



The BIBLICAL FEASTS



GARY HARGRAVE



SINCE I EMPHASIZE THE HEBRAIC ROOTS OF OUR FAITH IN MY TEACHING MINISTRY, PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME IF CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS MUST OBSERVE AND CELEBRATE THE JEWISH BIBLICAL FEASTS, FASTS, AND HOLIDAYS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES.

A better question, it seems to me, is why would we not want to engage in these divine appointed times?

These biblical feasts and holidays are celebrations that God gave us so He can meet us and work in our lives. He uses these special times to open doors that have never been opened for us, to give us new experiences and revelation, and to show us things in His Word that we have never yet seen.

Today, I believe the Jewish feasts and fasts continue to have great significance for us.

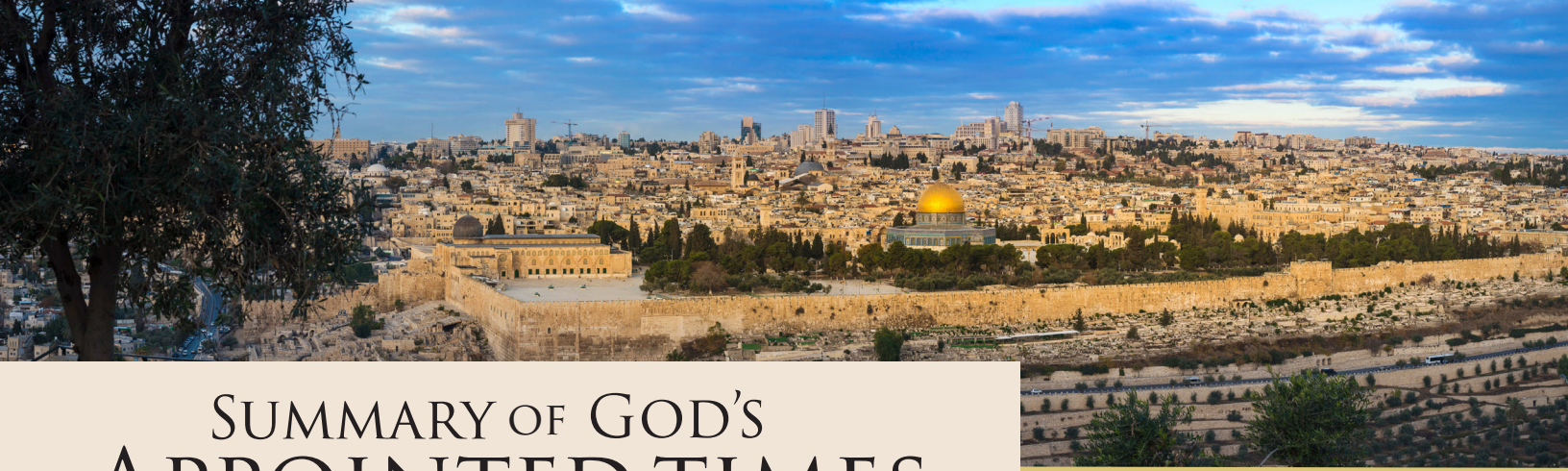
For example, Pentecost is the celebration in Judaism of God giving the Law in the Torah on Mount Sinai. Then God poured out the Holy Spirit on the believers in the upper room on Pentecost to establish the Church. As the people of God, we should be celebrating all aspects of this — the Word, the Spirit, and the Church!

When we celebrate Purim, we commemorate God's deliverance of the Jewish people from annihilation—without God's timely deliverance, there would be no Jews today, and no Yeshua (Jesus). Since we continue to see this same spirit of annihilation at work in our world against the Jewish people, Purim remains a vital celebration for us today.

There are many wonderful holidays in the Hebrew calendar, given by God, called out in God's Word, and observed by God's people.

It is not that we have to celebrate these times, we *get* to enjoy them.

Lang Lang



SUMMARY OF GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES

PURIM

Purim was instituted in Esther 9:20–32 to commemorate God's saving the Jewish people from annihilation through the actions of Esther and Mordecai. Observed in late February or early March (per the Jewish calendar), Purim is a time of celebration and joy for Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

PASSOVER / PESACH

The Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. The term "Passover" reflects upon the night the Spirit of the Lord "passed over" the homes of the Israelites that were covered with the blood of a sacrificial lamb. During this plague, all the firstborn children in Egypt died. This plague finally freed the Israelites from their slavery (Exodus 12). The Passover feast also foreshadows Yeshua's (Jesus') sacrificial blood as the Lamb of God who "frees us from our sins" (Revelation 1:5). It is also important to note that Yeshua instituted the new covenant in His blood during the Passover meal in Luke 22:20. Passover is an eight-day festival observed in late March or early April.

