

# Why "Latter Rain"?

*"One shall say I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel" Isaiah 44:5.*

Christians (those who say I am the Lord's) believe in Jesus as their saviour and are looking for life after death. They believe it is no longer necessary to keep all the Old Testament laws given by God. The Jews (those who go by the name of Jacob) do not accept Jesus as their saviour. They have only the law and the justification that brings for a life after death.

Christian Israelites (those who subscribe with their hand unto the Lord and surname themselves by the name of Israel) try to combine the two. Jesus, our example, lived by the Old Testament laws but he tempered them with love. He showed us a new way to live them. With the help of the

latter rain, that is Christ and the Holy Ghost, we can achieve life without death.

*"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" Joel 2:23.*

The moderate early rain came in Autumn. It was needed to prepare the ground for ploughing and planting the crops. It is symbolic of the first gift of the Holy Ghost, needed for the preparation and establishment of the early church. The heavier latter rain came in Spring to help the crops mature for the harvest. We, like the plants, must grow spiritually before we have the strength to receive our latter rain. This second gift of God's Spirit will prepare us for maturation in preparation for our harvest at Jesus' return.

The Christian Israelite Church has a web site that can be viewed at [www.cichurch.asn.au](http://www.cichurch.asn.au)

"Latter Rain" is the Outreach magazine of the Christian Israelite Church, published quarterly by **Fitzgerald's Printing, Wilberforce, NSW. 2750 Phone: 02 4575 1988.**

**Further Information:** If you desire further information on any of the topics dealt with in this publication please write to **The Editor, 66 Mintaro Avenue, Strathfield, NSW. Australia. 2136** or email: [lgray@cichurch.asn.au](mailto:lgray@cichurch.asn.au)

Articles contained in this magazine are not all doctrinal but rather seek to include thoughts and interesting facts which may assist in bringing the reader to a greater understanding of God.

**Distribution: PO Box 127, Singleton, NSW. Australia. 2330.**

To become a regular recipient of "Latter Rain", or place a friend on our mailing list, please contact our **distribution centre.**

All quotations are taken from the **King James Version** of the Bible unless otherwise stated.

**Editor:** Rodney Gray  
**Production:** Lynne Gray



# From the Inkwell

In the creation God set the sun, moon and stars in the firmament to indicate signs and seasons, and days and years. These heavenly cycles are universally self evident (day and night) or well accepted parameters of time.

However, God has also placed a sequence of observances at a personal level, based on the same cycles of the heavenly bodies. These are known in the Bible as “feast times”.

This edition of Latter Rain principally explains the times of special observance set out in the Bible, their significance and the expectation that we can have from observing them.

The regular articles are also included - spare a thought for Jonah through his ordeal (A Whale of a Tale) and remember if you want to complain about the Government that things could be worse (see article on Herod Antipas).

May God open further understanding to each as we read the articles in this issue of Latter Rain.

## INDEX

<b>Passover &amp; Pentecost</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Children’s Story</b>	
<i>What do these Feasts mean, and most especially what value do they have for Christians today?</i>		Pentecost or Whitsuntide	<b>16</b>
<b>Going to Jerusalem</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Pentecost Puzzle</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>As Christian Israelites, Jerusalem Above is a very special spirit - who and what is Jerusalem Above?</i>		<b>Statement of Belief</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>What of Tabernacles</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Expand Your Bible:</b>	
<i>Another of the feasts commanded by God to be kept by man - what is it?</i>		A Matter of Choice	<b>20</b>
<b>Hymn No. 72</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>A Return to the Law</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Debug Your Bible:</b>		<i>Josiah was one of the few Godly kings that ruled Judah - read about his monumental changes!</i>	
A Whale of a Tale!	<b>12</b>	<b>A Graph of the Patriarchs</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>A modern day Jonah and an equally amazing true story!</i>		<b>Herod Antipas</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>In the Beginning</b>	<b>15</b>	<i>He ordered the execution of John the Baptist, but who was this man really?</i>	
		<b>Vegetarian Recipes</b>	
		Nachos Dip	<b>28</b>

# Passover & Pentecost

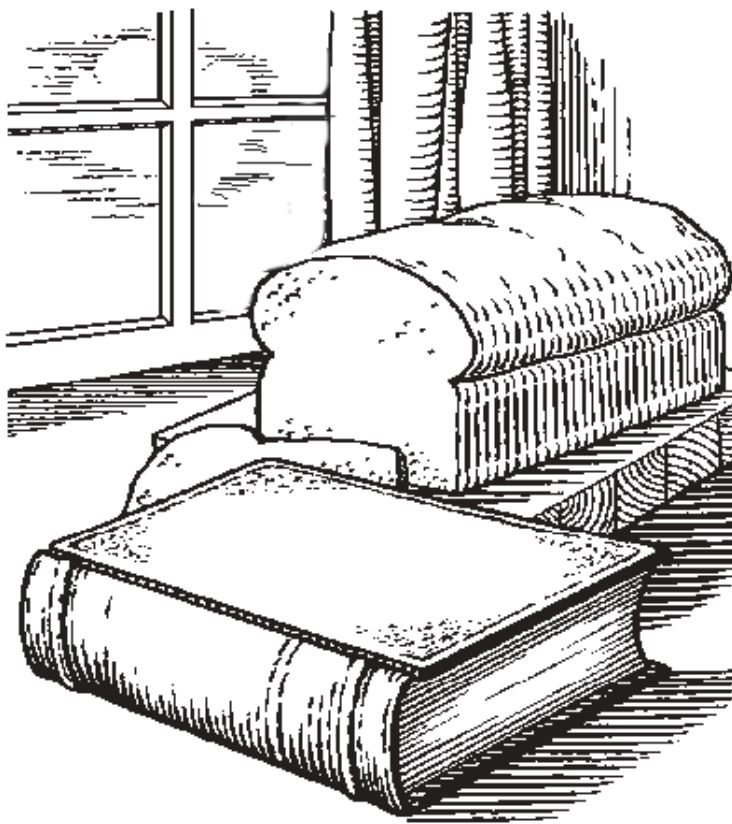
## Summary

Passover and Pentecost are two important celebrations that are recorded in the Bible. They are particularly interesting for, although they were initiated in the Old Testament, they are confirmed in the New Testament and given unquestionable pre-eminence as times that should be remembered. This article looks at the origin of the two feasts in the days of the Israelites, and the significance they bore for Christians in the days of the Apostles. It concludes by discussing the importance of the celebrations for Christian Israelites today.

## The Passover

The Passover was so named because the angel of death “*passed over*” the houses of the Children of Israel but smote the firstborn of the Egyptians. It was the last of the ten plagues that God sent on Egypt to force Pharaoh to “*let my people go*”. In Exodus chapter 12 is recorded the way in which the Israelites were to prepare for the Passover, and then in verse 29 it reads: “*And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...*”. The prepa-

ration required by Israel was that they were to sacrifice a lamb, and they were to strike the blood of the sacrifice on the side posts and upper door post of the houses. They were to eat unleavened bread, presumably because they were to be ready to leave at any instant and could not be guaranteed time to wait for the bread to rise. What a wonderful event, to be delivered from slavery after 430 years! No wonder they were commanded to remember this day throughout their generations for ever.



