

THE NEWS

OF YAHWEH'S RESTORATION



P.O. Box 463, Holts Summit, MO 65043
www.yrm.org

March-April 2008

Recognizing Hebraic Roots of New Testament

Envision the common church ritual of “communion” returning to its proper origin – the Passover. Imagine seeing the New Testament as an Israelite collection of writings led by a Hebrew Savior instructing His followers in Old Testament disciplines.

These and more eye-opening concepts are part of an emerging movement of getting back to the Hebraic roots of modern worship that is starting to grip our world in ways unseen since the first century.

For years ministries like YRM have been in the vanguard, on the cutting edge of teaching that a return to the true Israelite roots of worship is a message

infused into the fabric of Scripture and essential to truth. And now it seems that a widespread recognition of that truth is beginning to take hold, echoing the prophetic words of Zechariah 8:23, “In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that Elohim is with you.”

The fact is, Yahweh made His covenant promise with Israel alone. Those seeking salvation who want a part of His promise must be grafted into that one and only covenant He made with Israel.

The March 24, 2008, issue of Time magazine carried a piece titled, *Re-Judaizing Jesus*. Remarkably, the concept of a Hebrew-oriented Messiah is listed by Time as number 10 among the top “*Ten Ideas That Are Changing the World.*” The Time correspondent writes that to understand Yahshua one must understand His roots as a Jew. He notes that most seminaries are now teaching the Jewish context of the Savior and New Testament. The article quoted a New Testament scholar saying, “If you get the [Jewish] context wrong, you will certainly get J-sus wrong.”

But in order for the masses to accept the fact that our Bibles are Hebraic and not Greek-centered it will

take a lot of reoriented thinking and teaching. Time magazine noted a historical contradiction when it said that for more than 400 years “Christian ‘Hebraicists’ have used Jewish texts to serve Christian triumphalism.” Many centuries of twisting the true alignment of Scripture is becoming obvious to those unafraid to face the facts.

Are we witnessing the start of the fulfillment of Malachi 4, which prophesies a return to the roots of True Worship in the last days? “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

This is speaking of a return by a later generation to the teachings of the fathers, and in this case means the Old Testament patriarchs. We will continue to return to the faith once delivered.

Special Dates for 2008

The barley was not mature enough by time of the new moon March 8 and therefore the following calendar will apply, provided the new moons are confirmed:

Passover April 20

Unleavened Bread April 21-27;

Pentecost June 15

Trumpets Oct. 2

Atonement Oct. 11

Tabernacles and Last Great Day, Oct. 16-23.

New and exciting activities are planned for Unleavened Bread at Holts Summit. Join us!

The 2008 Moed calendar with new moons and Feast dates is enclosed with this newsletter.

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The third obstacle to repentance is the fear that after repentance you won't be able to avoid sin. Repentance is put off because perfection seems elusive. Certain Bible passages have haunted many.

Hebrews 6:4-6. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted of the good word of Elohim, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they impale to themselves the Son of Elohim afresh, and put Him to an open shame."

The words "fall away" refer to the unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Spirit. This will be explained later. For now, "falling away" represents a final decision to reject the faith. This is not referring to membership in a religious organization, nor to some controversial issue in the Torah.

Falling away is when someone says, "I don't want anything to do with it anymore," then continues in willful sin.

Hebrews 10:26-27. "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

"Sin willfully" becomes a lifestyle where one rejects the Messiah, never to return. This is a place where Yahweh will not extend His forgiveness. It is characterized by a severe hardening of the heart, and is another form of the great blasphemy. It is not talking about ordinary sin committed in the course of life and its many temptations.

