

The Fall Feasts of Yahuah

by Rav Sha'ul

The Meaning of the Spring and Fall Feasts of Yahuah

This is the season of the fall feasts of Yahuah! Every year during the Spring and Fall Feasts I make an effort to try and understand His appointed times at a deeper level. Understanding that these rehearsals are “shadows of greater things to come”; I want to understand these moedim (rehearsals) from a physical to spiritual standpoint. My goal is to come to a deeper understanding of what these appointed times are meant to teach us and “how” we are to keep these feasts properly. It should be our goal to rehearse them exactly as they will be fulfilled, so that we are prepared for our role as they are fulfilled in the future.

It is my goal to help us all understand the Feasts of Yahuah in a more practical way, so that “keeping them” makes much more sense to us. I find most people really don't understand what these feasts are rehearsals for (or they think they do), but really we are just going through the motions in a ritualistic fashion. We are attempting, at best, just to be obedient but in reality we are doing nothing more than following the instruction of the Pharisees or Rabbinical Judaism.

We are at the beginning of the 7th Millennium and the fulfillment of the Fall Feasts is imminent. At this late date, keeping the Feasts of Yahuah should have produced within us an understanding of what they are rehearsing. That is the goal of a rehearsal is to prepare us and help us understand the actual event and what our role will be. We are now living in the final 7th Renewed Covenant (what I call The Yahushaic Covenant) when we should have full knowledge of the transposition of these appointed times. Yet, we are still following Rabbinical Judaism and keeping them as though we are still in the Mosaic Covenant! We are following traditions of men and not what Yahuah outlined in The Torah. We should all admit one important fact, Rabbinical Jews did not and do not understand these moedim, if they did they would never have executed their own Messiah:

1 Corinthians 2

7but we speak Yahuah's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which Yahuah predestined before the ages to our glory; 8the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the King of glory; 9but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."...

We see above that Sha'ul mentions the Mystery Language, and then speaks in this mystery language a parable and prophecy from the book of Isaiah. We are going dig deeper into the mystery of the ages that Isaiah spoke about in Isaiah 64:4 **"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT YAHUAH HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."**... the Plan of Salvation spoken of by Isaiah and referenced by Sha'ul as a "mystery" or "hidden wisdom" is found in the Spring and Fall Feasts of Yahuah.

We read in 1 Corinthians 2, that those who "ruled" at that time (the Pharisees who ruled the synagogues and Sadducees who ruled in the Temple) did not understand the meaning of Yahuah's Holy Days. Had they understood the mystery of these moedim, they would never have killed Yahusha! Why then are we keeping these Holy Days in the way and example of Rabbinical Judaism? They do not now, nor did then, understand the meaning of these Appointed Times. Nothing has changed in Rabbinical Judaism over the last 2000 years. The same human traditions are carried forward today in Judaism.

We read in 1 Corinthians 2:7 that Sha'ul mention ***"predestined before the ages to our glory"***! If we are truly going to unlock the "mystery" of these modeim we must begin there before the ages as Sha'ul indicated. We must journey back to the very beginning and search for our answers as to "what" the Feast Cycle is telling us. We are going to go back to the very beginning, before the Feasts of Yahuah were given orally to Adam – Moses, before they written down in detailed instructions in the Mosaic Covenant. Why? Because now in the Yahushaic Covenant they have found their ultimate meaning; meaning which was ordained before the foundation of this earth and predestined before the ages as Sha'ul stated.

Creation is crying out the Plan of Salvation

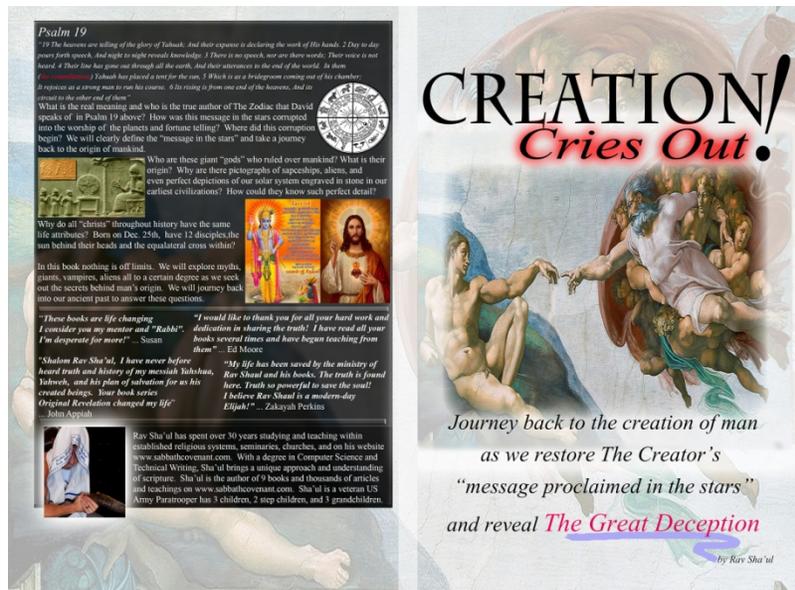
Sha'ul, speaking of Yahuah's Feast Cycle, declared in 1 Corinthians 2 that the meaning of the Feasts of Yahuah were a mystery and hidden wisdom. He clearly understood what many even today do not comprehend. He stated that no one of this age (this is still the same age, ages are 2000 years in duration) understood the true meaning of these moedim. Sha'ul pointed us back to creation for the answer declaring: "Yahuah predestined before the ages to our glory".

What is Sha'ul referring to? What is it in "creation" that is crying out to us, and what is it saying? Is there a message embedded, designed by The Creator, that will give us insight into His Appointed Times and Feasts?

