

From the West Meadow
Pastor Wes Higgins

October 3rd this year marked the first day of the 7th month according to the calculated Hebrew calendar. This is the calendar God established with Moses in Exodus 12. October 3rd was also the first of the fall Holy Feasts as recorded in Leviticus 23, the Feast of Trumpets.

At this point you may be asking, “So what?” Why does any of this matter? The festivals listed in the Old Testament have long been considered that–old–having nothing to do with the New Testament church. So let’s take a look at the New Testament to see what we can find.

Jesus was recorded keeping the Feasts. In fact, the gospel of John makes a point to mention Jesus Christ’s observance of them (see chapters 2, 5, 7, and 8). The apostles observed them along with Jesus and are recorded keeping the Feasts after the resurrection. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was so concerned about keeping the Feasts that he organized his travels around them (Acts 18:21). In writing to the church at Colosse, Paul told them that Christ is the very essence of the Feasts (Colossians 2:16-18). In fact, Paul told the Colossians not to let anyone judge them for keeping the Feasts, nor to let anyone cheat them out of their reward for keeping them.

If you were a first century Christian, you would notice the many references made to the Feasts in the writings of Paul, Peter, James and John. In the last book of the New Testament, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, John writes that he was in a vision on the Feast of Trumpets–the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10), hearing the voice of the Lord sounding as a trumpet.

Yet with all of this in the New Testament, many still want to put the Feasts aside as irrelevant–as “old Jewish festivals”.

Don’t mistakenly think that the Feasts were first given to the Jews; they were appointed during Creation. In Revelation 13:8, Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb (Passover is the first festival of the year), was “slain from the foundation of the world”. Genesis 1:14 tells us the lights in the sky, the sun, moon and stars, were placed there as signs of the seasons, the “mo’ed” in Hebrew, the “appointed times of God”. In Leviticus 23:2 the same word “mo’ed” is used. Notice what God told Moses, “The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts”. And in verse 4, “These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.”

Several things should be noted here. Far from being Jewish Old Testament festivals, God calls these days “the feasts of the Lord” and He declares them “My feasts”. Then He tells us, His people, to proclaim them to be holy times of meeting. God also declares that these feasts of the Lord–these holy convocations or meetings–are to be proclaimed at their appointed times.

I’m taking this opportunity to proclaim to you these feasts of the Lord, these holy convocations, at their appointed times: October 3, Feast of Trumpets; October 12, Day of Atonement; October 17-23, Feast of Tabernacles; and October 24, The 8th Day of the Feast. For more information, check out our website CelebrationChurchofGod.org.

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