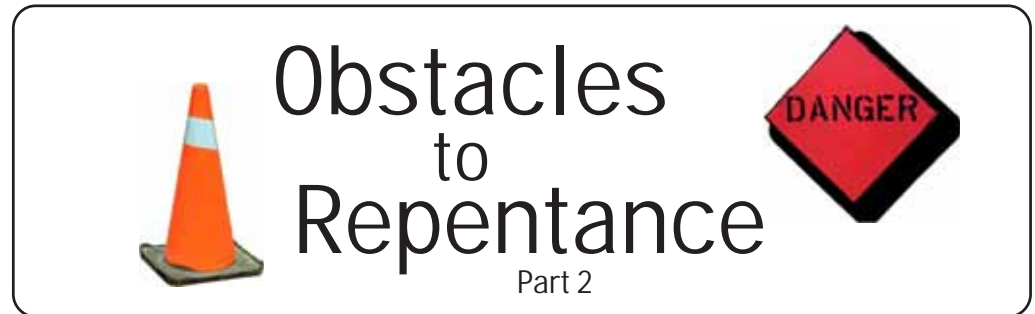
It is important to understand grace, a total reliance upon Yahshua to be righteousness for us, in spite of our sinful nature. "But now the righteousness of Yahweh without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of Yahweh which is by faith of Yahshua the Messiah unto all and upon all them that

believe." Rom. 3:21-22. That is how we can be righteous, though sinners, by the grace that comes through faith in Yahshua the Messiah.

Does this mean that we can still sin after we repent? This question makes every minister squirm. He must admit, "Yes, sin is a possibility after baptism, and even after repentance," and "Yes,

in a bed of sickness. The admonition of brethren in the fellowship is sometimes the hardest mode of correction to accept. But **most often** He chastens you by His Spirit.

Amazing things happen in response to your trespasses. There is no explanation for this outside of His love, guidance and correction. The Bible has



you can still be forgiven for it, if you repent." How do we resolve this seeming double-talk?

Let's first prove that Yahweh can forgive sin, even after repentance. Matthew 18:21-22. "Then came Peter to Him and said, 'Master, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? till seven times?' Yahshua said unto him, 'I say not unto you until seven times: but until seventy times seven.'

Question: Would Yahshua ask us to do something that He is unwilling to do? Of course not.

But we still have a puzzle. We cannot abide in sin. Yet we cannot say we will never sin again. We know sin can be forgiven under almost any circumstances. Is this some reckless game without rules? The profound answer is sorely lacking in discipleship today.

Chastening a Part of Love

Yahweh can forgive sin. But, He will also bring you back to Him through chastening. Revelation 3:19 says that He chastens those He loves. The record in the lives of the brethren, including me, is ample testimony of this!

You may wonder how He chastens. Sometimes, He works through your personal or professional life. Sometimes by controlling things of value to you, or affecting your relationships. Sometimes

a lot to say about His loving correction.

Hebrews 12:4-11 (NIV). "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

"My son, do not make light of Yahweh's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because Yahweh disciplines those he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as a son.

"Endure hardship as discipline; the Almighty is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father. If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it.

"How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a while as they thought best; but the Almighty disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his majesty. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

We should eagerly give Yahweh everything we have, accept His correction and rest in His love. Romans 2:4 reveals that it is the goodness

of Yahweh that leads us to repentance. But beyond this there is even more: The prompting and guiding of His Spirit.

“Howbeit, when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you unto all truth. . .” John 16:3. This includes the wisdom to overcome temptation and sin. Yahweh’s wisdom will also teach you to spot temptation coming over the horizon and to develop coping strategies. And if necessary, the Spirit will lead you to repentance as well. All this, if you humbly yield to spiritual promptings.

Unforgivable Sin

The fourth obstacle to repentance cannot be overcome. It is the unpardonable sin. In Matthew 5:13 Yahshua declares that salt, having lost its savor, is to be thrown out and trampled by men. That’s where blasphemy of the Spirit leaves you.

Yahshua sternly teaches in Matthew 12:31 that all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven, except blasphemy against the Spirit. It would seem logical therefore, that anywhere a sin is deemed “unforgivable” it would be a form of this great blasphemy.

How is this sin manifested? Our main purpose here is to show that if you are reading this, you are most likely not guilty of this sin.