Well, Rav Sha'ul the Apostle understood this and declared it so. We find Rav Sha'ul the Apostle further elaborate on this truth below:

Romans 1

¹⁹ because that which is known about Yahuah is evident within them; for Yahuah made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since **the creation of the world** (he points out that creation is the Original Revelation that cries out) His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, **being understood through what has been made,**



Available on Amazon Books, The Book Patch, and www.sabbathcovenant.com

In my book ***Creation Cries Out!***, I disclose this mystery written into creation by our Father for all to see. I explain exactly what it is that creation is crying out to us, the message that Sha'ul says is understood through what Yahuah has made so that we are without excuse. I am not going to go too far into this topic in this teaching, I suggest everyone get my book ***Creation Cries Out!*** and read it. That message written in the stars was corrupted and very few understand what that message is telling us. However, that message is the foundation of The Torah, the Feasts, and the reason Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac, and the foundation of all pagan King's claim to rule mankind. I am just going to hit the high points that apply to this teaching today.

You see; at creation, Yahuah through His handiwork designed into the stars (as seen from Earth) a "message". That message is what we call the Zodiac. The message in the stars (called the Zodiac) was perverted by fallen angels who twisted the message into "sun worship" in Babylon.

That “sun worship” survives, even today, in the form of Christianity and in Judaism both being Hellenized religions.

We have been misled to avoid the Zodiac at all costs by these syncretized Hellenistic religions. We are told the Zodiac is “evil” and so forth. It is true the enemy has taken what is the most fundamental message to all humanity and twisted it into a lie. The Zodiac is used for evil such as Astrology, witchcraft, and so forth. This fact alone, that the enemy has focused the attack on the Zodiac, should tell us there is a message there the enemy does not want us to see! That message in the stars is mentioned several times in scripture:

Job 38:32

"Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?"

Mazzaroth is a Hebrew word which means "*The Constellations of the Zodiac.*" In what may be the oldest book in all of human history, we find that the constellations of the Zodiac were already clearly known and understood. We know from the Book of Enoch (which is even older than the Book of Job) that mankind has been searching for the answer to the secrets preserved in the heavens since the beginning of the human race. When Adam fell, he was cut off from directly communion with The Creator and the true message began to fade with each successive generation. This lost communication with our Creator left the door open for rebellious Angels to twist this fading message to their own benefit. Enoch warned us of this happening, as Azazel revealed the eternal secrets to a mankind. He did so, however, in a way that twisted the message so that mankind would worship Angels and the Sun, Moon, and Stars!

The Book of Enoch - Chapter 9

6 things, and nothing can hide itself from Thee. Thou seest what Azazel hath done, who hath taught all unrighteousness on earth *and revealed the eternal secrets which were (preserved) in heaven*, which 7 men were striving to learn”

We must reclaim this most critical message found in the Zodiac as it is literally the foundation of The Torah! We know that originally the truth of this message was revealed to by Yahuah to select servants, as we see King David proclaim the true meaning of the Zodiac:

Psalms 19

19 The heavens are telling of the glory of Yahuah; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. 4 Their line (*Zodiac is the line the Sun takes through the constellations*) has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them (*the constellations*) Yahuah has placed a tent for the sun, 5 **Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his**

chamber; It rejoices as a strong man (**Messiah**) to run his course. 6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit (**Zodiac**) to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

David is describing the Zodiac, which is the path the sun takes through the constellations each year. That message is of a Messiah (strong man) running his course (of a wedding) as a Bridegroom who pays the ultimate price (Spring Feasts) for his bride; then returns for his bride and reigns as King (Fall Feasts).

This basic Plan of Salvation and revelation was lost again over time as Israel adopted pagan ways of worship and succumbed to “sun worship” (which is the perverted message of the Zodiac):

2 Kings 23

4 The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of Yahuah all the articles made *for Baal* (**the Babylonian Sun God Nimrod**) *and Asherah* (**The Babylonian Queen of Heaven Ishtar/Semaramis**) and all the starry hosts (**they began worshipping the images of constellations**). He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. 5 He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—***those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts....*** He removed from the entrance to the temple of Yahuah the horses that the kings of Judah had ***dedicated to the sun***. They were in the court near the room of an official named Nathan-Melek. ***Josiah then burned the chariots dedicated to the sun.***

This is why the leaders that crucified Yahusha did not understand the Feasts of Yahuah! The “message predestined beforehand for our glory”, as Sha’ul stated, is a revealed “mystery in the heavens” to only the chosen few. Coming out of Babylonian captivity, this sun worshipping religion was incorporated into the worship practices of Israel and permeated the ranks of Rabbinical Judaism at the time Yahusha was crucified. That is why they did not understand the meaning of the Feasts, they fell for the twisted message not the Truth. In fact, it is still carried forward today in Christianity and Rabbinical Judaism. This is origin of “mystical Judaism” otherwise known as Kabbalah!

What is that message in the heavens revealed by The Zodiac?

Let's get back to King David. Before Israel fell to worshipping the sun/moon/stars, and read again what David said"

Psalm 19

19 The heavens are telling of the glory of Yahuah; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them (the constellations) He has placed a tent for the sun, **5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.**

David understood it completely! The message contained in the Zodiac is *The Plan of Salvation*. This Plan of Salvation was written into the stars at creation. It is told from the standpoint of a "wedding" as the bridegroom comes out of his chambers and runs his course! The fundamental message to all humanity written in the stars at creation is that of a "groom" coming forth, paying the ultimate price for his bride with his life, and redeeming her from death, and ruling as King!

What is the message contained in the Zodiac?