## **The Feast of Weeks - Pentecost**

The Israelites left Egypt in great haste, and took their journey to the Red Sea. The story of the parting of the sea to let them pass, and the consequential destruction of Pharaoh and his army who were trying to recapture them, is well known. After they crossed the Red Sea, God told Moses to prepare the peculiar/special people (Exodus 19:10-11) because He wanted to make a Covenant with them to be His people. He was going to set some basic rules about the type of lifestyle that they should adopt if they wished to accept the making of the Covenant. On the fiftieth day (*pente* means fifty) after their departure from Egypt (note they left on the 15th of the first month, and it was now early in the third month) they were ready and God spoke the Ten commandments to the people. It was in fact seven weeks and one day after they left - or a week of weeks. What a graphic demonstration of God's might and Power, and for those who could understand it, a demonstration of His grace towards them. It was an event that would change the course of the world forever - God the Creator talking directly to the created beings (see Exodus chapter 20). When people make a covenant of marriage they remember it each year with an anniversary - how much more, then, should Israel remember the anniversary of the day God made a covenant with them!

## **Israel Instructed To Observe The Feasts**

You may recall how the people were afraid of God talking with them, and suggested to Moses that he should talk with God and then pass on to them God's instructions. When Moses was in the mountain receiving these instructions, among other things, God instructed the 'children of Israel' to appear before Him three times in a year. The

first record is in Exodus chapter 23 verses 15-17. Here the Israelites are commanded to appear before the Lord for the Feast of unleavened bread (Passover), the feast of harvest (Pentecost) and the feast of ingathering in the end of the year - or in autumn before the winter sets in, and there is no further growth till the next spring.

The instruction is found also in Exodus chapter 34, verses 18-22 and again in Leviticus chapter 23, verses 14-17. Each of these passages gives a little more information about the event. It would appear that the Feasts soon became associated with activities of the Agrarian cycle. Passover came at the beginning of the wheat or grain harvest. On the day after the Sabbath (Sunday in our calendar) the first sickle was thrust into the harvest, and the first sheaf of the harvest was brought as an offering to God. The harvest continued for seven weeks, and at the end, Pentecost, an offering was brought to God dependant on the plenteousness of the harvest. Note that another holy day was the weekly Sabbath and even during the time of harvest they were commanded to rest on the Sabbath, and not to continue with the harvest, even though the "task was great". Passover had the significance that as the people were being delivered from the winter, and now new growth was giving sustenance for continuing life, so God had delivered Israel from the slavery of the Egyptians and given them new life and opportunity.

## **Christian Parallels**

By now the parallels with events in the Christian era are starting to emerge. Who was the great sacrificial lamb, slain from the foundation of the world, and whose blood has saved mankind from sin? Jesus, the son of God, was the lamb offered at Passover, now known as Easter, for the sins

of the world. He was slain on the day before Passover, when the Passover lamb was to be slain. In fact He reversed the wrath of God as poured out on Pharaoh and the Egyptians and this Passover brought life instead of death. Then He became the firstfruits of the resurrection - on Easter Sunday He rose from the grave to offer His life as the firstfruits of the harvest - the first sheaf of the harvest of new life.

During the next forty days Jesus Christ showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs. Truly the harvest was taking place. Then having completed His work on Earth, He ascended into heaven, leaving the promise of the Comforter. Thus, as ordained of God and foreshadowed in the Old Testament, on The Day of Pentecost the Power of God descended showing the bounteousness of the harvest and formally establishing the Christian Church. Read the full account in Acts chapter 2 - the spreading of the message to people of all nations, Peter's sermon with 3,000 people converted and baptised, and the confirmation that the old Testament prophecies were now being fulfilled. This time it was not the thunder and lightning and the fearful voice of God, but the Power of life and light. Truly The Holy Ghost had come as a Comforter, as spoken of by Isaiah - *"As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem"* Isaiah 66:13, and as Paul said in Galatians 4:26 *"Jerusalem which is Above is free, which is the Mother of us all."* Yes, The Holy Ghost had come as a Spiritual Mother, in consort with the spiritual Father Christ, to guide Her people into all truth through the work that had been performed by Jesus the Son.

Peter's well remembered sermon drew the conversion of 3,000 people. They were

all baptised. It is understood that in later times when people were baptised on the anniversary of this day they would dress in white, and hence the day became known as white-Sunday, or later Whitsunday, and the surrounding period of time as Whitsuntide.

Remember the disciples were all gathered together to celebrate Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came upon them. The early Christians no doubt combined the commemoration of this old feast with the remembrance of the new. Notice how Paul, about AD 60 longed to get back to Jerusalem to share the celebration of Pentecost (or Whitsuntide) with his Jewish and Christian friends. See Acts 20:16.

### **Significance For Christian Israelites To-Day**


There are many wonderful parallels that can be drawn between the events of the Old Testament associated with these Feasts and the exacting way in which they were fulfilled in the New. Just the coincidence of the days, the establishment of the new Christian era with the Sunday as Sabbath and the parallel between Jesus and the sacrificial lamb of the Old Testament would seem proof enough that these events could not just have happened. They must have been directed by the same Mighty God who sought to speak with Israel at Mount Sinai.

In celebrating the Passover at Easter, people remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and the deliverance from Egypt - which was a type of the way in which Jesus delivered mankind from the slavery to Satan by the shedding of His blood. Through the shedding of His blood Jesus paid the price for the forgiveness of sin. However, through His resurrection He showed His power over Satan and that Satan did not have power to hold Jesus by death. And because He was physically raised from the grave, He has

broken the power of Satan over death. He died so that we might be forgiven for our sins, and was raised to life so that we might not die. Remember Jesus said to John in Revelation 1:18 *“I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”*.

As the time of the harvest at the end of the world approaches when good and evil will be divided, the promise of the great outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the latter days approaches. Remember the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32) which Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost had just come upon the disciples - *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh:*

*and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;...And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* This was partially fulfilled at that time, but the greater fulfilment will be in the latter days - we believe the time in which we are now living.

The Table below summarises the Feasts and the details that have been discussed in this article. Should people not, then, with joy look to the keeping of these celebrations as they recall the great events of the past and look forward to further fulfilments yet to come. 

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*

Acts 2:1-4



# Going to Jerusalem

## **Jerusalem The City**

Jerusalem is a city in Palestine that has been of importance to the children of Israel; it was first possessed by King Melchizedek about 1400 BC and known as Salem (Gen. 14:18), and later was established as the Capital of Israel (2 Samuel 5:6-7).

It is a city that has seen many battles over hundreds of years, and has been taken over by good kings and by not so good kings. The city was built on a high piece of land that was very difficult to reach from the south because of two deep ravines, and its only real access was from the north. Walls were built to fortify the city, and these also have been pulled down and rebuilt by the various kings.

King David seized the city of Jerusalem about 1049 BC and Jerusalem became known as the “City of David”. Later when the twelve tribes were split into two Kingdoms, two tribes remained under the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, and Jerusalem remained the capital of the Southern Kingdom.

King Solomon built a temple to the Lord at Jerusalem, and it too saw many battles where it was destroyed and rebuilt a number of times. Today Jerusalem is still a walled city, occupied by Jews, Moslems and Christians, with Greek, Roman, and Protestant churches.