First there is the sin of calling the work of Yahweh’s Spirit the work of the devil when you know, in fact, that is not the case. When the Pharisees accused Yahshua of casting out demons by the Baalzebul, they knew better. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, told Yahshua, “We know that you are a teacher come from Elohim.” John 3:2.

One must be careful about judging spiritual phenomena. It is better to ask Yahweh for wisdom and true discernment (1 Cor. 12:10; Heb. 4:14) than to misjudge in error. The Pharisees’ sin was established in that they knew better.

The second type of blasphemy is done by sinning willfully. You can see, of course, where the Pharisees were guilty of this when they rejected Yahshua. We must emphasize that this was a conscientious decision.

This writer knows what an

impossibility that condition would be for him. His heart is fixed. Yet it is also written, “Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1 Cor. 10:12. Therefore, no one has it “in the bag.”

Still, this sin should be a very unlikely for anyone to commit. It is significant that the word for “heretic” in Titus 3:10 means one who made a choice. “A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sins, being condemned of himself.”

If you are concerned right now over whether you have ever committed the great blasphemy, then you can be very sure that you haven’t committed it. How? Because heretics do not care about this matter.

“...But if You Do Not Forgive...”

One more condition can serve as a roadblock to forgiveness. It is not called a great blasphemy in the Bible but it nevertheless stops Yahweh’s mercy cold. It is the failure to extend forgiveness to others.

In Mark 11:25-26 Yahshua commands, “And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

This affects relationships, business, family, friends, co-workers, everything. Yahshua does not even require that the one who offended us come to us for forgiveness! You may find it difficult to root out the bitterness and forsake every opportunity to speak ill of those who have offended you. Praying for your enemies has proven very effective as an attitude adjustment technique.

Finally, we have that sin that has never been repented of. How can we get this covered? We humans cannot remember everything we committed in the dim past. His mercy is certainly greater than our memory. If you can’t remember everything, it is wise to pray for forgiveness for unknown sin you have committed in the past.

Focus on Him

We have discussed the fundamental obstacles to repentance. At the root we find the fear of dying, or the fear of having some part of us die. We have also found that there is no sin too big or too small to require Yahshua’s blood.

So long as we’re willing to humble ourselves, confess our sins, and acknowledge Yahshua as our righteousness, forgiveness is obtainable. By seeking to establish Yahshua’s character within ourselves we will be overcomers.

In the course of growing in grace and truth we will likely be tested and chastised, particularly through things near and dear to us. Thus the call to forsake all, a warning of the job ahead.

The narrow pathway can be blessed and peaceful if we live in obedience to Yahweh’s commandments and abide in the Messiah. There is, after all, a worthy reward at the end of all this: The gift of eternal life.

It is fitting to close with David’s hope, as expressed in Psalms 17:15. “As for me, I shall behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”

– by **Michael A. Banak**

Holidays or Holy Days?

When Yahshua returns to this earth there will be an enforced return to the Bible’s observances. Man-made holidays will be discarded and forgotten while righteous days of blessing will be kept worldwide. Write for the free booklet called, *The Amazing Biblical Feasts* and learn about your future!

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Getting Out ALL the Leavening

I always look forward to Passover and Unleavened Bread because it actually makes me clean my house. Sad to say but unless my grandmother, immaculate housekeeper from Minnesota, is coming to visit, Passover is the only time each year I will clean my cupboards out. And only before the Feast will I vacuum under all the furniture, take the cushions off my couch and thoroughly investigate every nook and cranny looking for every last invading crumb of leavening. I always feel so good when I know that my house is clean, even in the places no one else might see.

