our lives any worldly traditions that do not have a clear and solid foundation in scripture. Perhaps the most significant and meaningful change we've made is celebrating the Biblical "feasts", or appointed times as outlined in Leviticus 23.
2. There are actually seven appointed times that all Bible believers are directed to keep throughout the year. It is a common misconception that these feasts are strictly a Jewish tradition intended only for the Jewish people. Scripture, however, makes it very clear exactly who owns these feasts, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of YHWH, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My** feasts'" Each one of these feasts is rich with Biblical significance and fascinating symbolism. Anyone who ascribes to having been saved by grace through faith and who holds to the authority of the Bible should find these holy days to be profoundly meaningful and spiritually revealing.
3. It is first interesting to note that the Hebrew word translated as Feasts in Leviticus 23 is Strong's H4150 "Mow-ed" and it means, appointed place, appointed time, or meeting. This can have a general meaning, but it also can apply to a sacred season, set feast, appointed season. So these appointed times are sacred, predetermined dates in which the Most High has decided to prophetically interact with his creation. It is truly an amazing discovery when we realize WHEN and HOW he scheduled these appointments.
4. Genesis 1:14: And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: When we read this verse, it's easy to see the word *seasons* and think, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. However, the Hebrew word that gets rendered as Seasons, is once again Strong's H4150, "Mow-ed", meaning appointed times or set feast.
5. So quite literally, part of the reason the Father put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky like a giant clock is to keep track of these very special dates that He had planned since before the creation of the world. If these days are THAT important to him, imagine what we, as his children, could learn about His plan for salvation by observing them. Especially since we know, according to 1 Peter 1:20 and Revelation 13:8, that the sacrificial death of our Messiah was **also** ordained before the creation of the world. What if these two sets of preplanned events were actually connected?
6. The seven annual festivals are divided into four Spring Feasts and three Fall Feasts. Each of these appointed times simultaneously memorializes historical events from the Scriptures and prophetically looks forward to future occurrences. The Biblical significance of these holy days is impossible to overstate and the extremely brief explanations provided in this video are intended only as a superficial introduction in the hopes of getting you curious enough to investigate more for yourself and

hopefully inspiring you to make these dates part of your own worship practice. Provided here are a short list of resources that have proven beneficial in my own studies.

7. The Spring appointed times include the Passover meal which starts off the Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Shav'uat, which is also known as Pentecost. Many are familiar with the Passover meal and its role in protecting the Israelites from the 10th plague, which was the death of the first born. This salvation was provided by the blood of a lamb which was without spot or blemish. This, of course, is symbolic of our Messiah, the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.
8. The Feast of Unleavened Bread also commemorates the events of the Exodus from Egypt because the children of Israel were commanded to eat unleavened bread with the Passover meal. They also had to leave in haste and there was not time to leaven their bread. (Exodus 12:34) The commandments for observing the seven day feast of Unleavened Bread include removing all leavened products from your home prior to the start of the feast, and for the duration of the feast you are to eat unleavened bread each day. Leaven is frequently used throughout scripture as a metaphor of sin, which the Bible defines as transgression of the law. Thus, during the seven day feast we are symbolically removing sin from our house and only consuming bread that is without sin. This further embellishes the symbolic nature of Christ's sacrifice, as his death removed sin from the world, and he identified himself as the bread of life.
9. As is true with all of the appointed times, First Fruits is actually connected with a great many significant historical events recorded in scripture. FirstFruits is deeply connected with "New Beginnings." This makes sense given that the Hebrew word translated as FirstFruits in Leviticus 23:10, re'shiyth, is the same word used in Genesis 1:1 for "In the Beginning" But perhaps the most noteworthy fulfillment of FirstFruits is the resurrection of Yeshua, or Jesus, which took place on this very day, thus making him the first fruits of the resurrection.
10. Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16 direct us to keep Shav'uat, or the "Feast of Weeks" by counting seven Sabbaths, or 50 days, from time of First Fruits. In fact, in Greek, this feast is known as Pentecost, which literally translates to "50th day," Shav'uat is most significant as both the day the Most High delivered the Torah on Mount Sinai, and as the day in which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles." There are many fascinating connections and similarities between these two events, which actually occurred 1200 years apart to the day! (100 years for each of the tribes of Israel.)
11. It is truly a stunning revelation when one realizes that all of the Spring Appointed Times are directly associated with the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, as well as the subsequent pouring out of his Holy Spirit. In a sense, Yeshua's first coming was a fulfillment of these feasts, that is to say, that when all of these

various historical events in his life occurred, they actually happened on these specific appointed days, which the Father scheduled since before the creation of the world.