At the time of Jesus there was a decree of Caesar Augustus that all the people should be taxed, so everyone was to go to their own city to be taxed. Joseph and his espoused wife Mary, being great with child, were on their way to Jerusalem, to be taxed,

when it was time for Mary to be delivered, and thus Jesus was born in “the City of David” called Bethlehem. Every year Joseph, Mary and family, would return to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover.

## **Jesus in Jerusalem**

It was on one of these pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover that Jesus, at the age of twelve, stayed back in Jerusalem, talking to the Elders in the Temple, and His parents had to return to look for Him. His mother was not happy and said, “*Son why hast thou thus dealt with us?*” and his reply was, “*How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?*” Luke 2:41-50.

Here was the first indication that Jesus knew what His role was to be, and that His real Father was God.

At about the age of thirty, Jesus came to John the Baptist, and being baptised, the Spirit descended on Him. Luke 3:22 reads, “*The Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased*”. Note that even Jesus at that time, needed extra Power to enable Him to fulfil His mission.

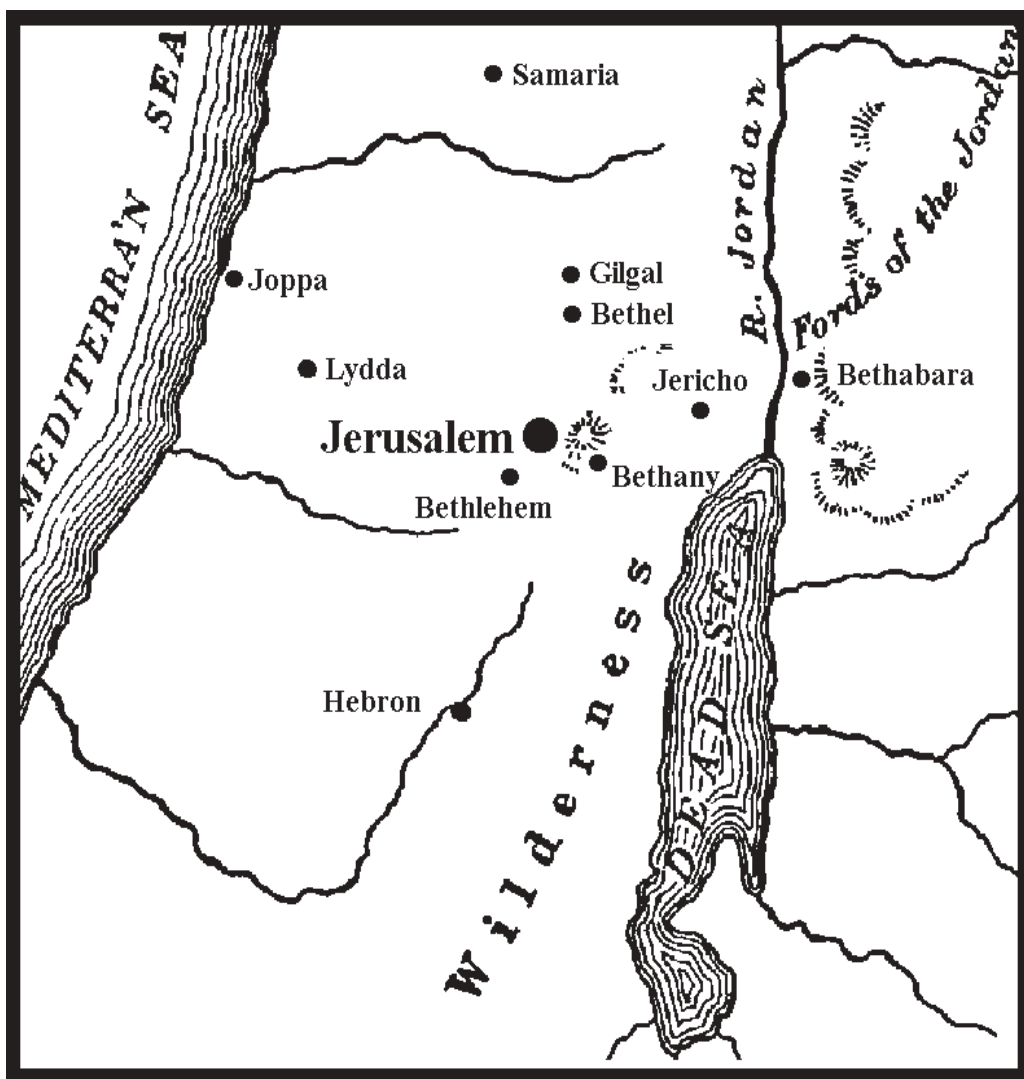
Jerusalem has always been an important city in the lives of Israel, and there seems to be a magnet that keeps drawing them back to it. They were commanded to appear before the Lord for worship three times each year. After the Temple was built and became the centre for presenting sacrifices to God, this meant going to Jerusalem three times a year.

Just before His Ascension, Jesus told the assembly to wait for the promise of the Father. *“For John truly baptised with water, but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”* Acts 1:5. Later we read of the occasion when the Holy Ghost did appear unto them as cloven tongues of fire and it sat upon each of them (Acts 2:3). This happened at the time of Pentecost, which is fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus, and as Christian Israelites

we celebrate this important time, now known as Whitsuntide.

### **Jerusalem Above - The Comforter**

In John 14:26 we are told that the Holy Ghost is that Comforter that Jesus said He would send, and who shall teach you all things. The Comforter is also known as the *“Spirit of truth”* (John 14:17), and we are told it is also called *“Jerusalem above”* (Galatians 4:26), or the female Spirit of the Godhead.





## **The Power of Jerusalem - The Godhead**

We believe in the Trinity of God as:

- 1) God Jehovah the Father,
- 2) Christ the Son (or male Spirit), and
- 3) Jerusalem Above known as the

Holy Ghost or the Female Spirit of the Godhead.

Christ and Jerusalem Above were with God Jehovah at the time of Creation, when God said, “*Let us make man in our image*” Genesis 1:26.

## **Dwelling In The Heavenly Jerusalem**

The Female Spirit, Jerusalem Above, is now in the world, working with the Male Spirit - Christ. We understand that when the end of this present world comes, as the result of the working of that same power as worked in Jesus, Christ and Jerusalem Above, the Godhead, there will be a people whose physical bodies will have been cleansed from the source of evil, and freed from the destiny of resultant death. God will give them a new heart, and put within them a new spirit (Ezekiel 36:26). They will be perfect (as their Master - Luke 6:40), conformed to His image (Romans 8:29) and as such will be immortal, as He is. No more will their life be by blood (Leviticus 17:11) but by the abiding presence of the Spirit of God, and because He lived, they too shall live (John 14:19). Then when God’s Plan has materialised, and only then, will be fulfilled completely - “*Let us make man in our image after our likeness*” Genesis 1:26, for “*God created man to be* (ie. in the future) *immortal, and made him to be an image of His own eternity*” Wisdom of Solomon

2:23. See also Romans 4:17.

## **Help Today**

Each one of us have good, and we also have evil, in our bodies. Christ attracts us to goodness and life, and Satan attracts us to evil and sin resulting in death.

God, the Father of all, has given each one of us a free will. We are free to decide which one we will allow to influence us. If we follow Satan our actions are evil. We follow and come under condemnation of sin. We then have sins to answer for, as well as evil within to overcome. The Spirit can co-operate with us and give us strength to overcome temptation. By desire alone one cannot cast out Satan’s influence and cleanse the heart, but if we follow Christ and seek to Jerusalem Above for extra strength and guidance we can seek to arrive at a state in which we will not commit sin, and we will be enabled to overcome evil. We will live in harmony with our God.