The Feast is also a great time to look inside ourselves, to investigate every nook and cranny, to get all the leavening out of our spiritual lives to see how we are doing in our walk with our Father. It is time to sit down and examine ourselves. Are we really walking after our Father and truly living each day for Him? *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh*

The Virtuous Woman is a feature of The News written by women for women. We invite your articles about faith, home, marriage, child-rearing, recipes, and anything of interest to women in the Faith.

and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Yahweh,” 2 Corinthians 7:1. It is so easy to get caught up in this world, but the Feast is such a great time to really get down to the nitty-gritty of it all and look at ourselves and our walk. This year let’s focus – really focus – on Yahweh. Instead of reading our children cute little silly stories before bedtime let’s read them a Bible story; instead of unwinding our day with a TV show, let’s unwind with reading the Word and some prayer. Let’s be a light to those who see us and share the truth with those we meet. *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of Yahweh,” Romans 12:2.*

“Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things,” Philippians 4:8.

I look forward to this time of year because it helps me focus not only on getting the leavening out of my house, but also myself. Let’s start this year totally clean and focused on the only thing in this life that matters. To strive to be like Yahshua, and put Yahweh first and foremost in our lives.

“...Even as Messiah also loved the assembly, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious body, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:25-27.

– by **Jessica Mansager**



Abib – Nature’s Awakening

The enchantment of spring is upon us. The bluebirds, robins, and meadowlarks have arrived, while the juncos and purple finches have left for their summer homes. The goldfinches were here all winter, but their dull, bronze feathers have now turned a brilliant yellow. Purple martins, whose scouts show up in mid-March, arrive in early April and treat us to their noisy chirping until they leave in late August. My favorites, the tiny hummingbirds, will arrive sometime in mid-April expecting the feast of sugar water in the feeders I hang out each year at the beginning of that month.

With the cold weather giving way to warmish days, the grass is starting to turn green, spring peepers sing down by the pond, and buds are swelling on the trees and shrubs. Yes, spring is a joyous time of rebirth, marking the resurrection of our Savior and a fitting time for the new year to begin – the month of Abib.

Now is also the time to get started on the garden. On one of the warmer days in March, I make my first foray to the asparagus bed to pull off the dead tangled stems of last season’s crop. Asparagus tips first appear in early April, so it’s important not to leave obstacles

in their way.

March is also the time to plant the "cool weather" crops such as peas, lettuces, spinach, onions and potatoes. Lots of organic matter mixed into the soil before planting will get everything off to a good start. Since the weather is known

to be fickle at this time of year, be prepared to replant if necessary. Although February is the optimum time, it's not too late to plant seeds, such as tomatoes and peppers, indoors now for transplanting to the garden in May.

As the saying goes, "The early bird gets



the worm." So take a lesson from our feathered friends. Diligent effort in early spring will pay off later with summer's bounty.

—by *Debbie Reed*



Unleavened Recipes

Thanks to Jennifer Folliard & Naomi Holm

Walnut Toffee Bars

1 cup butter softened
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
2 cup flour
1/2 tsp salt
1 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
Preheat oven to 350. Beat first 4 ingredients together till creamy. Stir in flour, salt, and
1/2 cup walnuts. Spread into lightly buttered 13x9 in pan. Bake 25 min. or until lightly browned. Immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips and let stand 5 min. Spread chocolate. Sprinkle with remaining walnuts. Press lightly. Cool, then cut into bars. Makes 24 bars.

Unleavened Herb Shortbread

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 tsp dried basil
1/4 tsp dried thyme
1/4 tsp ground mustard
1/8 tsp garlic powder
1/8 tsp ground black pepper
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Beat at medium speed just until soft dough forms. Press dough evenly onto bottom of ungreased 8-inch square pan. Bake for 32 to 37 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes on a cooling rack. While still warm, carefully cut into squares. Cool completely.

Extra Rich Unleavened Bread

1/2 pound butter, softened
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup sugar
2 cups heavy whipping cream
4 cups flour
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix butter, salt, and sugar. Add whipping cream, then flour. Knead on a floured surface for 20 minutes. Pat dough onto a backing sheet. Score dough into 1-inch squares, making sure not to cut all the way through. Bake 25-27 minutes.