12. Like the Spring Feasts, the Fall appointed times are clustered together on the calendar and directly relate one to another with the first being Yom Teruah, or the Day of Trumpets. Many Bible scholars believe the Feast of Trumpets will be the day that our Savior returns in his full power and glory, especially when compared to verses that describe his return. *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great SOUND OF A TRUMPET, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with the voice of the archangel, and with the TRUMP of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first (Matthew 24:30-31) (1 Thessalonians 4:16)*
13. Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, has a fascinating level of depth and symbolism. This was the one day each year in which the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel through the shedding of sacrificial blood. This pattern foreshadowed Messiah, our Heavenly High Priest, who would one day come to make atonement for the sins of the whole world through the shedding of his own sacrificial blood. Now in the modern era, Yom Kippur is a most solemn day of humility and remembrance for what has been done on our behalf; the terrible price that Yeshua paid for OUR transgressions. It is a day that also looks forward prophetically to the future judgement we all face, and an opportunity to recommit our efforts in following the Messiah by obediently observing all of his commandments. Yom Kippur is a Sabbath day of fasting and reflection in which we evaluate our spiritual walk and intentionally plan how we can draw ever-closer to our loving creator.
14. The final annual appointed time is the seven day Feast of Tabernacles that actually includes a great eighth day! Sukkot, which is the festival's Hebrew name, is the greatest and most joyful of all the appointed times. The instructions state we are to live in booths for seven days and essentially have a huge party! That's right, the maker of heaven and earth wants us to go camping for a week and have a full on celebration! Sukkot is, in part, a memorial to the 40 years of wandering in the desert in which the children of Israel had to live in tents. But prophetically, Sukkot looks forward to the return of Yeshua when he establishes his Millennial Kingdom, and tabernacles here with us on Earth.
15. All of the Most High's appointed times are called holy convocations, or sacred gatherings, and are essentially meant to be understood and observed as dress rehearsals. That is to say, part of why we should keep these feasts here and now is to be prepared for future prophetic events. Because it only stands to reason that if the Spring Feasts are a symbolic picture of Messiah's first coming, then the Fall

Feasts are a model, or script for his return. And if you believe we are unquestionably living somewhere within the last days, don't you want to be on the same calendar as the Most High? In fact, it is my belief that a proper understanding of the order and importance of the Father's appointed times is absolutely critical in understanding the prophetic events regarding Yeshua's return.

16. The more you study these feast days, and dig deeper into their beautiful and poetic symbolism, I promise you will be overwhelmed by what the Father has created to teach you about himself and his plan of salvation. And if you are a parent with children still in your home, these days are an absolutely essential tool for you to "train up your child in the way they should go." If you are one who identifies as a Christian, that is to say, a follower or imitator of Christ, there seems no reason to not make these days a part of your lifestyle of worship? Especially since he would also have spent his entire life celebrating these same feasts. Again, as imitators of Christ, if he did something, shouldn't we?
17. Each time our family keeps one of the 7 commanded holy days, we learn something more about the Most High, his plan of salvation through his son, and the beautiful way in which he's woven that message throughout the ENTIRE text of the Bible! What a privilege it is to even be able to attempt to keep these times that are so rich with meaning and scriptural importance. There is so much blessing to be had in keeping these days. These are the holidays the Father intended his children to celebrate! These are the holidays that actually have REAL Biblical context.
18. I am quite confident we are not doing it all correctly, I'm fairly sure we are probably doing some things wrong, and I'm absolutely certain that we still have MUCH to learn about the great depth and tremendous significance the Father has imbued into these appointed times. But out of a genuine desire to be obedient, we do the best that we can, based on our current understanding. I know the Father sees us trying, and I also know that it pleases him to see us do so. I continually thank him for the honor of having been adopted into his family and for opening my eyes to the importance of his Feasts.
19. If you are interested in learning more about the Feasts of YHWH and how they all point to Yeshua, please see my video "The Jesus I Wish You Knew" that features me discussing a painting I created on the topic. And if you liked this video, I would invite you to please give it a thumbs up and subscribe to the channel.