The Sphinx is "The Key"



The Sphinx (the head of a virgin and body of a lion) tells us to begin with Virgo and end with Leo to reveal the "message in the heavens", let us see what that message contains that has witnessed to all mankind since creation:

VIRGO: A virgin will give birth to a beautiful glorious and righteous branch. The seed of the woman will be a man of humiliation to rise to be the desire of nations and will become exalted first as shepherd then as harvester. **LIBRA:** The scales demand a price to be paid of this seed, a cross to endure; the victim will be slain and purchase a crown. **SCORPIO:** There is a conflict between the seed and the serpent leading to a struggle with the enemy, the enemy is vanquished. **SAGITTARIUS:** The double-natured seed (servant/king) triumphs as a warrior and pleases the heavens, builds fires of punishment, casts down the dragon. **CAPRICORNUS:** Eternal life comes from his death, he's the Arrow of Yahuah, and he is pierced, yet springs up again in abundant life. **AQUARIUS:** He pours out "living water" from on high, humanity drinks of the heavenly river and the faithful live again, he is the deliverer of the good news (Gospel), Carrying the wood of the sacrifice over the earth. **PISCES:** The Redeemer's people multiplied, supported and led by the Lamb, The Bride is exposed on earth, and the Bridegroom is exalted. **ARIES:** The Lamb is found worthy, the Bride is made ready, Satan is bound, the strong man triumphs. **TAURUS:** The conquering Ruler comes, the sublime vanquisher, to execute the great judgment, he is the ruling Shepherd King. **GEMINI:** The Marriage of the Lamb, the enemy is trodden down; the Prince comes in great Glory. **CANCER:** The great Bride, the two Houses of Judah and Israel are united; they are brought safely into the kingdom. **LEO:** The Lion King is aroused for rending, the Serpent flees, the Bowl of Wrath is upon him, and his Carcass is devoured. The Lion of the tribe of Judah rules as King.

Truly as David and Sha'ul proclaimed: "Their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world'." Mankind is left with no excuses. Now that we know the REAL meaning of the Zodiac, it becomes obvious why the enemy has made it the focus of perversion!

The Feast Cycle is based on the Message written in the stars!

This message in the stars concerning the bridegroom redeeming his bride was then further elaborated in the Feasts of Yahuah. The Feast Cycle is an annual rehearsal of this wedding as the Plan of Salvation is carried out in context of a wedding. This wedding cycle is the “path/course/line” the bridegroom/strong man who is the Messiah is foretold to take each year as King David proclaimed in Psalms 19.

This fundamental message written into the stars by The Creator as a witness to all mankind is further revealed in covenants made between The Creator and mankind. Each and every covenant in the Bible is a “marriage covenant” and the Law are the “marriage vows”. This Plan of Salvation through a wedding was further revealed to us in parables and idioms.

- Parable of the Wedding Banquet in Matthew 22
- Parable of the Faithful Servant in Matthew 24
- Parable of the 10 Virgins in Matthew 25
- Revelation 19

We find that Yahusha, who is the bridegroom, constantly taught the same message written in the stars, giving us more and more insight into the Plan of Salvation... the plan of the bridegroom redeeming his bride.

The Annual Wedding Portrait

The Appointed Times (or the Feast of Yahuah) each year are a literal rehearsal of this divine wedding. This message and meaning behind the annual feasts is hidden knowledge revealed only to those “invited to the wedding”. Like Sha’ul said, it was not understood by the leaders of Israel in the second temple period, or by those who lead us in this age even now. Yet, we follow these same leaders (Pharisees i.e. modern day Rabbinical Judaism) and their “way of doing things” and in doing so we err in our responsibility to rehearse them properly as His Bride!

We have missed the most basic understanding of the Feasts, and we all have become ritualistic in our adherence to these appointed days. We have missed the point and meaning of these rehearsals! We just go through the motions; we are not really rehearsing the events of the wedding.

The Physical Shadow of Greater Truths

Hebrew/Jewish weddings were pre-arranged marriages. They consisted of the father choosing a qualified groom, the groom paying the dowry or “ransom” for the bride, the groom introducing himself to her father, the bride presenting herself to the bridegroom, the bridegroom going away to prepare a place for her in his father’s estate, the bridegroom returning for his bride, the wedding, and finally the wedding banquet.

With this in mind, let me show how perfectly the Feasts Cycle or Appointed Times of Yahuah reflect the physical marriage process. Keeping in mind that a marriage between a man and a woman is a physical to spiritual parallel that should help us understand our roles in the Fall and Spring Feasts:

- ***The father choosing a qualified Groom*** – this is reflected in Yahuah’s choice of the Messiah Yahusha as proclaimed through the prophets.
- ***The Rehearsal Dinner*** – the Chagigah meal on the 14th of Abib is a “remembrance meal” where we are to discuss the upcoming wedding rehearsal and what each day represents. This is called “The Last Supper” in our twisted English Bibles. I explain all this in my upcoming book *The Narrow Gate*.
- ***The Groom paying the dowry or “ransom” for the Bride*** – this is a shadow of Passover as Yahusha “paid the debt to the Father of the Bride” and redeemed us from our prior lives into a new life in covenant with Yahuah. He paid the dowry, or ransom, owed to our Father - **Matthew 20:28** “*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”
- ***The Groom introducing himself to the Father of the Bride*** – Feast of First fruits. **John 20:17** “*Yahusha said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father."*”
- ***The Bride presenting herself to the Bridegroom and agreeing to the marriage vows*** – Shav’uot. On Shav’uot we are to follow the example set by Yahshua during Passover. We are to mikveh ourselves, bring our own lives as an offering at the altar of Yahuah (a lamb without blemish), and then present ourselves properly to our Bridegroom on Shav’uot. We agree to the wedding vows (the Law) by saying “this we will do” or “I do” as they did at the foot of Mt. Sinai. It is a celebration of the giving of the Wedding Vows and our accepting them. Sha’ul expressed the way we are to present ourselves in following Yahusha’s example of Mikveh, circumcision, and bringing an offering. Again we see the Plan of Salvation is a MARRIAGE:

Ephesians 5 – *Paul likens the example Yahusha set to marriage like I said the feasts are a marriage celebration we see below Paul teach the example of Mikveh, circumcision, and offering*

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as the Messiah loved the assembly and gave himself up for her (as [The Passover Lamb paying the dowry](#)) 26 to set her apart, (ritually) cleansing her by the washing with water according to the commandments (of Mikveh), 27 and to present her (consecrated) to himself (*with a circumcised heart*) as a radiant assembly, without spot or wrinkle or any other blemish (as we offer our lives as living sacrifices), but holy and blameless (as the spotless Bride of Yahuah).