## **Returning To Jerusalem**

Just as the city of Jerusalem was important to the children of Israel of old, and they were commanded to visit it each year, we believe the spiritual help of Jerusalem Above is important to gather lost Israel in these last days. If we feel we may be one of the lost sheep of Israel, we must ask through prayer for this extra help to prepare our temples by removing the evil, and make us ready to receive Jesus at His second coming, so that we may be preserved whole, ie. Spirit and Soul and Body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Thus we will not just visit Jerusalem, but will return to dwell within the City of God.📖

# What of Tabernacles?

## Summary

Israel in the Old Testament were instructed to keep three major Feasts annually - Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Passover and Pentecost aligned with two important New Testament events - Easter and Whitsuntide; but what of Tabernacles - has it been lost? This article presents details about Tabernacles and discusses what might be the significance of Tabernacles for us to-day.

## What Was Tabernacles?

In a number of places in the Scriptures, Israel were commanded to appear before the Lord three times in a year. This was at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. The main instructions are found in Exodus 23:15-17 and 34:18-22, and Leviticus chapter 23 where details are given about observance of the Feasts. Passover and Pentecost are reasonably well known Feast times and were associated with the grain harvest in the spring, but the Feast of Tabernacles, which came in autumn at the end of the fruit harvest, just before winter set in, is not so well known.

Instructions as to how the Festive Period was to be observed are detailed in Leviticus chapter 23, verses 24 to 44. On the first day of the seventh month there was to be “*a memorial of blowing of trumpets..*”, and on the tenth day “there shall be a day of atonement”. Then on the fifteenth day of the month “shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days”. During this time “*..ye shall dwell in booths ... that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.*” God wanted the people to remember each year the un-

certainty associated with temporal possessions and worldly status, and how that they had been slaves in Egypt, and He, against all human odds, had delivered them. The booths were made out of the branches of trees, and were a type of the tabernacle that they had constructed in the wilderness. Hence the period was known as Tabernacles.

## Examples of Observation of The Feast

There are some notable references to the observance of Tabernacles in the Bible.

In the early part of 2 Chronicles is recorded the dedication of the great Temple built by Solomon. In chapter 5 is the report about the way in which the ark of the covenant was brought up from the Tabernacle which Israel had built in the wilderness, and placed in the holy of holies in the new Temple. At that time the glory of the Lord filled the House of the Lord. This was on the first day of the feast of Tabernacles.

Ezra records in chapter 3 verse 4 how the feast of Tabernacles was celebrated by the Jews after their return to rebuild Jerusalem. The importance of Tabernacles was emphasised by Zechariah when he prophesied about the time to come, in the new world, when everyone will come up to Jerusalem every year to keep the feast of Tabernacles.

In the New Testament, John records in chapters 6 to 8 about Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Many of the illustrations that Jesus made were centered around the religious worship of the people. Tabernacles took place before the latter or end of year rains came, and one of the rites at Tabernacles was a ceremonial

pouring out of a container of water and praying to God to bring the rains required to prepare the ground for the next season. Jesus stood up on that great day, in the midst of the feast, and proclaimed himself as the well of life, and the source of living waters. *“If any man thirst”*, Jesus said, *“let him come unto me.”* Jesus not only upheld the objectives of the Feast but also showed how his coming had fulfilled them.

### **The Significance of Tabernacles**

Israel were commanded to observe this feast to remind them that God had brought them out of Egypt, and delivered them from the hand of their oppressors. The symbolism that the whole of humankind are enslaved to Satan was recognised in this Feast. It came at the year’s end, after the last harvest period for the season. Remember the parable Jesus told about the wheat and the tares? The good and the bad must continue side by side until the time of the harvest. *“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, gather first the tares in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn”* Matthew 13:30. No doubt, as Jesus spoke these words, the people listening remembered the Feast of Tabernacles, and the separation from everyday and worldly activities that they undertook as they lived in the make-shift homes that they built out in the open. The Feast was a figure of the end of the world, again as Jesus said, *“The harvest is the end of the world”* Matt. 13:39.

When Peter quoted Joel on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, he spoke about the early rains and the latter rain. Peter identified the outpouring of the Holy Ghost as being the commencement of the fulfilment of that prophecy. However, in type, that was the early rain, as many years were to roll on before the actual coming of


The Lord was to take place. It may well be that the Feast of Tabernacles will be the time when the great fulfilment of the Latter Rain in the latter days will be fulfilled. Just as Easter fell at Passover and Whitsuntide at Pentecost, so too the great outpouring of The Holy Ghost in the end times may well come at Tabernacles. The delivery of Israel from Egypt and its type in the delivery of all from the slavery of Satan is to take place at the end of the (this) world, when Jesus Christ returns.

If it is possible that this may happen people may well ask, “Why, then, don’t you observe the Feast along with Passover and Pentecost?”. Some Christians do continue to observe it, but this is because they have gone directly back to the Old Testament teachings and not fully recognised the fulfilment of all the sacrificial requirements in Jesus. As Christians we do not observe Passover, but rather Easter; we do not observe Pentecost, but rather Whitsuntide. Should God show a parallel to the Old Feast period in the Christian Era then there would be cause to observe it. And maybe He will. But all the requirements of the Old sacrificial instructions were fulfilled in Jesus and there is no further need for these Feasts to be observed as commanded in the Old Testament, but rather as replaced in the New.

### **The Remnant Comes Out In The Latter Days**

The “coming out” and dwelling in booths enacted at Tabernacles was a figure of the way in which a remnant of Israel, the lost ten tribes, would seek to come out from the world and be separate in these latter days. They seek for God again to deliver them, this time from the hands of the oppressor Satan, and to bring whole life of spirit and soul and body. The dwelling in booths or tabernacles is a type of Israel seek-

ing to dwell in the Spirit of God, until it finally dwells within them, and their bodies physically become the Tabernacle of God. This will be the fulfilment of the vision seen by John in Patmos, and recorded in Revelation 21:3 when he wrote, “And I heard

*a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”* 



**PRAISE  
GOD!**

---

Hymn 72

(Philippians 3:20,21; John 17:15,24)

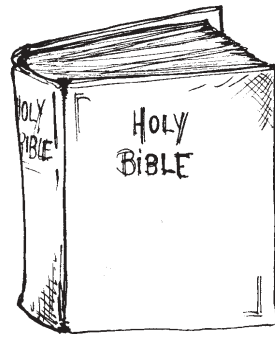
Isr’el’s seed’s conversation is  
Where dwells the Lord enthron’d in bliss,  
And glory evermore;  
They of His glories love to tell,  
Which He has promis’d to reveal.

They look for Jesus Christ to come,  
And thus their body vile redeem,  
And make it as His own;  
They look for Him to use His pow’r,  
And death’s destroying sting devour;  
And cast its author down.

The Word of God to all doth show  
Who choose Him to fulfil His law,  
Their bodies will not die:  
His Spirit will upon them dwell,  
And all their earthly temples fill  
In all eternity.

