



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
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As It Was In The Days Of Noah

When the floods came in Genesis seven, why doesn't the Bible record anybody knocking on the door of the ark? It would make sense that as the waters rose people would have flocked to the ark for safety, but they didn't. Why didn't they go? The answer is that they did not understand the times, *God's Appointed Times*.

Did you know God keeps His appointments in His own calendar? They are the Biblical Holy Days and they are called "Moedim" in Hebrew (meaning Appointed Times, appointments). God's appointments are listed in Leviticus twenty-three. Did you know that God told us the time of the very end would be one of His appointed times - a Moed (see Daniel 8:17,19)? The word *Moed* also means Feast or Biblical Holy Day. We mark God's Appointed Times on the Jewish/Biblical calendar. Do you know what month we are in on God's calendar (as I write this article)? It's not October or the tenth month, it's the seventh month on the Biblical calendar and it's called Tishrei (Tish-ray). In fact, at the time of this writing we were right in the middle of the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles/Booths).

Yeshua/Jesus spoke of this feast in John 7, "*Now the Feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore His brothers said to Him, 'Leave here and go into Judea (to the Feast)... So Jesus said to them, 'My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune... Go up to the Feast yourselves,'* John 7:2-8. Yeshua went up to the Feast of Sukkot where He said on the last and greatest day of the Feast, "*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me as the Scripture said, from His innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'*" John 7:37-38. This year that "last and greatest day" fell on Sunday, October 20th (Tishrei 21 on God's calendar). *If we don't understand God's Appointed Times or his calendar, how can we possibly truly understand the times (seasons) we are living in?* Let's see what Yeshua/Jesus had to say about it.



The Feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths:

For years I have heard people say that **the Feasts of the Jews (John 7:2, Leviticus 23)** are not really the Jew's feasts, but the Lord's Feasts or God's Feasts. I have heard it so much that I must confess, for a long, time I bought into it. However, if even one line of the Bible states something clear and literal (no allegory or metaphor), just "The Feast of the Jews", kind of like "The King of the Jews" written on Yeshua's Cross, then it means what it says.

In Romans 3:2 we Jews are told that we have greatly benefited because "(we) *were entrusted with the oracles of*

God." The Jewish people are "The Chosen People" because we were chosen by God to be a "Holy people (Holy means belonging to God), "a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" Deut 7:6. Along with being Chosen means that God entrusted us with His Word and His revelation (Oracles); this includes His calendar and appointed times. He called us to bring the Messiah into the world through the line of Jacob, then Judah and so on. He called us to

bring knowledge of the Messiah and the God culture to the world, especially the Gospel. Thus, everything belongs to God, but the Jews are the custodians of the things of God (His Word, His culture, prophecies, times and feasts). Why? Because He gave them to us and the calling never ends as Romans 11:29 says, "*For the gifts and callings of God are without repentance (irrevocable, i.e. they never change).* This has caused much jealousy and persecution of the Jews to this very day, even in the Church believe it or not even though without us there would never have been a Messiah! Just look at the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the Pogroms of Russia, the Holocaust, and all of the history of murder, expulsion from nations, theft of Jewish property, rape of our women, and forced conversion by the Church throughout history.

Although many Christians support Israel, Messianic Judaism, and are good friends with the Jewish people, Anti-Semitism is alive and well in the Church today; just look up the BDS movement and Christian leaders who stand with Palestinians against Israel, or “Christ at the Checkpoint”. But, I want to focus on the Feasts of the Jews and I want to make it brief. God never intended for the church or non-Jews to appropriate the Jewish feasts or Sabbaths without the covering of Jews, (especially the believing or Messianic Jews) who God has raised up in these last days to bring the body of believers more physically into the Olive Tree of Israel (see Numbers 15:14-17, Isaiah 14:1, Isaiah 56, Ezekiel 47:21). When Christians, or non-Jewish believers, practice the Feasts and Sabbaths of the Jews but without the Jews, it’s like baking chocolate chip cookies without the chocolate chips; a key ingredient is missing. God never intended for non-Jewish believers to appropriate the things of the Jews; He intended for us to enjoy them together, as seen in *Acts 2* (the Proselytes were Gentiles). That’s why there was a “Court of the Gentiles” in the Temple and why James told non-Jews they could go to the synagogue in *Acts 15:21*. The Great Commission of *Mt 28* said to go and make disciples (students, followers) of all nations. Jesus’ disciples followed Him. We were always meant to be in unity as Jew and Gentile; to do otherwise is doctrinal error.