- ***The bridegroom going away to prepare a place for the bride in his father's estate -***
John 14 Yahusha says “2 *In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3* *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4* *And you know the way where I am going.*” Here Yahusha is speaking in the Mystery Language a parable and idiom confirming the wedding. Yahusha goes and prepares a place for us in The Kingdom of Yahuah. He is not referring to a physical place (because we reign with him on Earth), he is referring to a place in the family of Yahuah. Yahusha is going to perform the duties of High Priest and offer the proper gifts and sacrifices before the throne of Yahuah required to grant us adoption as sons/daughters. Then he says he is returning for us as a Bridegroom returns for his Bride.
- ***The Bridegroom returning for his Bride*** – Feast of Trumpets or Yom Teruah. This is a portrait of the second coming of the Bridegroom to receive his Bride. Yahusha returns and the Bride is resurrected to meet him. This occurs on the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) which is celebrated over a two-day period at the beginning of the 7th month because it is the only feast based on the timing of the new moon. Yom Teruah became known therefore as the idiom “*the feast of which no man knows the day or hour*” because we don't know the exact timing of the new moon. Yahusha confirmed his return on the Feast of Trumpets when he used an idiom for this feast in **Matthew 24:36** “*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*” Here Yahusha was both confirming his return on the Feast of Trumpets and the arranged marriage using another idiom “*no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father*”. You see, the marriage was arranged by the father unknown to the son.
- ***The wedding*** – Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement. I am going to address this in more detail in a minute.

- *The wedding banquet* – Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles. This feast is known as the Wedding Banquet as portrayed in Revelation 19 and was the meaning behind the Parable of the Wedding Banquet in Matthew 22.

Traditions of men – The Takkanots of the Pharisees

As I said earlier, we have missed the entire “big picture” and meaning of these rehearsals. We follow the example set by the Pharisees, i.e. Rabbinical Judaism, who themselves do not understand the meaning of the Feasts of Yahuah. If they did, they would never have crucified their Messiah 2000 years ago; and if they understood the meaning of them now, they would accept Yahusha as their Messiah. So why then, do look to those who have no understanding for guidance, and follow their example, on “how to keep” these moedim? Yet that is exactly what we do. We follow the tradition of men not the instructions given us by Yahuah!

For example, Rabinnical Judaism instructs us to keep Passover with a “Seder” plate. The Seder Plate was adopted by Rabbinical Judaism after the destruction of the Temple as the Jews became “Hellenized” and adopted pagan rituals. In fact, the Jewish Seder has absolutely nothing to do with Yahusha’s example, nor is it the appropriate way to celebrate the Spring Festival of Passover and Unleavened Bread!

Jews have been keeping Passover using this “order” (which is what the word “Seder” means) for 2,000 years and are no closer to being “taught” the truth of the Messiah as a result. It is not the “example” Yahusha set on Passover that he declared “I have given you an example that you should follow” and Peter stressed as well:

John 13:15

For I have given you an example ([Spiritual Path](#)), that **you should do as I have done** ([offer our own lives as living sacrificial lambs on Passover](#)).

1 Peter 2:21

21 But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it ([you will be perfected just like Yahshua was perfected through suffering ultimately perfected on Passover](#)), this is commendable before Yahweh. ²¹ To this ([giving your own lives as living sacrificial lambs on Passover](#)) you were called, because the Messiah suffered ([on Passover](#)) for you ([and tore the veil giving you access to the Altar of Yahweh](#)), **leaving you an example** ([of what to do as he fulfilled the spiritual meaning of Passover](#)), **that you should follow in his steps** ([and bring your own offering on Passover to the Altar of Yahweh](#)).

The example set by our Messiah on Passover is Mikveh, circumcision, and bringing our lives as living sacrifices to the altar of Yahuah. I cover this in great detail in my book *The Narrow Gate*.

The Seder was not kept by Yahshua nor any of the “Jews” in the Second Temple period. The Seder came about after the destruction of the second temple in AD 70. The Jews needed a way to celebrate Passover and since there was no longer a physical Temple (and they didn’t understand the Spiritual Temple nor accept Yahusha’s example) they gave us The Seder. We have reduced the example set by our King that we are supposed to follow down to an “order” of food items on a plate!!! The Jewish Seder is nowhere to be found in scripture and it is a human tradition. Like all human traditions, it simply clouds our understanding of spiritual things and keeps us in the dark... putting out the “light” of Yahuah’s Word. Yahshua could not make his warning on this any more clear:

Matthew 15:6

Thus you nullify the word of Yahweh for the sake of your tradition.

Mark 7:13

Thus you nullify the word of Yahweh by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.

