

# A look at the first century church B-01

## OVERVIEW - The feasts of the Lord

- What are the 7 feasts?
- When are they celebrated?
- When the Church is not aware.
- Why did The Lord command these FEASTS? - John Fisher. 1979
- “The catechism” of the Jew, Q & A. - John Fisher. 1979
- Colossians 2:17 - Paul: “Shadows of things to come”
- Some History - Effect of elimination.
- The future - God’s plan for the Future.

# A look at the first century church B-02

## OVERVIEW - The feasts of the Lord

- The Biblical feasts and their components:
- **What are the 7 feasts?**
- Sabbath - Friday evening to Saturday evening. *(see Genesis 1)*
  - ◆ Sunset to Sunset, the beginning of the day, instituted during creation week and later became also part of the 10 Commandments.
- Passover /Pesach: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First fruits
- Pentecost /Shavuot – descent of the Holy Ghost on the apostles after fifty days counting from the day after Resurrection.
- Tabernacles /Sukkot - Trumpets /Rosh HaShanna, Atonement /Yom Kippur, Tabernacles /Sukkot.

# A look at the first century church B-03

## OVERVIEW - The feasts of the Lord

### ■ WHEN are The Feasts of The Lord celebrated?

#### ■ Cycles:

#### ■ Sabbath - Weekly cycle,

■ celebrated Friday evening to Saturday evening, see Genesis 1.

#### ■ The Feasts are celebrated on a yearly cycle:

◆ First Month	Passover	Spring time
◆ Third Month	Pentecost	Summer
◆ Seventh Month	Tabernacles	Fall time

# A look at the first century church B-04

## The feasts of the Lord - God's plan

- Why are these Feasts of The Lord celebrated?
- Why did The Lord command these FEASTS?
- When the Church is not aware of the Feasts of The Lord, it is not fully aware of His plan!
  
- Did the Church miss the plan of God?
- Quote from the March 13, 2014 monthly letter from the **Cyrus Foundation** - Bart and Deborah Kellogg: "... The Church, for the most part, has missed one of their main destinies in God, and throughout history actually turned to do exactly the opposite of their call in Romans 11. What time was lost and lives spent because of the spiritual blindness that came upon the Church when they separated themselves from the Jewish people. Pray to God to soften even more hearts in the Church and bring revelation of this important call, that true brokenness and humility would lead many to repentance that they could see the truth about Israel."

# A look at the first century church B-05

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS?**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **When God taught the Jewish people His truths in the time of Moses, He communicated them in a unique way:**
- **God employed vehicles (festivals) that involved all of our senses in order to leave an indelible impression on us.**
- **These Festivals communicate God's message in beautiful, picturesque ways.**

# A look at the first century church B-06

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS? - continued**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **The Lord's Festivals serve as reminders of Him and our obligations to Him**
- **The Festivals serve as teaching aids for absorbing religious truths.**
- **The Festivals can also serve to communicate God's message to our children and friends.**

# A look at the first century church B-07

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS? - continued**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 God commanded us to daily teach our children His ways in ALL we do.**
- **So the children will understand that following God is a life style and relevant to every aspect of life.**
- **The observance of the calendar events aids in this process and demonstrates that each day in our life has tremendous significance before God.**

# A look at the first century church B-08

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS? - continued**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **Rabbi Samson Hirsh: "The catechism of the Jew consists of his calendar. ....The Festivals of God, these heralds of time, proclaim His truths, and to them God has entrusted the care of His holy things, thereby rendering them more imperishable and more accessible than any mouth of priest, any monument, temple, or altar could have done. (Judaism Eternal, Vol 1, p3).**



# A look at the first century church B-09

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS? - continued**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **The New Testament, Hebrews 8:5 and 10:1 speaks of the Festivals and New Moons as "Shadows of good things to come", that is they highlight the Messiah.**
- **But a shadow cannot highlight anyone if it is removed from the picture.**
- **The "shadows" still have important functions to perform.**

# A look at the first century church B-10

## The feasts of the Lord - by John Fisher. 1979

- **WHY are they celebrated and WHY did The Lord command these FEASTS? - continued**
- *Source: "The meaning and Importance of The Jewish Holidays", by John Fisher. 1979.*
- **Jesus (Yeshua) taught in Matt 5:17-19, that anyone who annulled the least of God's commandments, or taught others to do so, would be called "least" in His Kingdom.**
- **Jesus did not come to abolish or set aside the Law (Instructions), and it's teachings; He came to do the opposite, to fulfill them, or to "bring to full expression", showing forth in its true meaning.**
- **The image is of a crown, showing someone forth in its full radiance. The Festivals are pictures of this.**

# A look at the first century church B-11

## The feasts of the Lord - “SHADOWS”

- The Biblical feasts ARE commandments = INSTRUCTIONS of GOD, because He LOVES us and HE wants the Believer to know what GOD has intended for the Believer!!
- GOD wants us to know and understand our future !!
- The “shadows of things to come”, *Col 2:16-17*, still have important functions to perform.
- *(KJV) Col 2:16* Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
- *Col 2:17* Which are a *shadow* of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