The Parable of the Fig Tree:

Yeshua/Jesus spoke to the people in parables (allegorically and metaphorically), *“And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do you speak to them in parables? Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted... Therefore I speak to them in parables because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.” Mt 13:10-13.*

In Matthew 24:32-33, Yeshua was explaining to His Disciples about His return when He said, *“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door,”*. The “things” He was referring to were wars, false messiahs, tribulation, persecution of believers, lawlessness, and the blood moon to name a few. I encourage you to read all of Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Speaking of the fig tree, first of all, the fig tree represents the revival and rebirth of the Jewish people spiritually and that of the state of Israel too. Several Scriptures equate the fruit of the fig tree with the Jewish people; *Hosea 9:10 reads, “I found Israel...your fathers as the first fruits on the fig tree,”* (see also *Jeremiah 24:3-8, Mt 21:18,19*). Jesus meant that when you see the leaves growing on the fig tree you know that summer is near (i.e. the rebirth of Isra-



el, both spiritually and physically and all the events related to His Second Coming). However, just as many people have never met or gotten to know a Jewish person, let alone a Messianic Jew, many people have never seen a fig tree or even a fresh fig! Fresh figs are not those shriveled dried fruits full of seeds that you find in most grocery stores. Fresh, ripe figs are soft, sweet and juicy. They are green, perhaps with a touch of pink, and white on the outside. Most people probably wouldn’t know one if they stepped on it and most people don’t know God’s times and seasons, or His calendar either. Therefore, when “the time of Noah” comes again, most people won’t be ready; they will not understand and two thousand years of Christianity (without Jewish understanding) has not prepared them. Read on and learn more from the Lord.

As it Was in the Days of Noah:

As I mentioned earlier, we are currently in the Seventh month on God’s/Biblical/Jewish calendar. The story of Noah is a parable of the end-times. After the Parable of the fig tree, Yeshua began to talk about Noah. Yeshua/Jesus said, *“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.” MT 24:37-39.* Interestingly, as I write this, tomorrow is the day on God’s calendar when Noah’s ark landed on dry ground in *Genesis 8:4, “In the seventh month (Tishrei, not July), on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.”* I’ll bet you didn’t know that Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 was the anniversary of the landing of Noah’s Ark! This landing is more significant than the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620, or the settlers at Jamestown in 1607. I marvel that we can know the date of an event that took place perhaps over five thousand years ago! You just need to learn God’s calendar and He will reveal all sorts of things to you, friend.

A fine Christian woman I’ve known for many years recently asked me, “What will happen if President Trump is impeached?” I responded, *“What do you think will happen? What will you do if he is?”* Frankly she seemed scared about the implication of a world without Donald Trump as President. Are you concerned about that? In reality, life as we know it in the USA is just a heartbeat away from massive change, massive taxation, the end of Freedom of Religion, no more second amendment, recession, persecution and probably some form of Socialism/ Communism here in the USA unless we do something about it. This gal knows in her heart that something is terribly wrong. I told her to come to my services, but she has not. Still she believes I have some answers? As it was in the days of Noah.... and they did not understand.

I spoke with an older pastoral leader the other day, a minister, who said he was dealing with much anxiety but did not know

why. Are you feeling anxiety? Do you feel a gnawing in your heart that although the economy is doing fairly well and employment is at its highest level since 1969, but that there is a coming storm of Noah-sized proportions?

The Messianic Jewish Connection:

Is Messianic Judaism the answer to understanding the times? Well first let me say that Messianic Judaism is not a denomination; it is the blossoming of Yeshua's fig tree just before His return. It is the revival of the Jewish people in the earth, spiritually as well as the land inheritance returning to them just as God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Prophets, and even non-Jewish kings like Cyrus (Ezra 1). Messianic Judaism is a sign to the world of the soon return of Yeshua the Messiah - Jesus of Nazareth. ***"Recognize that He is right at the door," (Mt 24:33) when you see the fig tree of Israel and the Jewish people blossom., Are non-Jews welcome in the Messianic Jewish community? Yes, it is the policy of the organized Messianic Jewish community to welcome non-Jews into the community just as our forefathers had a court of the Gentiles in the Temple at Jerusalem and welcomed non-Jews (Proselytes, Acts 2:10) on the day of Pentecost. I cannot speak for every Messianic Jewish Rabbi, and there are some Pharisees in every faith, but most rabbis I know welcome non-Jewish people who are sincerely seeking with open arms.***