In fact, the Jewish Seder is nothing more than what I call a “baptized pagan ritual” adopted from their Roman captors! Just like many of the pagan rituals kept in Christianity where we simply sprinkle a little water over it and remake it into a ritual we think Yahuah will approve of. Such is the inevitable result of “human traditions”, they always nullify the Word of Yahuah. The Hellenized Jewish sages over the years simply took the Roman Symposium and “changed the content” and made it “Jewish”. **In other words the Seder is syncretism at its finest.** I am not going to belabor this fact, I just want to establish this fact about the Jewish Seder. We must move on from this pagan ritual so we can move forward in our understanding of what we should be doing on the appointed days. The Jewish Seder, like Christmas/Easter and so forth, must be abandoned to the the trash bend of history!

Taken from Judaism.about.com by Rabbi Professor David Golinkin:

“There is no question that the Seder, which is celebrated on the first night of Passover or on the first two nights in the Diaspora – is *the* central ritual of the holiday of Passover. But what is the *origin* of the Seder?”

The Torah instructs us to slaughter the paschal lamb, to eat it with *matzot* and *marror*, and to sprinkle some blood on the lintel and the two doorposts (Exodus 12:22 ff.) It also instructs the father to teach his son about the Exodus on Pesah (Exodus 12:26; 13:6, 14;

Deut. 6:12 and cf. Exodus 10:2). (1) These *mitzvot* (*commands in The Torah*), however, **are a far cry** from the many rituals which we *do* at the Seder.

Furthermore, the Seder and the Haggadah **are also missing from the Second Temple period** descriptions of Pesah (so *Yahshua did not keep The Jewish Seder*), including a papyrus from Elephantine (419 B.C.E.), the book of Jubilees (late second century B.C.E.), Philo (20 B.C.E.-50 C.E.), and Josephus. (2) (the Seder is not in any of these manuscripts of the Second Temple period).

They (*The Jewish Seder*) are first mentioned in the Mishnah and Tosefta (Pesachim Chapter 10) which scholars date to either shortly before or shortly after the Destruction of the second temple in 70 C.E. (3) What is the source of the elaborate rituals and literary forms of the Seder and Haggadah?

In the first half of the twentieth century, Lewy, Baneth, Krauss, and Goldschmidt drew attention to the fact that **the forms of the Seder are based on Graeco-Roman table manners and dietary habits**. But the most detailed evidence of this borrowing (*syncretism*) was provided in 1957 when Siegfried Stein published “The Influence of Symposia Literature on the Literary Form of the Pesah Haggadah” in *The Journal of Jewish Studies*.(4) Since then, Stein’s basic thesis has been adopted with variations by various scholars who have written about the origins of the Seder. (5) Stein proved in a very convincing fashion that many of the Seder rituals and literary forms found in Mishnah (Talmud) **were borrowed from the Roman Hellenistic banquet or symposium.**”

I go into more detail on all this in my book *The Narrow Gate*, as I explain in detail how we are to truly keep Passover. My point is; we are all following traditions of the Pharisees in how we keep the Feasts of Yahuah. In doing so, we are keeping what was brought over from paganism. This too is true of all the Appointed Times of Yahuah. We do not understand how they are proclaiming the plan of salvation through a divine wedding and we fail in our responsibility to rehearse them properly!

We are doing the same thing on Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement. Instead of keeping it the way Yahuah instructed us to, we are following Rabbinical Judaism and the Talmud! We are all “fasting from food” as though that is how Yahuah commanded us to celebrate the wedding or Day of Atonement when in fact it is the exact opposite of what we are supposed to do!

The Wedding Day of Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur is the day of the actual wedding. It is this day that the “two shall become one” through covenant of Marriage. If you look at the word Atonement, it can be viewed as “At” “one” “ment”. It is the day the Bride becomes “at one” with the Groom.

We see Yahusha pray for this day:

John 17:19-21

"And for their sakes I sanctify myself (through the Truth of Scripture, The Torah and Prophets), that they also might be sanctified through the truth. I don't just pray for these alone, but for all those who shall believe on me through their word; *That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in (covenant with) me, and I in (covenant with) you, that they also may be one in (covenant with) us.*

Yahusha is referring to the covenant of marriage where the “two shall become one”. We know what Yahusha's role is on The Day of Atonement or the wedding day. He, as High Priest, must make atonement for himself, his bride, and creation itself to liberate and bring all that Yahuah created back into “atonement” or at one ment with the Creator:

Hebrews 5 - The Perfect High Priest

1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to Yahuah, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it (weaknesses) he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.

Sha'ul was explaining the role of the High Priest on Yom Kippur where the High Priest had to first make an offering for himself and his family, before making the offering for the nation of Israel. We also see Sha'ul declare the entire plan of salvation and proclaim that the sons of Yahuah would “liberate creation itself” on the Day of Atonement:

Romans 8

19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of Yahuah to be revealed (resurrection on Yom Teruah). 20 For the creation was subjected to futility (when Adam fell), not willingly, but because of Yahuah who subjected it (the fall of creation was part of Yahuah's plan as written in the stars) in hope (of liberating it through His future sons on The Day of Atonement); 21 because the creation itself also **will be** delivered (future fulfillment of The Fall Feasts when Yahusha atones for and delivers creation on The Day of Atonement.) from the

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of Yahuah. (the “purpose” in all of this is that creation is turned over to be governed by the children of YAHUAH) 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors (per The Sabbath Covenant that for 6,000 years creation labors from the effects of sin) with birth pangs together until now (the 7th Millennium, the Sabbath). 23 Not only that, but we also who have the Firstfruits (Paul is confirming the Feasts of Yahuah here... The Passover Lamb/Feast of First Fruits/Spring Feasts) of the Spirit (Given on the Feast of Weeks or Shav’uot), even we ourselves groan within ourselves (along with creation because we have not yet been resurrected either), eagerly waiting for the adoption (into the Family of Yahuah through resurrection), the redemption of our body (the resurrection on the Feast of Trumpets as Paul teaches the Fall Feasts). 24 For we **were** saved (Paul stresses the past tense here because we were saved during the Spring Feasts by the Passover Lamb) in this hope (that Yahusha will return again and fulfill the Fall Feasts, resurrecting our bodies so that WE can then liberate creation), but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees (Paul is stressing that we must still have hope for we have not yet witness the fulfillment of the Fall Feasts, so hope endures)? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it (the Fall Feasts) with perseverance (Paul is encouraging us to endure in hope of the future fulfillment of the Fall Feasts because those who persevere until the end shall be saved).