# A look at the first century church B-12

## The feasts of the Lord - Effect of elimination

- **History: (1)**
- **DID THE DISCIPLES AND THE 1ST COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS (CHURCH) CELEBRATE THESE FEAST IN THE BEGINNING?**
- **Answer: Yes, all the Disciples did. Paul the Apostle did.**
- **But, as soon as the Roman Emperor became the head of the Church, anything “Jewish” was eliminated.**
- **Question:**
- **Why were church councils still fighting to stamp out these influences seven hundred years later?**

# A look at the first century church B-13

## The feasts of the Lord - Effect of elimination

- History: (2)
- ANSWER:
- Some people did not follow and obey Church leadership.
- Especially true at the fringes of the Empire due to lack of control at the “fringes” of the Empire.
- Examples: Scottish islands, Moravians – Italian ALPS, and certain areas of India in 1700-ies were still Messianic Jewish in nature.
- The Portuguese in the 1700-ies, tried to convert the early Christian Communities to Roman Catholicism.

# A look at the first century church B-14

## The feasts of the Lord - Effect of elimination

- History: (3)
- RESULT for the Community of Believers:
- Failing to recognize the way God set things up leads to:
  - ◆ a powerless social church, (starting 325AD – 1500's, 1900's)
  - ◆ The Reformation put The Scriptures (The Word), in the hands of the people, but most believers did not yet walk in POWER.
  - ◆ Lack of power resulted in lack of demonstration of the Good News
  - ◆ The Community of Believers (Church), no longer demonstrated to the world who Jesus is.
  - ◆ The Church no longer had the full revelation of who Jesus is.
  - ◆ The Church failed to get the believers healed physically and emotionally.

# A look at the first century church B-15

## The feasts of the Lord - Effect of elimination

- History: (4)
- RESULT for the Community of Believers:
- Failing to recognize the way God set things up leads to:
  - ◆ No longer being connected to God's prophetic Time Line (The Biblical Feasts),
  - ◆ Many believers **no longer are anticipating the return of The Messiah (Christ), the 2nd coming.**
  - ◆ Many Christians are not prepared for the meeting in the air.
  - ◆ Literally: "My people perish for lack of knowledge".

# A look at the first century church B-16

## The feasts of the Lord - Effect of elimination

- History: (5)
- The community of Believers (Church), during the time period from 325 AD thru 1500 AD, even the 1900-ies, would not have anywhere near the Glory of the "ekklesia" described in The Scriptures during the 1st century ekklesia, or "kahelia".
- This study upholds the original meaning and use of the word "assembly" as God intended:
  - "KEHILA KHAVERUT"
  - "THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES"
- Question: What does God wants us to know?



# A look at the first century church B-17

## The feasts of the Lord - God's plan for the Future

- Some of these “**shadows of things to come**” have been fulfilled prophetically already.
- (NKJ) Col 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: 17 Which are a **shadow of things to come**; but the body *is* of Christ.
- The **spring feasts were fulfilled at the 1st coming of Jesus**:
  - ◆ PASSOVER, the 1st group the 3 feasts.
  - ◆ Shavuot, or Pentecost, started 50 days after 1st Fruits was fulfilled, and we are still in this Feast TODAY!!
  - ◆ Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles. **Will be fulfilled at the 2nd coming of Jesus.**

# A look at the first century church B-18

## The feasts of the Lord - God's plan for the Future

- IF.....
- The spring feasts were fulfilled at the **EXACT DAY AND HOUR** during the 1st coming of Jesus, on **PASSOVER**, (the Passover Lamb), **ON FIRST FRUITS**, (the Resurrection),
- **and IF .....**
- the “summer” feast of Shavuot, or Pentecost, or Feast of weeks, 50 days after 1st Fruits was fulfilled at the **EXACT DAY AND HOUR**, the Disciples in the upper room commemorating the ‘**GIVING OF THE TORAH**’, and 3000 souls were added to The Kingdom of God,

# A look at the first century church B-19

## The feasts of the Lord - God's plan for the Future

- THEN....
- Would God not fulfill the “Fall” Feasts of Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles, ALSO on the exact same day and hour through the 2nd coming of Jesus?
- Rosh HaShannah: (Trumpets), The rapture, “meeting in the air”
- Yom Kippur: Judgement day, Tribulation
- Sukkot, Tabernacles: The millennial reign starts

# A look at the first century church B-20

## The feasts of the Lord - God's plan for the Future

- **THEN**, the question becomes:
  - ◆ **Are YOU ready** for Jesus, The Messiah's 2nd coming?
  - ◆ Are you convinced beyond any doubt you are part of the rapture, or "meeting in the air"? 1Th 4:17
  - ◆ 1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
  - ◆ **Or,**
  - ◆ are YOU going to find yourself at the great Yom Kippur, the Judgement day, and enter the 'intense' Tribulation?
  - ◆ are you determined to make it through The Judgement and are able to enter **Tabernacles**, the millennial reign?