They pray unto their Father now,  
For heav’n to come to them below,  
And this their bodies fill;  
They wish for all the life of God,  
In this their house to make abode,  
And in it always dwell.

# Debug Your Bible: A Whale of a Tale!



Have *I* got one for *you*! You'll probably thank me after reading this. If you're like me you've probably been sitting in a Bible Study on Jonah (the unfortunate chap who was swallowed by a fish) and someone's piped up and said something like: "I heard a story about this guy once who was actually swallowed by a Whale and he lived to tell of it! I don't remember the details but I know it wasn't too long ago!"

Well, dear reader, here *are* the details! Next time you're at this Bible Study, and chances are you will eventually be at one like this, *you* can be the person that says "I heard a story about this guy..." *and* you'll have the facts!

## The History

You see I was on a trip down the east coast of Australia recently and I found myself in Eden. I thought the name of the town was slightly ambitious since I saw no snakes, no apple trees (although it wasn't an apple - but that's another article), and fig leaves weren't the fashion. However it used to be a major Whaling Port so I visited the local museum

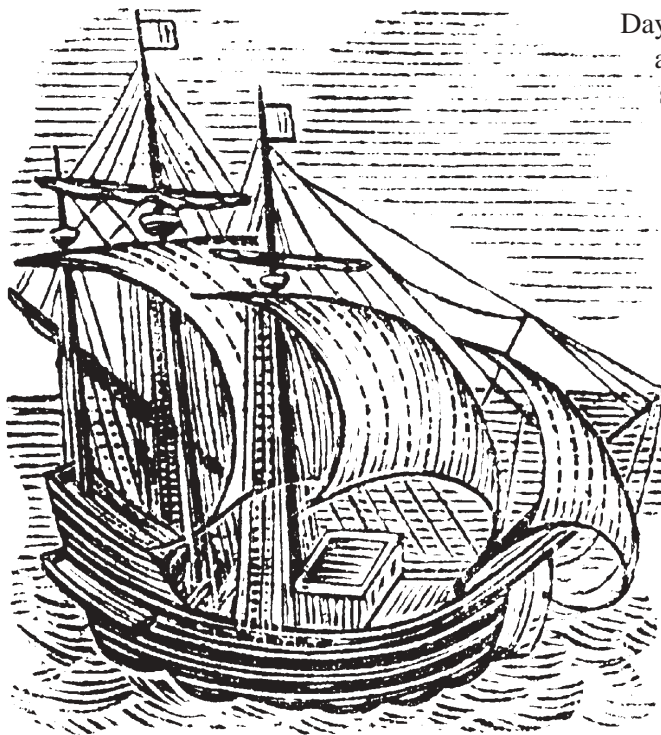
and came across the story of "A Modern Day Jonah" which the kind people at the Eden Killer Whale Museum have allowed me to pass on to you.

The "Modern Jonah" story adds a few interesting ideas to the "Original Jonah" story. But before we go into that here's a recap of both stories.

## The Modern Jonah

The year was 1891. The month was February. "Three whaleboats from the whaler 'Star of the East' chased a huge Sperm Whale which, on being harpooned, dived eight hundred feet before the harpoon line slackened.

In watchful silence the apprehensive crews sat at their oars scanning the waters about them for some sign as



to where it might break the surface, for the aggressive behaviour of these particular whales, under threat, was well known and dreaded by all whalers.

Without the slightest warning the whale suddenly erupted under one boat, tossing it high into the air and flailing it to pieces with its tail, before it sounded again.

The whaleboat's battered survivors were picked up, but two of its crew were missing.

About sunset, the whale resurfaced and was seen to be dying, the harpoon lines were transferred to the larger vessel and as the weather was warm, the whale was winched to the vessel's side for immediate processing.

After the blubber was flensed from the carcass, the crew hoisted the large liver and stomach on board, when rhythmic movements like something in the paunch trying to breathe were noticed, so the whalers sliced it open.

Out came a man's foot and trousered leg, and there was one of the missing men, James Bartley (then 21), doubled up and unconscious, but still alive after an estimated fifteen hours in the belly of the whale.

During that time the whale's digestive juices had permanently bleached his skin a deathly white, damaging the surface skin of his eyes so that he was almost blind.

He lost his hair and was delirious for two weeks, a month passed before he could coherently tell of his ordeal; of how he'd been flung into the air, then felt the peg-like teeth of the whale's lower jaw grate across his legs as he slid head first down its tube-like throat.

This latter day Jonah never went to sea again, working for another eighteen years as a cobbler in his native Gloucester, dying at the age of 39."

### **The Original Jonah**

We read about the story of Jonah in, well, the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament. According to my Bible the year was about 862 BC. To paraphrase the story, God asked Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah and tell them how bad they'd been and, if they didn't repent, how God's wrath would come upon them. Sadly Jonah had other ideas and thought he'd "*flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord*" (chapter 1, verse 3). This was a big mistake.

Jonah jumped on a boat in Joppa that was heading for Tarshish and when they were on their merry way their way turned not so merry. God whipped up a mighty tempest or storm. The mariners were afraid. They tried to throw goods over the side to lighten the boat to save it and themselves. It wasn't working. They woke Jonah up (somehow he was sleeping though all this) and cast lots to find out who's fault it was that God was causing this storm. Jonah literally drew the short straw. Jonah lost, told them his story and eventually convinced the mariners to, reluctantly, throw him overboard. The storm then stopped.

*"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."*(chapter 1, verse 17).

To cut a short story even shorter – basically Jonah prayed, the fish vomited Jonah up on to dry land, Jonah went to Ninevah as instructed, Jonah preached, the Ninevites repented, and God's wrath was avoided. Now the story goes on with how Jonah was actu-



ally upset that everyone repented but we'll stop here.

### **The Interesting Thing Is...**

Well for one, the chances of a 'fish' or Whale swallowing someone doesn't seem so far fetched now does it?! And coming out alive after a serious amount of time doesn't sound so unlikely?! Apparently the air breathing Whale, before diving, inhales and absorbs an incredible amount of oxygen. Maybe it was this that kept the Modern (or Old) Jonah alive. Maybe, and I'm no Whale physiologist, the Whale couldn't completely close off the valve to its stomach because it was full of Jonah and hence air got in to keep him alive. The Sperm Whale isn't the largest Whale in the world either! Maybe when the "*fish...vomited out Jonah upon dry land*" (chapter 2, verse 10) the bible was describing a Whale beaching itself.

Now there are theories that this "fish" was either (a) a big fish we haven't discovered yet, (b) a Whale, or (c) a Plesiosaurus. The first option doesn't sit well with me. The latter option is interesting because it means basically that Jonah was swallowed by one of those amphibious dinosaurs. This may not sound so far fetched if you believe Loch Ness Monster theories or the case a few years ago where Japanese fishermen caught what can only be described (when you see the photos) as a Plesiosaurus. I shan't go on with this option but I will say that I believe that the Bible doesn't rule out dinosaurs – particularly when you read Job 40:15-24 – but we've covered that before.

It's also interesting to note that the Lord "*prepared a fish*". It wasn't just 'chance' that Jonah was swallowed. God had prepared a fish - maybe it had a big stomach, maybe it had been eating something that made Jonah's ride in the whale more accommodating.