The question now arises: “What, then, do we do on Yom Kippur?” I get asked this all the time and most people follow Rabbinical Judaism and “fast from food” for 24-hours. Remember, the Jews do not even today understand the meaning of the feasts! Is “fasting from food” required on Yom Kippur or does this day of atonement have a much deeper meaning? Are we required by the Law of Yahuah to “fast from food” on Yom Kippur? No. In fact, there is no instruction in the entire Torah requiring us to abstain from food for any reason. There is only example after example of Yahuah, Yahusha, and Sha’ul condemning the “way” they were fasting.

So let’s take a deeper look at what is required of us on this wedding day of atonement when we become one with Yahuah.

Is Yom Kippur a Fast or a Feast?

First, we see in Mark Chapter 2 on the Day of Atonement, when John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, Yahusha and his disciples were not. Yahshua was questioned on why they were not fasting on Yom Kippur.

Mark 2

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were observing a fast; and [some people] came and asked Yahusha, Why are John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fasting, but Your disciples are not doing so? ¹⁹ Yahusha answered them, Can the wedding guests fast (abstain from food and drink) while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and they will fast in that day.

Notice that they (the Pharisees) did not understand the portrait of the wedding. Yahusha's reply properly put Yom Kippur in context of the wedding and explained that the wedding is a feast not a fast. Yahusha explained that we can fast on any other day (in that day he is not with us) except the Feasts of Yahuah. We don't fast on the Feast Days because they (especially Yom Kippur) are **a rehearsal for the day when the bridegroom and bride are together again** and that we don't fast on the day because it is a rehearsal of the wedding.

This is confirmed as well in the instruction Yahuah gave in keeping Yom Kippur. Yahuah instructed that we "make an offering of fire" and it is a Sabbath. On all Sabbaths we "cook meat on the grill" i.e. make an offering of fire, and we feast not fast. In Leviticus 23, Yahuah gives the instruction on Yom Kippur that we should rest as it is a Sabbath, we should afflict our souls (it says SOULS not bodies), and we should bring an offering of fire. Yahuah doesn't specify what we do with that "offering of fire" because it is implied that we do what we always do with those offerings... eat them. We will look at the instruction to eat the offering of fire on Yom Kippur in the Mosaic Law in a later in this teaching.

So, we see that Yahusha did not require his disciples to fast on Yom Kippur explaining the concept of a wedding and that it is a rehearsal for when the bride and the bridegroom are together and they feast. We see in Yahuah's instructions to "make an offering of fire" that it is a Sabbath of rest and we feast on that offering on Sabbaths.

So why are we "fasting from food" on the rehearsal day of our wedding (Yom Kippur)? Because we are following the example set by the Pharisees as we see, in Mark Chapter 2, THEY fasted and Yahusha did not. You see, the instruction to fast on Yom Kippur is a human tradition passed down by the Pharisees to Rabbinical Judaism today. It is found in the Talmud NOT in the Torah. They don't accept Yahusha as the Messiah, nor do they understand the marriage portrait of the Feast Cycle. The last thing Judaism is going to do is instruct something in agreement with Yahusha, who said not to fast and put Yom Kippur properly in the context of a marriage.

Judaism will tell you that “afflicting your soul” is equivalent to “fasting from food”. This is simply not true! The word used for “afflict your soul” in Leviticus by Yahuah is not the same Hebrew word used for “fasting from food”. If Yahuah wanted us to fast he would have used the Hebrew word that means “fasting from food”! Yahuah did not use that word nor instruct us to fast from food because fasting would break the physical to spiritual parallel of the Wedding that Yom Kippur represents!

The Hebrew word for “fast” is *Tsum* h6684 in Strong’s and it means “refrain from eating for a period of time”. But this is not the word Yahuah used when instructing how to “rehearse” on Yom Kippur. He used the Hebrew word *anah* h6907 in Strong’s which means “humbling one’s soul”. This word appears 79 times in the Tanakh or OT. It is used to mean “afflicted as a servant or slave” in Gen. 15:13, it is used in the same way in Gen. 16:6 when Sarah is told by Abraham to *anah* or afflict her servant Hagar. In Exodus 10:3 *anah* is used and interpreted as “humble yourself”.

However, there is one more very important usage of the word *anah* and that is within the context of a marriage and oaths. We see the word *anah* used in Numbers 30:13 in context of marriage vows, and again used in the sense of “humbling yourself”... in this case as a woman in a marriage:

Numbers 30:13:

13"Every vow and every binding oath to humble (*anah*) herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it.

Again in Deut. 8:16 the word *anah* is used meaning to humble yourself. In some cases, it is translated “afflicted” but always in the sense of “humbling”. Of all the occurrences in the Tanakh of the word *anah* I cannot find one refers to “fasting or refraining from eating”. Not one.

Yahuah’s instruction to us on Yom Kippur is that we humble ourselves and make ourselves low before Him in obedience as a bride being wed to the bridegroom. Yom Kippur is a call to examine ourselves, inwardly reflect on our sin i.e. **afflict our souls** exactly as He instructed in Leviticus. We are to *anah* ourselves or humble ourselves NOT to *Tsum* which means fast from food. In fact, the instruction is to “*anah* ourselves and present a food offering”. This “food offering” is also translated as “offering made by fire”.