Matzo Almond Crunch

4 to 6 unsalted matzo sheets
1 cup butter, cubed
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 tsp vegetable shortening
1 cup slivered almonds
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 15x10x1 in. baking pan with foil; line the foil with parchment paper. Arrange crackers in the pan, set aside. In a large heavy sauce pan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 3-4 minutes or until sugar is dissolved. Spread evenly over matzos. Bake for 15-17 minutes (cover loosely with foil if top browns too quickly). Cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, melt chocolate chips and shortening. Stir until smooth. Stir in almond; spread over top. Cool for 1 hour. Break into pieces. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until set. Store in airtight container. Yield: 1 pound.

Onion-Topped Turkey Sausage & Potato Dinner

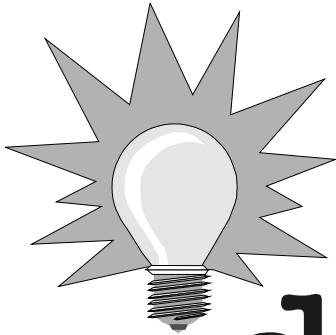
1 can (10 3/4 oz) condensed cream of potato or cream of chicken soup
1 cup French onion sour cream dip
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1 bag (1lb 4 oz) frozen potato wedges
1 cup frozen cut green beans (from 1lb bag) thawed.
8 oz smoked turkey sausage, sliced
1 (2.8 oz) can French-fried onions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 13x9 inch baking dish with cooking spray. In large bowl, mix soup, onion dip, 1 cup cheese. Stir in potatoes, green beans, and turkey sausage. Spoon into baking dish. Cover baking dish with aluminum foil. Bake 45 to 55 minutes or until bubble around the edges and potatoes are tender. Sprinkle French-fried onions and 1 cup cheese on top. Bake uncovered 10-15 minutes longer or until onions are golden brown.

From the Mouth of Babes

One day as we were driving, my five-year-old child asked me, "What does Yahweh eat?" I told him I didn't know, I guess we'll have to ask Him in the kingdom. He said, "I think I know, He eats the fruits of the spirit." I smiled and told him, "I think you're right."

— *Alicia Braun*



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front

back

Preparing for Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread Watch Those Leavening Agents

A **leavening agent** (sometimes called just **leavening** or **leaven**) is a substance used in doughs and batters that causes them to rise through chemical action. In the presence of moisture, heat, acidity, or other triggers the leavening agent reacts to produce gas (often carbon dioxide) that becomes trapped as bubbles within the dough. When a dough or batter is baked, it "sets" and the holes left by the gas bubbles remain. This is what gives breads, cakes, and other baked goods their soft, sponge-like, puffy textures.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Yahweh commands that no leavening be eaten or found on our premises: "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread," Exodus 12:19-20. Below we list leavening agents found in a variety of foods that must be used up or removed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Incidentally, it is not acceptable to remove leavening from your property only to bring it back once the Feast is over. The lesson is to remove leavening entirely from our lives, which represents that which feeds corruption. To bring it back at the end of the Feast subverts the whole purpose of the lesson.

Commonly used leavening agents:

yeast	ammonium carbonate
baker's yeast	ammonium bicarbonate
baking powder	potassium carbonate
baking soda	potassium bicarbonate
cream of tartar	dipotassium carbonate
sourdough	

Don't forget the hidden leavening:

beer/wine/alcohol made with yeast
preparation H (has yeast)
cat and dog foods with yeast
toothpastes with baking soda

False Leaven

Here are foods or ingredients not leavened, although some have mistaken them for leavening or leavened food. They pose no problem for the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

Puffed cereals Some food products are "puffed up" by mechanical means but cannot be used as a contact spreading agent. They are just puffed up by air and are not chemically leavened. They include: popcorn, beaten eggs, and air-puffed cereal like puffed rice or wheat.

Brewer's yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) is the yeast remaining after beer making. It's an inactive yeast, meaning the yeasts have been killed and have no leavening power. Used as a nutrient supplement to increase the intake of B vitamins, brewer's yeast comes powdered (the most potent form), in flakes (best for health shakes), and in tablets.