FESTIVAL OF WEEKS / PENTECOST / SHAVUOT

Pentecost occurs fifty days after Passover and is meant to be a celebration of gratitude to God for the wheat harvest similar to the Festival of First Fruits for the barley harvest. Yeshua (Jesus) is like that sheaf of the first fruits of the harvest which was waved before God at Passover (Leviticus 23:10–11). The Holy Spirit then comes for the full harvest at Pentecost, testifying that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16–17). Yeshua fulfilled His promise of sending another Helper (John 14:16) on Pentecost in Acts 2:1–4, as the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples and the church was birthed. This is a time of thankfulness observed in late May or early June.

TISHA B'AV

Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple by the Babylonians in 587 BC (Jeremiah 52:12–23) and Herod's Temple by the Romans in AD 70. It is a time of fasting and mourning, usually observed in late July or early August. It is also a time of acknowledging the righteousness of God and inviting Him to search our heart and help us to remove anything that is not pleasing to Him.



FEAST OF TRUMPETS / ROSH HASHANAH / YOM TERUAH

In modern Judaism, Yom Teruah has been celebrated as New Year's Day, which in Hebrew is called Rosh Hashanah or head of the year. The Feast of Trumpets by which Yom Teruah has become known is found in Leviticus 23:24-25. It was to be a sabbath, a memorial remembrance by the blowing of trumpets. What is being memorialized is the first trumpet blast announcing God stepping down onto Mount Sinai. We are not only to remember that God descended upon the earth then, but also the promise that at the sound of a trumpet blast, the last trumpet, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and the dead in Christ will arise. This festival is commemorated in late September or early October with trumpet blasts, and ushers in the ten Days of Awe leading up to the Day of Atonement.

DAY OF ATONEMENT / YOM KIPPUR

Ten days after Rosh Hashanah is Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement. It was the one day per year the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies to present a sacrifice on behalf of the people to wipe away all the sins of the previous year. Of course, Yeshua (Jesus) has become our High Priest and "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:11-12). This is a day of prayer and contemplation culminating the ten Days of Awe in late September or early October.

FEAST OF BOOTHS / FEAST OF TABERNACLES / SUKKOT

Five days after Yom Kippur is the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) or Sukkot. This festival celebrates the fall harvest and commemorates the forty years the Israelites spent in the desert, living in tents. The Jewish people construct and live in tabernacles or booths for seven days during this festival each year to remember that time of their history when God's presence dwelt with them day and night. The Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows the time when Yeshua (Jesus) will rule and reign on earth. Observed in late September or early October, Sukkot is a festive and joyous event.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS / FEAST OF DEDICATION / HANUKKAH

This winter holiday is the festival when the Jewish people celebrate the rededication of the Second Temple and God's miraculous provision as recorded in the books of First and Second Maccabees. This occurred during the time between the Old and New Testaments. This is a beautiful celebration, one that Yeshua Himself observed (John 10:22), where we can joyously celebrate God's restoration and provision. Also spelled "Chanukah," this eight-day celebration is observed in December.



SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE BIBLICAL FEASTS?

I am convinced that the celebration of the Jewish biblical feasts and fasts by Christian believers is pleasing to the Lord we serve. I believe there is no question that we should approach these special appointed times with tremendous anticipation and joy in our hearts—because the Lord has chosen to meet with us and to open doors to the Jewish people for us.

We know that Yeshua (Jesus) and His family celebrated the biblical feasts. The Apostle Paul celebrated the biblical feasts and used the keeping of Passover as a teaching example for the Church (1 Corinthians 5:7-8). The Church was born on Pentecost. And today we are living under a powerful prophetic word in the Bible that states that the day would come when Jewish biblical feasts would be celebrated by Gentiles (Zechariah 14:16-19).

Make this your prayer:

“Lord, as we approach these feasts, fasts and holidays, we want to realize that these are Your appointed times that You have established for us—and we want to keep these appointed times with You. Let us prepare our minds and prepare our hearts to enter into each celebration with You, and into each time of mourning and fasting with You. Let us search out Your Word to see what You have for us in Your appointed times. We ask that You restore to us the joy of your salvation, and that You help us to experience more of Your Kingdom in this world. Amen.”

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor** and break the cycle of poverty in Israel
- **Support the orphans and widows** of fallen Israeli soldiers
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges** between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews** around the world return to Israel and start new lives
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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