We see in Leviticus Chapter 10 that the “offering made by fire” as atonement was to be EATEN:

Leviticus 10

16 When Moses inquired about the goat of the sin offering^b and found that it had been burned up, he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s remaining sons, and asked, **17** “Why didn’t you eat the sin offering in the sanctuary area? It is most holy; it was given to you to take away the guilt of the community by making

atonement for them before Yahuah. 18 Since its blood was not taken into the Holy Place, you should have eaten the goat in the sanctuary area, as I commanded.

Here we see the priests refraining from eating the “offering made by fire” or “fasting” from it on the Day of Atonement and Moses was angry for them because Yahuah had commanded them to eat it! Exactly what we do today in disobedience as we follow the tradition of men not the instructions of Yahuah!

Although we see many examples in the books of the Tenakh where people fasted from food, such as King David, Ester, and many others. There is no command by Yahuah to do this! In fact, we see Yahuah was not happy with this “way of fasting” in Isaiah 58. This type of fasting we see done in scripture did not make Yahuah happy and actually blocks our voices from being heard by our Creator!

Isaiah 58

On a day like today, fasting like yours will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ “Is this the sort of fast I want,
a day when a person mortifies himself?
Is the object to hang your head like a reed
and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself?
Is this what you call a fast,
a day that pleases *YAHUAH*?

⁶ “Here is the sort of fast I want —
releasing those unjustly bound,
untying the thongs of the yoke,
letting the oppressed go free,
breaking every yoke,
⁷ sharing your food with the hungry,
taking the homeless poor into your house,
clothing the naked when you see them,
fulfilling your duty to your kinsmen!”

In other words... *ANAH* (HUMBLE) yourself and serve those less fortunate! That is the true meaning of “fasting” to Yahuah and agrees with the word *anah* which means to humble yourself as a servant or as a bride should do in honor of her husband.

We see yet another example of Yahuah condemning the “way Israel fasted from food” indicating it was not His ordinance and not done to honor Him... but a pagan practice picked up while in Babylonian captivity! Again Yahuah stresses abstaining from food is NOT His way or definition of fasting, but rather humbling ourselves in doing justice, not oppressing the poor but liberating

them, and feeding the hungry etc. A far cry from sitting inside your home starving yourself doing absolutely nothing as we are told by the Pharisees (Rabbinical Judaism):

Zechariah 7:4-6, 8-10

(4) Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me saying,

(5) “Say to all the people of the land and to the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months these seventy years, was it actually for Me that you fasted?’

(6) ‘And when you eat and drink, do you not eat for yourselves and do you not drink for yourselves?’

(8) Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying,

(9) “Thus has the LORD of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice, and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

(10) and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’”

Did Yahusha fast or instruct us to fast?

The only instance of Yahusha “fasting from food” is when he spent 40 days/nights in the wilderness. The Gospel of Luke does not use the word *fast* but rather, says he simply went without food or water... because he was in the wilderness. The Gospel of Matthew does use the word *fast*. The question is: “was this an intentional fast by Yahusha?” Or, “did Yahusha flee into the wilderness after being Mikveh’d by John on a last minute decision to seek out Yahuah’s confirmation?”

We see clearly that Yahusha did not plan on what we would call ‘a religious fast’ and that he was led daily by the Ruach. Yahusha was “led into the desert” by the Ruach AFTER his mikveh by John, it was not planned by Yahusha:

Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then *the Ruach led Yahusha* up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Adversary.

² After Yeshua had fasted forty days and nights, he was hungry.

Luke 4:2

1 Yahusha, full of the Ruach, returned from the Jordan and ***Yahusha was led around by the Ruach*** in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

Yahusha did not have food/water on his body at this time because he had not planned on going into the 'wilderness' at all. It was not a planned event but rather it was a spur of the moment decision led by the Spirit of Yahuah not the mind of Yahusha. Yahusha had no idea it would take 40 days/nights to get his answer from Yahuah! I don't see this as a planned "fast" at all and agree with Luke's gospel that he went without food/water for 40 days/nights, because he would not leave the desert without Yahuah's approval. So by virtue of there being no food/water in the desert and he didn't bring any with him, Matthew refers to it as a "fast". This is not incorrect, as the word *fast* is appropriate because the definition of *fast* is 'to go without food/water for a set period of time'. So a "fast" can be planned or a fast can be outside of our control. In this case, it was a fast outside of Yahusha's control as there was no food/water in the desert, he did not "flee" into the desert as a premeditated act, and he did not know it would take 40 days/nights for Yahuah to come to him with confirmation. This was a "fast" by circumstance only.

Did Yahusha instruct us to approach Yahuah through "prayer and fasting"?

We all must come to the understanding and admit the obvious truth about the state of our modern English bibles:

Jeremiah 8:8

"How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of Yahuah is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie."

The Bibles we all read, our English translation, have been altered by pagan scribes. This is a proven fact among textual critics and scholars alike. Jeremiah warned us of this very thing in Jeremiah 8:8. This attempt to altar the Word of Yahuah again comes to the forefront in the doctrine of "fasting from food".

We only see one instance where Yahusha went without food for 40 days/nights and it is described as a "fast". However as I explained before there is no indication it was a religious fast but rather Yahusha was led by the Ruach in to the desert where there was no food and water and it took 40 days/nights being there without food and water to get the answer. This was not a planned fast. Certainly Yahusha would not dishonor Yahuah and fast in such a way that was condemned by his Father on multiple occasions in Isaiah and Zachariah. This so-called "fast" was simply described as such due to the circumstances of having to be without food/water in the desert.