Yeast extract, autolyzed yeast extract When yeast cells die, they break up, a process called autolysis. Digestive enzymes break their proteins down into simpler compounds. What remains is a collection of protein, fats, vitamins, minerals, and monosodium glutamate (MSG), a flavor enhancer.

Soda pop Although its name says "soda," soda pop is not leavened as if with bicarbonate of "soda." It is made with water that has been infused with carbon dioxide in a non-chemical, physical process.



“When Is the Sabbatical?” - MS, IN

The record of Israel’s keeping the Sabbatical-Jubilee cycle is dismal. Because they neglected to let the land lie idle every seventh year, and disobeyed Yahweh in other ways, Yahweh brought them into Babylonian captivity. While in Babylon the land was allowed to rest for 70 cycles of seven-year rest to make up for lost time, 2Chronicles 36:20-21.

The first command for the Sabbatical is in Exodus 21:2-6, regarding the release of the slave on the Sabbatical. The Sabbatical year, called in Hebrew the “Shemmittah” year, is fully described in Exodus 23:10-11, Leviticus 25:1-7, and Deuteronomy 15:1-6. The sounding of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement each seventh year announced the beginning of the Sabbatical, Leviticus 25:9.

Like the Feasts of Leviticus 23, the Sabbatical and Jubilee years are so significant that they will be observed in the Millennial Kingdom, Ezekiel 46:17.

Because we lack the history of Israel’s keeping the Sabbaticals, we cannot verify by historical record our Scripture-based projections of when they should be kept today. A key verse in establishing the Sabbatical year, however, is Isaiah 61:1-2, quoted by Yahshua in Luke 4:18: “The Spirit of the Yahweh Elohim is upon me; because Yahweh has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of Yahweh...” Yahshua quoted this verse at the beginning of His ministry, which would accomplish all of those things Isaiah prophesied.

Further, in quoting this verse in Luke 4:18, Yahshua stopped in the middle of verse 2. The “acceptable year” is understood as the beginning of the Sabbatical year. Just as He was cut off in the middle of the week, dying on a Wednesday, so He left unquoted the rest of the verse, which tells of the vengeance to come at His return: “...and the day of vengeance of our Elohim; to comfort all that mourn.” This ties in with a number of prophecies (Rev. 11:18; Luke 20:16; 2Thess. 1:8; 2:8; He. 10:27).

By citing Isaiah 61 on the year He began His work on earth, including all that the passage signifies, and by stopping before describing His return, Yahshua clearly was tying both the start of His ministry and the timing of His return to the Sabbatical. He provides support of this in Luke 4:21: “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

The best scholarship reveals that Yahshua began His ministry in the 27-28 C.E. cycle. That means that 2008-2009 will be the Sabbatical, beginning at Atonement this autumn. No fields or gardens under our control are to be tilled or planted this fall or the following spring. As it turns out, the Sabbaticals are those years divisible by 7 on our Gregorian calendars. Why does Yahweh command the Sabbatical to start at

Atonement? One key reason is that winter grains like wheat and barley are planted in the fall. It makes no sense to wait till next spring to begin the Sabbatical after we have already planted the fall crop.

“Can you help me determine when the twelfth month mentioned in 2Kings 25:27 actually occurs in our modern calendar? In other words, is the twelfth month really the month of December as we know it or is the twelfth month in biblical times equivalent to another month in our modern calendar?”

- GT, email

The Biblical calendar starts with the month of Abib, Deut. 16:1. Yahweh calls Abib the beginning of months in Exodus 12:2. Abib is a somewhat precise term describing a stage of maturing grain crop. The crop is barley, according to Exodus 9:3, which along with flax were the only grains mature enough to be called Abib. It is the time in development when the grain goes from milk stage to semi-solid and can be eaten if parched or baked. At this stage it is still green but getting lighter in color.