It's all interesting but what impressed me was the fact that the Modern Jonah, James Bartley, was dyed deathly white from the Whale's digestive juices. Who knows, maybe the juices were particularly acidic because of the trauma on the dying Whale. Imagine what would have happened if our Original Jonah had been dyed white! Just think of the reception that he would have got when he walked into Ninevah, bright white, preaching repentance! I reckon he'd have drawn a dumbfounded crowd who would have listened to his every word. They may even have thought he was an angel! It might have been the reason they listened and repented. Who knows? But it does make an interesting theory doesn't it?!

### **The "So What?"**

So, can we believe the story of the Modern Jonah? To answer that we have to ask ourselves if we can trust the official records of the British Admiralty. Can we believe the story of the Original Jonah? Well, can we trust the Bible?! The Biblical story of Jonah doesn't sound so unbelievable now does it! You tend to find that sort of thing when you start looking at the Bible.

I trust you can all now impress someone with the "I heard a story about this guy..." story with the details to back it up when that "Whale of a Bible Study" next comes around.📖

### **Bibliography:**

"Whales of Tales" Compiled by J.Alex.S.McKenzie, 1991. ISBN 0-646-00515-4.

# In the Beginning.....

*“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil”* Genesis 3:4,5.

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”* 1 John 3:2.

The Serpent which the devil took,  
(An instrument) man’s woe to work,  
More subtle was than any beast,  
Which God had on this planet plac’d.

He said, so far from dying then,  
By eating of the fruit unclean,  
‘Twould open our first parents’ eyes,  
To be as gods, both good and wise.

Our hellish foe, by lies began,  
To bring grief, pain, and death on man;  
But yet a season will come round,  
When truth will in his words be found.

As man by lies, was foil’d at first,  
To take the evil and was curst;  
By truth he’ll take the good at last,  
And then will heav’nly joys flow fast.

Then they as gods will surely be,  
In knowledge and felicity;  
Their bodies like to Jesu’s own,  
And each receive a heav’nly crown.

But when that men as gods are made,  
Satan, who them at first betray’d,  
No more on earth as god must reign,  
But sink in the unfathom’d den.

And then, too late, he’ll surely find,  
In foiling thus the human kind,  
He foil’d himself the most of all,  
And brought his own eternal fall.

**John Wroe**

# Pentecost or

Children, did you know that Whitsuntide is a very special time in the Christian Israelite Church calendar. You see, we look forward to God sending a blessing to each of us at this special time, just as He did so long ago on the day of Pentecost.

You can read about this day of Pentecost in the Bible in the book of Acts chapter 2. It tells the story of how a great number of people from many countries and towns and places were all meeting together because it was the time of the Feast of Pentecost. Just like we gather together from different towns and states and sometimes different countries at our time of Whitsuntide.

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He appeared to His disciples at different times over 40 days. If you can read your Bible you can find this wonderful story in Acts chapter 1. Here we read that as Jesus was talking to His disciples He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father.

Now, the disciples didn't understand what Jesus meant by "The promise of the Father". But Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem and something wonderful would happen.

Don't you think the disciples must have been excited about all the wonderful things that had been happening since Jesus died and rose again. They didn't quite understand what Jesus meant about "the promise of the Father coming to them", but they believed in Jesus and listened very carefully. Here was Jesus talking to them and telling them that something wonderful was coming to them and all of a sudden He started to float up into the clouds. Have you ever seen thistle-down float into the air, it just gets higher and higher until you can't see it anymore. Well, that is what happened to Jesus.....He just floated up into the air.

While the disciples looked up into heaven, two men dressed in white clothes stood beside them and told them not to be worried, for just as Jesus had gone into heaven so too would He come again in the same way as He went. We remember this time as the Day of Ascension and this day is 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

Can you imagine how excited those disciples would have been to have seen Jesus float into heaven and how they had wonderful stories to tell everyone. But, they did as Jesus had asked, and they stayed in Jerusalem to wait for the special blessing.

They only had 10 days to wait till it was the time to meet together with their

# Whitsuntide

friends from various countries and towns to remember the special time known as Pentecost. It was at this special time that God sent ‘the Holy Spirit’ to be with everyone, to give them power and fill them with His love.

Peter, one of the disciples, stood up in front of the large crowd of people and told them about Jesus, he also talked to the people about God’s Plan for everyone. After this wonderful sermon Peter asked the crowd to be baptised and to give their hearts to God and they would receive this special gift of the Holy Ghost.

On this day, the Bible tells us, there were 3,000 people who believed the message of Peter’s sermon, that came to the Church on that day. This was the beginning of the Christian Church. When the new people came to join the church they were dressed in white to be received into the church. Later this day became known as Whitsuntide (or originally White Sunday).

The Christian Israelite Church remembers this special time as a time

when God sent His

Holy Spirit to rest on the people to give them power and strength in their lives. We ask God to come into our hearts and help us just as He did on that first Whitsuntide.

Children, have a happy Whitsuntide, and pray for the Holy Ghost to grant you a special gift at this special time.📖



# Statement of Belief

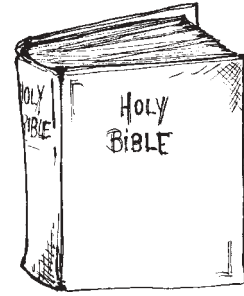
**The Christian Israelite Church beliefs can be fully supported by the Scriptures. Here is an outline:**

## **WE BELIEVE**

- \* In God Almighty creator of all things (Genesis 1:1).
- \* In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed (James 2:19; Ezekiel 28:14,15).
- \* That God created a spirit-existence in which the devil manifested evil and caused some of the spirits to rebel against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6).
- \* That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the spiritual creation (Luke 9:55; Genesis 2:7).
- \* That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were "*for their good always*" (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- \* That all have sinned and come "*short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
- \* That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:16,17).
- \* That through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus believers are counted as righteous before God, and can be assured of the resurrection of their souls (a Spiritual body) at Jesus' return (1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:44).
- \* That there will be a small number who will fully prove their faith by a work of true obedience to God's instructions and will thereby receive the prize of the highest calling of God, the redemption of spirit and soul and body - this living mortal Body made Immortal without seeing death (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:1-5; Hebrews 11:39,40).
- \* That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever (Revelation 19 and 20).
- \* That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days (Matthew 24; Mark 13 and Luke 21).
- \* That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people (1 Peter 2:9).
- \* That although Israel of old did not accept the challenge of spiritually being God's peculiar people, a remnant of their descendants will come forward in the latter days to fulfil the obligations and receive the promises (Revelation 7:1-8).
- \* That the Mission of the Christian Israelite Church is to awaken the lost ten tribes of Israel to this special inheritance to be the physical Immortal "*Bride of the Lamb*" and to be the vehicle for the task of bringing them all together at God's appointed time (Matthew 10:5,6; Revelation 19).