There are 3 places in scripture that, if you read your English translation, tell us that Yahusha instructed us to fast and pray. However, upon further inspection and study, we find that all 3

places have been altered by pagan scribes. In every case, the word “fast” or “fasting” was added. In one case the entire verse indicating we “fast” was added to the original Greek manuscripts later by pagan scribes.

- Mark 9:29 – fasting was added and not found in many modern translations
- 1 Corinthians 7:5 – fasting was added and not found in many modern translations
- Matthew 17:21 – entire verse was added all together and does not even occur in most modern translations.

In my study of scripture, anytime there is a word added by pagan scribes in order to “build a doctrine” into the text that “doctrine” turns out to be a false doctrine. This is the case with The Trinity, Incarnation, abolishment of the Law, etc. etc. All doctrines built upon altered scripture where scribes changed the text to create these doctrines.

Fasting from food is a well documented aspect of pagan worship as all pagans ritually employ “harsh treatment of the body” to please their deities. We see this in scripture as Yahuah told us not to “cut our flesh in honor of the dead” or “toss our babies into the fire” or “walk on hot coals (pass through the fire)”. We see a reference to this practice of walking on hot coals in Proverbs 6:28. Rav Sha’ul the Apostle condemned these practices as well:

Colossians 2:23

Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Fasting from food is another example of how pagans harshly treat their bodies to please, be approved of, or connect with their deities. Below is from an article on the pagan origin of fasting, sounds exactly what is done "by tradition" in Judaism/Christianity... from a pagan/wiccan article on ritual fasting:

"In some Pagan traditions, fasting is seen as a way to get closer to the Divine, to cleanse the body, or to prepare for a more elaborate ritual later on. In many cases, the point of fasting is to deny the body physical pleasures and needs in order to attain a deeper connection to the gods."Harsh treatment of the body

Pagan style fasting from food was practiced during what is called “weeping for Tamuz”, a practice that found its way into the worship of Yahuah in ancient Israel, see Ezekiel 8:14-15. However, there are instances in scripture where servants of Yahuah also fasted from food and prayed during times of great distress. David fasted from food Samuel 12:15-17 and Psalm 35:13-14 and others. We see Anna fasted and prayed in the Temple and so forth. The question is, where these fasts of human tradition approved of by Yahuah? What is clear is that there is no instruction in The Torah given for us to fast from food and certainly not on Yom Kippur. It is

also clear that Yahusha did not instruct such a fast but instead he and his disciples did not fast on Yom Kippur. In fact, there is little evidence that Yahusha ever employed such a fast on purpose.

Conclusion

So what is the conclusion to this matter? We see Yahusha condemn the Pharisees for the “way” they fasted in not eating and making a public display. We see that in all the places *that seems as though* Yahusha was instructing us to “fast” the word fasting was added later by pagan scribes. We see Yahuah in two occasions in Isaiah and Zachariah condemn the practice of fasting from food and give clear instruction in what fasting is in His eyes truly means... which is humbling ourselves as servants to others.

You see all pagan religions require harsh treatments of the body such as cutting your body in honor of the dead, or fasting from food, of tossing your babies into the fire, or walking on hot coals. Things Yahuah hates and never instructed us to do.

We see in every case even with David that fasting in such a way was simply a personal choice or human tradition.

The Apostle Paul discussed this exact issue directly in Romans 14 and I agree with him completely in his conclusion. Below Paul is discussing the ongoing debates about which feast day is holier Passover or Atonement. Then addresses the debate about "fasting vs. not fasting" on atonement... Paul's conclusion is that whatever you do (there is no commandment concerning these issues) you be fully convinced in your own mind; it is between you and our Father...

Romans 14

5 One person considers one (feast) day more sacred than another (Passover vs. Atonement); another considers every (feast) day alike (they are all equally important). Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to Yahuah. Whoever eats meat (on Atonement as they make an offering of fire) does so to Yahuah, for they give thanks to Elohim; and whoever abstains (and fasts on Atonement) does so to Yahuah and gives thanks to Elohim... 17 For the kingdom of Yahuah is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit... 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and Yahuah. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

So the conclusion is this. Fasting from food is a human tradition of the Pharisees with roots in pagan worship. It was never instructed by Yahuah for any reason, the practice was condemned by Yahuah, and Yahusha never actually gave any instruction to fast... the pagan scribes altered the words of the gospels to support fasting. Anytime we see “additions” by pagan scribes it is always to create a false doctrine such as the trinity or the doctrine of incarnation or changing the name Yahuah to The LORD or Yahusha to Jesus. Anytime we see twisting of the scriptures like this is should throw up a very big red flag!

So how are we to keep Yom Kippur. Remember it is a rehearsal of “the wedding day” and Yahusha did not require his disciples to fast from food because when the bride and groom are together they FEAST! So we are to rehearse that occasion exactly as we will perform it on that day... if is a FEAST not a fast. That is why we are to “make an offering of fire” or “food offering” on that day, as Yahuah instructed us, and eat it as Moses instructed. We are to *anah* or humble ourselves as the bride in submission and obedience to the groom.

It is the rehearsal of our wedding day! It is THE DAY that creation is liberated from the bondage of sin and death as Rav Sha’ul proclaimed. We should rehearse that day exactly as Yahuah instructed His way of fasting... “set the captives free, feed the poor, shelter the homeless, and let our light shine!” Humbling ourselves and becoming the servants of the less fortunate.

Imagine what this world would look like if one day a year everyone would stop following tradition and religion, cease this 24-hours of refraining from food and doing nothing, and instead stepped out in humility and made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Yom Kippur should be the one day a year the Kingdom of Yahuah is exercised in the lives of all his sons as we demonstrate to a dying world what the Kingdom looks like by humbling ourselves in service to those less fortunate that we are.