

May 10, 2022

## Draw Close by Remembering

Shalom,

Included in this week's reading in **Leviticus 21–24**, the Torah portion named, “Emor,” or “**Speak**”, God gives His instructions concerning **His feasts** in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter and indicates their **importance** to **His covenant people** and their future generations.

*The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are My appointed feasts.’” (Leviticus 23:1-2 ESV)*

*Then Adonai spoke to Moses saying: “Speak to Bnei-Yisrael, and tell them: ‘These are the appointed moadim of Adonai, which you are to proclaim to be holy convocations—My moadim.’” (Leviticus 23:1-2 TLV)*

The Hebrew word for feast is transliterated as **mo'ed**, or appointed time, festival, fixed time or season; and the word, convocation is **miqra** in Hebrew, and is defined as a public meeting, assembly, or **rehearsal**. All the **moedim** of the LORD have specific dates and intervals that are to be observed either weekly or annually. **They are appointed times to meet with the LORD and are rehearsals for that which has been accomplished, and for those things that are yet to come.** By establishing **set times** for His people to observe and remember their Creator, **He protects us from allowing our “Daily Activities” to lull us into an “Out of sight, Out of mind” attitude concerning our relationship with Him.** Just as the Lord's Supper stirs us to remembrance of the redemption that is in the Messiah Jesus, every one of God's Appointed Times, as they are observed from year to year, become **a cycle of remembrance** that keeps us in a **state of expectation**. Many believers who regularly participate in **the Lord's Supper** fail to grasp that it is a focal point of Passover and is commemorated as **the third cup of redemption** during each Passover meal.

Many Christian believers see no need to learn of these events, because they see them as *Jewish customs*, forgetting that all scripture is God-breathed and profitable for all of us, and God has told us that, **“These are My feasts.”** Remember, God chose to reveal Himself and establish His covenant with the people of Israel. However, all that He revealed to Israel and the Jews is meant to be **available to everyone who believes.**

*They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, Who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5 ESV)*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*  
(Romans 1:16-17 ESV)

Now, it is important to say that the **commemorating of the feasts cannot, nor was it ever designed to, bring about salvation.** We are reconciled to God through the blood of Yeshua HaMashiach, and Him only, without regard to the keeping or commemorating the law, and **nothing we do can make us righteous**, nor add to what His redemption has accomplished. Having said that, we also need to say that **our understanding, or the revelation, of what He has done for us can grow**, and that is what our God instituted for us in the coming together of the body at appointed times for the purpose of remembering, growing in knowledge, and looking forward with excitement toward the fulfillment of the wisdom of God.

*Therefore, keep in mind that once you—Gentiles in the flesh—were called “uncircumcision” by those called “circumcision” (which is performed on flesh by hand). At that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.** For He is our shalom, the One Who made the two into one and broke down the middle wall of separation. Within His flesh He made powerless the hostility— the law code of mitzvot contained in regulations. He did this in order to create within Himself one new man from the two groups, making shalom, and to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross— by which He put the hostility to death. And He came and proclaimed shalom to you who were far away and shalom to those who were near— for through Him we both have access to the Father by the same Ruach. **So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.** (Ephesians 2:11-19 TLV)*

Those who understand that there are both historical and prophetic fulfillments associated with each of the feasts recognize that **YHWH uses His appointed times to maintain a glorious awareness of what He has accomplished through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to build an eager expectation of the glory that is yet to be seen on this earth.**

Staying focused,  
Terry

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