**We believe that God is the absolute Judge and Arbiter and that we as His servants have an obligation to respond to what He puts in each heart, and that whilst we seek to proclaim and discuss our beliefs, we have no right to contend with other people about their beliefs.**

# Expand Your Bible: A Matter of Choice



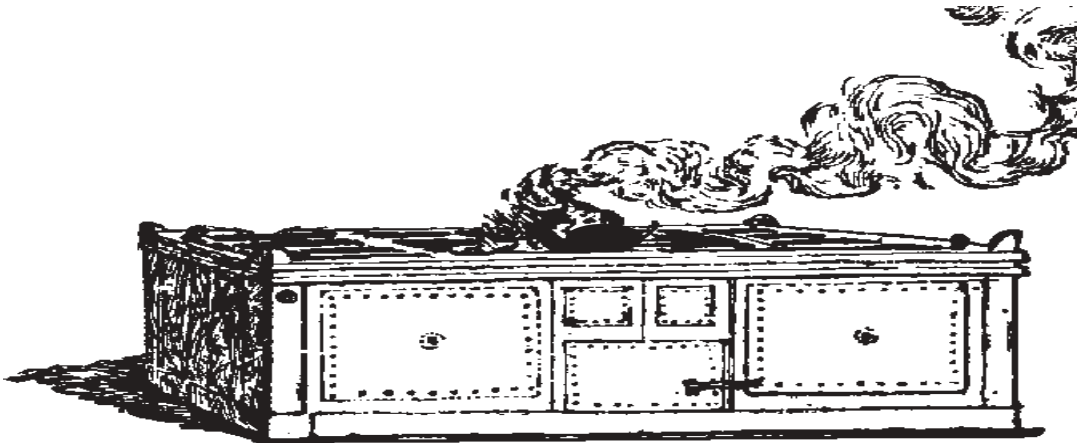
The Egyptian was deep in thought. His Israelite friends had told him some disturbing news.

For some time now there had been a 'showdown' going on between that Israelite leader Moses and the Pharaoh - the might ruler of Egypt. Moses was following instructions from his God and asking Pharaoh to let the Israelite people leave the country. Moses said that God had provided them a land of their own - a land where they would no longer be slaves - a land where they could worship as they wished. Pharaoh had been pretty definite that there was no way he would let them go. They were his slaves, his cheap labour to get all his building and heavy work done.

Already God had shown his power by sending all sorts of plagues and discomforts on the people of Egypt. Each time Pharaoh had agreed that they could go - each time he had changed his mind and made the po-

sition of the Israelites even more intolerable. Things couldn't go on like this. This God of the Israelites was unusual by Egyptian standards. You couldn't see Him - He was an invisible God. He was everywhere and certainly not a God to be trifled with.

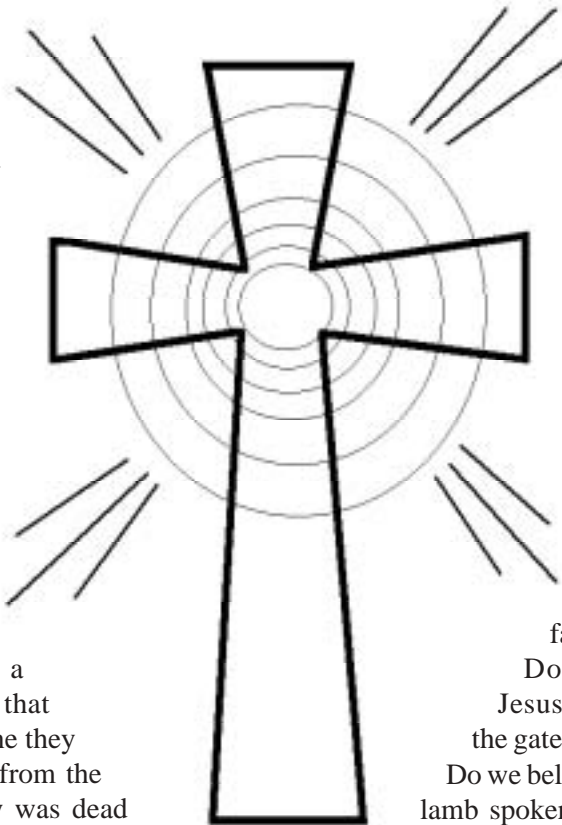
This latest instruction to the Israelites was strange. Each household was to take a lamb (they could share if the household was not big enough). The lamb was to be a special one - "*a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year*" - the blood of this lamb was to be put on the side door posts and lintel of the door of the house where they were to eat the lamb. The lamb was to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs. They were to eat the meal dressed and shod ready to leave in a hurry. "*For (said the Lord) I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and I will smite all the first born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast..... and when I see the blood I*





*will pass over you and the plague will not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt". "Yes", he said, "I believe". Perhaps I will leave Egypt with the Israelites.*

A group of young men discussing the events of the past few weeks: "Remember those three prisoners that were crucified a couple of days ago? There's a story going round that one of them - the one they called Jesus - rose from the dead. He certainly was dead when they put His body in the rock tomb in the garden, but when some of His women followers came to mourn for Him, they found His body was gone." "And that's not all", another said, "He appeared to some of his followers....in the garden on the road. Strange isn't it how Jesus' crucifixion coincided with the time of the Passover. He called himself a lamb....He was crucified just like the Passover lamb." "Hey", the first interrupted, "You are certainly full of ideas. Next thing you'll be saying that you believe that this guy was no ordinary Nazarene, but



He really was the Son of God, and that His blood saved us. That's a dangerous statement to make with the upheaval here in the city."

"As a matter of fact, I do. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I wonder what will happen now?"


2,000 years later it is our turn and we too are faced with a choice.

Do we believe that Jesus' sacrifice opened the gates of salvation to all?

Do we believe that He was the lamb spoken of in Isaiah? Do we believe that the lamb offered at

the time of the original Passover was symbolic of Jesus' sacrifice and that the blood of the lamb was symbolic of the blood of Jesus. Do we seek for the destroying angel to pass over us?

We study the Scriptures and read, often in wonder, how events in the New Testament link with or fulfil prophecies in the Old Testament, showing God knows the end from the beginning.

What we believe and how we act are a matter of choice. 

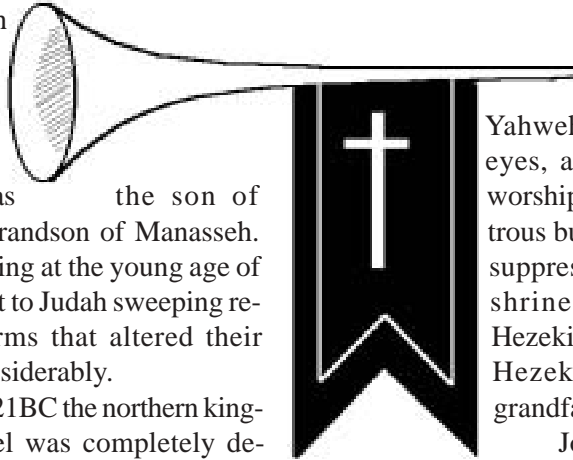
**Note:** The story of the origin of Passover can be read in the book of Exodus chapters 11 and 12 and the story of the resurrection in John 19:16 - 20:31.

# A Return to the Law

Josiah was the 17th king of the southern kingdom of Judah. He was the son of Amon and grandson of Manasseh. He became king at the young age of 8 and brought to Judah sweeping religious reforms that altered their lifestyles considerably.

In 722/21BC the northern kingdom of Israel was completely defeated by the Assyrians and absorbed into the Assyrian culture. The southern kingdom of Judah managed to maintain its semi-independence for a little longer - the nation of Judah ceased in 587 BC. Both nations had suffered from poor leadership, misguided ideals and idolatry to such an extent that the prophet Zephaniah and a young Jeremiah denounced both nations fiercely for their betrayal of Yahweh.