Messianic Jews are in your community to live, worship, raise families, and be productive citizens, but we are also there to teach Christians and seekers about their Jewish Messiah and things like God's Appointed times, His Feasts, His calendar, and to give a Jewish prophetic understanding; this is very different from your grandfather's preacher. We are the chocolate chips in your cookie dough, and a sign of the fig tree blooming

Why is the Blossoming of the Fig Tree so important?

The importance of the fig tree blossoming in Matthew 24 is the Jewish/Israel connection. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24:39, ***"They did not understand"*** referring to the days of Noah entering the ark, because He knew that most Christians would not grasp the Jewish connection to His return. Jesus was speaking to believers using parables that if you don't grasp the Jewish revival, you can't fully understand the events leading up to and including His Second Coming.

So what is it God wants Christians to understand about the revival of Israel and His return that many Christians do not understand? First, you must understand that Jesus is coming back to save the Jewish people from an overwhelming attack by all the nations of the earth (Zechariah 12:3). ***"In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem... and in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."*** Zechariah 12:8-9, 14:2-4. This Scriptural fact is directly at odds with

"the doctrine of imminence" (I.e. that Jesus could come back at any time). Yes, the Bible correctly states that no man knows the day or the hour, but He gives us a lot of major clues! Zechariah 14:2-4 says, ***"For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle (at His return)... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations as when He fights on a day of battle... In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east (right where the Palestinians would like to establish the capital of their mythological state called Al Quds)." However Jerusalem will never again be split by man as it was before 1967, and it will never be called by the name Al Quds (to the West in Arabic. In fact, since Muslims pray to the east toward Mecca, Arabs East of the Temple Mount pray with their backside facing Jerusalem). Secondly, Yeshua wants Christians to understand that He was giving a parable again in Matthew 23:37-39 where he lamented over Jerusalem and told the city, "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'".***

Every religious Jew knows that a Jewish wedding begins with the words, ***"Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai" (Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord).*** Jesus, the King of the Jews, was letting Rabbis and religious Jews know that He is their bridegroom (Hosea 2:19-20), and since it is the rabbi/officiant of the Jewish wedding who says those words above, Jesus is telling us that He is not coming back until Jerusalem's leaders cry out for their heavenly Bridegroom! ***When it said in Revelation 1:7, "Behold, He is coming with the Clouds and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him."*** He is saying that nobody will see Him until the leaders of Jerusalem call for Him with the very words that are spoken at the opening of every traditional Jewish wedding. If every eye sees Him coming in the clouds and Jerusalem is part of "every eye", then nobody will see Him coming in the clouds until Jerusalem's leaders call for Him. So how are we going to help Jerusalem's leaders to call for their Bridegroom? Perhaps they need to hear the Gospel in love.

Conclusion:

Many have been taught that the Noah's Ark prophecy does not apply to them because they will have been raptured. I always say, "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst." If you've learned something here that you didn't know before, there's a whole lot more where that came from. Others believe they will have to go through tribulation, like my Christian lady friend who is worried. If you sense something is missing from the teaching you are receiving, I invite you to come to service or watch me teach via the live stream. We might have some chocolate chips for your cookie dough. (continued)

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Lastly, there will be billions who just have no clue at all and like the tropical storm that hit Florida last week or the tornado that swept through Dallas (Not that those places are any worse than anywhere else), they will be caught unprepared. The Great "End-Time flood" (tribulation) will come when you least expect it. I believe Messianic Judaism is the key to Noah's ark for this generation.

Shalom,
Rabbi Joe and Dawn

- In the coming months Rabbi intends to begin writing a special (separate) prophecy newsletter. This will be a bit different than the teaching newsletters that Rabbi is currently sending out to you each month as it will be more prophetic in nature. If you are interested in receiving this additional mailing please indicate on the response form included in this month's newsletter. Just check the box on the front of the response slip and mail it back to For Zion's Sake Ministries in the envelope provided.*
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- From the FZS ministry office.

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