Being that the Biblical calendar starts in March or April, the 12th Biblical month compares to our February. It was also the 12th month in the pre-Julian calendar of the Romans, and that is why extra days were tacked onto the end of February to make a leap year, as it was this year. In 1582 came today’s Gregorian calendar. It starts the year January 1. Those who didn’t like the new calendar and maintained that the first of the year still should be in March-April were called “April fools.”

Yahweh’s calendar is agriculture-based. We need not be concerned about reconciling the lunar-solar calendars by adding a 13th month, etc. Yahweh has it worked out already in His calendar in the Scriptures that keeps his calendar in step with the growing seasons.

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 - 6-Devotion - Deacon Randy Folliard
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Called to be a Bridge

How wonderful it was to receive this E-letter. I found this newsletter's content to be EXACTLY what I've needed as there have been many recent opportunities to share the faith with those around me. Many are starting to ask questions these days—and the rebuttals they give are all so similar to what was discussed in the newsletter. The points were well organized, clear and concise and will help me as I present information to those just a few years behind me. We live in an exciting time and I'm SO very grateful the Father sees me as worthy to be a part of His mighty plan!

In my 15 years as a parent/teacher, I have come to realize that children learn best from analogies; simple things just like Yahshua used when talking to the crowds who followed Him. So, I've been explaining to the children that those on this (sabbath/feast keeping, torah observant) walk are like a bridge the Father is using to connect His people. On one side are the Orthodox Jewish who, in spite of their steadfast adherence to the law, will never receive the kingdom without the Messiah. On the other are all the modern day "christians" who have the messiah but reject the law—and will STILL miss the mark because they reject His Torah. Both groups need to see what they are missing so that they may be complete—whole—and accepted. That's our job! We are being called to be that bridge. complete and passable...

"This analogy has helped my family accept who we are and why we still look or act a bit "different" from others who believe as we do. It's given us the courage to stand where we've been placed and boldly minister to whomever the Father chooses to send our way. As I said, it's an exciting time in our history.

"My prayers have changed over the years from "protect us! spare us!" to "Use us! Allow us to be beacons of light for you!" After all, how sad it would be to get this far on our journey and miss the blessing of being part of the bridge that He's using to bring His salvation to the world!"

– LS, TN

Special Music CD Works in My DVD

"Thank you so much for the special music CD. I am enjoying it very much. I am enjoying the sermon messages, too. At first I couldn't get them to work. Then I finally put them in my DVD and they worked!" – VP, MN

MP3 CDs will work in most DVD players. Thanks for the reminder. – ED

SDA's Show Interest

"Found your site this morning and wanted to let you know how impressed I was. I am a Seventh-Day Adventist and am interested in finding out about the the other Holy Days and your site provides a great deal of information. I will be sharing your site with other SDA's with the same interest. [Yahweh] bless you in your work."

– RP, Sr. - Email

On-line Sermons Convenient

"You may hear this over and over, but I really cannot thank you enough for putting your Sabbath services live online, and updating your archive in a timely manner. I listen to the sermons over and over while I am working during the week. It's so nice to know that you care enough about those of us who are isolated to update the website regularly." – SF, NY

Appreciates the CD Sermons

"Thank you for the CDs. Loved the special music. You have some talented people in your Assembly. Our little handful are very enthusiastic believers. We love your CD teachings. We're blessed." – MV, TX

Very Interested in YRM Ministry

"Some time ago I Emailed you a question, I wanted to thank you for taking the time to answer me. Thank you also for everything you are doing to proclaim the word of Yahweh. I have been studying your literature through your Web site and am very interested in the work you are doing for Yahweh." – Ellie, email

Booklet's Powerful Message

"I have just recently discovered your web site and my heart leaps with excitement. I read your article: *Your Salvation is Not Assured Until the End* and I was almost stricken to the floor. I agree. And I can't stop thinking how can I

get my hands on that so I can hand it out to others."

RJ, email

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