As stated above, Josiah was the son of Amon, and grandson of Manasseh. Through the marriage of many of Judah's kings with pagan princesses (remember Jezebel), pagan rites and practices had infiltrated Judah's lifestyle to stand side-by-side with a form of Yahwism far removed from the Mosaic law. Manasseh was a loyal vassal to the Assyrians. He reigned from 687 - 642 BC. He paid homage to the Assyrian gods, built altars to astral deities in the Temple itself and generally allowed pagan cults, both native and foreign, to flourish. The fertility religion, and sacred prostitution were practiced in the Temple with human sacrifice making its appearance



yet again. Local shrines to Yahweh making Yahweh an equivalent in their eyes, accorded Him a form of worship that was not only idolatrous but also blasphemous. The suppression of these Yahwistic shrines was one of King Hezekiah's (as you will read later Hezekiah was Josiah's great grandfather) main aims.

Josiah's father, Amon, continued with his father's policies and was assassinated by high officers of the palace, thus his reign was from 642 - 640 BC. With the ascendancy of his 8 years old son would come a wave of reform and an attempt to cleanse Judah, as well as northern Israel, and return both nations to God's Law.

Josiah, early in his reign, started the renovating of the Temple, probably in an attempt to purge some of the pagan gods, etc., that had accumulated or amassed there. But in his 18th year (622/21BC), in the process of this Temple work being done (2 Kings 22:8-10 and 2 Chronicles 34:8-18), an ancient manuscript was found, which, when read, was found to be the Book of the Law, most probably the Book of Deuteronomy, dating back to the patriarch, Moses. As a result of seeing this Book of the Law, Josiah "*rent his clothes*" with dismay, realising how far the nation had come from following God's holy ordinances, and that the ancient covenant Israel had made with Yahweh had been betrayed by Israel and Judah terribly. The Book of the Law

that had been found had been handed down in Northern Israel, brought to Jerusalem after the fall of Samaria and lodged in the Temple, where some well meaning priest had hidden it securely during Jerusalem's paganistic days.

Even looking at the small hereditary period covered we start with Josiah (who followed God), his father was Amon (who followed pagan gods), his grandfather was Manasseh (who followed pagan gods, and his great grandfather was Hezekiah (who followed God). The Bible tells us the hereditary aspect is not as important as the spiritual. This is shown clearly in the era of the Kings of Israel and Judah with only a few remaining true to God and trying to follow His ways.

Josiah's reforms were widespread and all consuming. He started by completely obliterating idol worship and making a new covenant before Yahweh (meaning that Yahweh was a witness rather than a party to it) which would make the newly discovered Book of the Law the 'law of the land' for Judah and Israel. The Passover was again celebrated on the 14th day of the 1st month, but this time in such a way as had not been seen since the days of Samuel (2 Kings 23:21-23; 2 Chronicles 35:1-19). Yes, Hezekiah had celebrated the Passover, but he had had to delay that Passover for a month (Exodus 30:13), this was the first held at the proper time. As stated above, the Temple had become the home of many pagan groups. Josiah executed all the eunuch priests and prostitutes from the fertility sects and attempted to do what King David had done before him, by centralising all public worship at Jerusalem. Josiah, as King David also did, spread his reforms into the northern Israel kingdom, hoping to gather together those of the dispersion who

were still wanting to follow the Mosaic law. Many sovereigns attempted to emulate King David in reigning over both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel, but none met with any success until Josiah. Perhaps Josiah regarded himself as a latter-day King David. As a part of his reform policy, Josiah integrated the rural clergy (many of whom would have been northern tribesmen or Levites) with the clergy of the Temple. This no doubt met with some hierarchal problems, but Josiah's aims were in the right direction. Most importantly of all, the Ark was restored to the Holy of Holies for the first time in a generation (Manasseh, during his long reign, had had the Ark removed from the Temple and placed an idol in its place (2 Kings 21:4-7).

Josiah undertook a purging of the nation with sacrifices made to Yahweh that hadn't been performed for centuries. The Passover that was celebrated after the re-discovery of the law was the best the nation had every had - it was like a 'coming home' for the nation and gave Israel purpose and structure. Such was the extent of the depravity which the nation had sunk to that major changes and amendments were needed to rediscover the nation's meaning and what it meant to be the 'children of God'. Josiah could not ignore what he could see was Gods' Divine Ordinance for His nation - a written code for Gods' nation.

Archaeological proof of the far reaching extent of Josiah's reform has been found at Arabah (32 miles south of the Dead Sea) where an Edomite shrine was found dating back to the time of Josiah. This shrine was set near the legendary "Spice Route" and had served as a cultic place for travellers, etc. At this site archaeologists found more than 70 deliberately smashed pottery and stone cult objects lying beneath piles of

rocks that had been used to smash them. These smashed relics included:

- . altars,
- . statues,
- . incense burners,
- . libation vessels,
- . chalices, and
- . human shaped incense stands.

The intentional destruction of a pagan shrine so far south shows the widespread extent of Josiah's reforms and his attempts to 'clean up' the nation. It also shows that the image of King David was a prominent one, as Josiah may have been using the end of the Assyrian empire and its threat, to consolidate his land holdings and accumulate and amass more. Many kings of Judah and Israel had dreamed and attempted to become sovereigns over the huge nation that King David had reigned over.

This rediscovery of the Mosaic Law allowed Israel, or what was left of the Nation of Israel, to rediscover the Mosaic law and tradition and allow them to remove themselves from the materialistic Davidic covenant that had wrought so much internal havoc with Israel, and take Israel back to its purest form, back to the time when Israel had made a solemn covenant with Yahweh to be Yahweh's special people.

Josiah died at Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-24). He was the last of the godly Judaeans kings.

Josiah may be seen as a type of what was to come. He was one of many kings, but the only one to fully realise the importance of God's law. The Old and New Testaments speak of a "remnant" of Israel that will be saved (numbering 144,000) without experiencing physical death. Josiah was a type of this people, for although the majority were

comfortable with their pagan existence, after the discovery of the "Book of the Law", Josiah felt compelled to keep this Divine Law. So it will be with the Children of Israel or the remnant in these latter days, for engraven within their hearts will be a desire to keep the laws, not because they have to but because their hearts directs them to it.

The Law is ever present, you open your Bibles and the Testaments team with the word Law, showing the importance placed upon by the author of the Bible, God. Today humanity is similar to the time of Josiah, many have forgotten, or ignored, their spiritual lives in the hope of gaining earthly wealth and satisfaction. Unfortunately, as Josiah found, this route is far removed from the path that God has ordained for us. We can get back on track, with God's help, and attempt to live our lives in accordance with His Divine instruction. Jesus Christ did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfil it and show His followers how they could live in the light of God's grace, practicing God's law and living lives that show the mark of the approval of the Creator. When examined individually, every ordinance God laid down for Israel to follow, has either a moral or health factor involved that was definitely for the betterment, not the detriment, of Israel as a nation. The farther removed Israel has come from God's laws, the further removed they are from God's guiding hand.

Look at the impact a return to the Law had on Josiah's reign, and then by comparison, individuals should certainly see what a return to God's Divine ordinances can do in lives today. Israel, by rediscovering the Law, will begin to live in harmony with God, and be prepared to be caught up with the Lord and made like Jesus Christ at his return. 