

CHAPTER 1

EYES TO SEE AND EARS TO HEAR, For Knowledge Shall Increase

*“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly
and shame to him.” ~ Solomon*

Benjamin Franklin wisely said, “*An investment in knowledge always pays the best dividends.*” Regarding biblical understanding in the latter days, the wise prophet Daniel said, “knowledge shall increase” (Dan 12:4, 9).

As the eye is never satiated with beauty, so God gave us a mind that is never dull of learning. He who learns, and lives what he learns, increases his “talents” and is blessed of the LORD but still waters go stagnant. As the ore of fine gold must be sought and dug up to reward the miner, so the Words of the LORD are like a rich deep vein that is never exhausted – but it only rewards those who say, “I do not have enough.” As gold ore must be carefully sifted and smelted into fine gold bars suitable for use by the goldsmith, so the Words of YHVH must be sifted with careful thought so that not one precious nugget is lost, and then refined in the mind to remove the dross of man’s influence. When we THINK we understand certain subject matter that we do not yet fully understand, it can be as if the mind has said, “I have enough.”

Readers: Do you “have enough?” If not, you are in for a rewarding and revealing journey through the exciting Word of God.

Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev.12:9). Yet many people – especially in church circles – seem to feel that they are exempt

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from Satan’s deceptions. We don’t recognize that we may have been misguided.

Over-confidence can lead people to close the doors of their minds to further learning, and thereby, shut

the doors of the rich gold mine of God’s Words. Have you exercised your freedom and ability to grow in God’s Truth, even in areas that you may already think you understand?

When blessed with new truth, it is a sign of true godliness and strength to be able to change our beliefs and practices – especially if our mind was previously “made up.” Such humble pioneers and defenders of truth demonstrate honesty to themselves and to others and should be honored. They are to the world like spring is to winter, and like light is to darkness, for without such people, truth would be diminished and the world would still be thought of as being flat!

Seeking to evidence your beliefs by reading this book and studying God's Word indicates that you may be just such an honorable disciple of Yeshua the Christ. But Arrogance is the blind mother of those proud whose confidence makes learning difficult.

There are incredibly meaningful and positive lessons for all mankind that are gleaned through keeping God's Holy Feasts *at their appointed times* (Lev.23:4) – just like Jesus and His apostles did. This certainly includes how to correctly number and keep Pentecost.

Paul took the time to teach the gentile converts of the Church of God at Colosse about God's Holy Days. He then told them to let "No One" judge them regarding their keeping of God's Holy Sabbaths, His Holy Feasts or the new moons (Col 2:16). Paul went on to explain why... it was because God's festivals, new moons and Sabbaths were made in the image of the Son of God – like an image or shadow that is cast by His Body. Please understand the clear words of Paul in this regard:

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance (body KJV) is of Christ.

The apostle Paul likened God's festivals, new moons and Sabbaths to an image or shadow that is cast from the Body of our Messiah as picturing God's plan of salvation and our inspiring future in the Kingdom of God! What a meaningful and beautiful truth. Let's explore this enlightenment briefly in summary before our deeper

rewarding journey into Pentecost – God’s festival celebrating the firstfruits of His people.

GOD’S HOLY SABBATHS AND FEASTS TEACH
GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL MANKIND

SABBATH:

How is the Sabbath a reflection of the Body of our LORD? To begin with, the Sabbath is something that the Father Himself has kept from creation (Gen 2:3). It was also the first of God’s listed Feasts (Lev 23:1-3). All God’s children are to emulate the Father, for His pattern and Words are life (Matt 4:4)! The Sabbath is the Holy Rest Day established by the God of creation. Each god seems to have his day. For many it is the ancient day of the sun or Sunday – the 1st day of the week. For others it is Friday – the 5th day of the week. For others, it is another day. But the Creator God Himself rested, and His people rest, on the 7th day. Indeed God has established the Sabbath as an IDENTIFYING SIGN to show man who the true Creator God is – as well as to identify God’s called and faithful people (Ex 31:13-17, Ezek 20:12, 20). But much more than that – God’s weekly Sabbath *makes us free*. It is a day of freedom wherein all people who keep it are equally free. Consider God’s Words in His 4th Commandment:

Deut 5:12 – ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but

the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (emphasis mine)

In verse 15 God enjoins the Sabbath with freedom from slavery. Consider... the Israelite people were slaves and had to work seven days a week! God' commanded His people that the Sabbath was to be day of rest to commemorate FREEDOM! This is because, God at creation, had made man free from religious or other oppression, as man had not yet disbelieved God in favor of believing Satan in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3). Satan, through deceptively obscuring God's love and truth, leads us to disbelieve and disobey God – bringing us only religious and moral oppression based upon lies and by appealing to our vanity. But the Sabbath is a sign typifying the coming freedom from Satan and from worldly oppression as we celebrate our reunion with God in God's millennial land of rest (Heb 4:1-11). Further, the Sabbath continues to teach us equality and freedom in our societies today. On the Sabbath, both the master (or employer) and the servant (or employee) are BOTH EQUALLY FREE from the

burdens of labor and business, and both are equally free to learn and worship the true God on His sanctified day of rest. On this day the master could not require his servants to till his land, pick his crops, work in his factories, stores or restaurants, or to serve the master in his home – nor were God’s elect to frequent businesses on the Sabbath (Neh 10:31, 13:15-17). On this day, both master and servant are equally blessed with rest. Normally a servant was forced to perform the will of the master seven days a week, but this changed with the Sabbath! On the Sabbath all men are equally free to rest and learn of God. The poor are to rest as well as the wealthy. The Sabbath is a type of the coming Kingdom of God – an image or reflection of the Body of Christ – because it points to and teaches us of the coming FREEDOM in God’s coming Kingdom.

These are only some of the many reasons why the New Testament Church continued to cease from buying, selling, and working on the Sabbath. Notice that Jesus’ custom was to keep the Sabbath and to use it as a time to teach the ways of God (Mark 6:2, Luke 4:16-31). Therefore all the apostles and the Church Jesus established (including Paul and the gentile converts) kept the Sabbath rest and assembled to learn of God on the seventh day (Acts 13:14, 42-44, Acts 16:13, Acts 18:4). Even when Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the Sabbath by healing the sick woman and freeing her from the bonds of Satan on the Day of Rest, this event also pointed to the Sabbath as being a day of freedom.

Notice how Jesus beautifully pictures the Sabbath as the appropriate day for being loosed from bondage to enter God's true rest:

Luke 13:15 – The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound — think of it — for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" 17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. (emphasis mine throughout)

This is why Paul said, "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God" (Heb 4:9) NASB. Indeed, Christ proclaimed Himself "Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28)! May all mankind soon learn that the Father's practices and commands are truly given to us in wisdom and in love!

PASSOVER:

God's festivals teach His plan of Salvation for Israel and ALL of mankind. No wonder Paul said they were a reflection or shadow of our Lord's Body – for He gave His body to be our Passover sacrifice as the Lamb of God (Rev 5:6)! After the Sabbath, the next of God's Feasts is Passover (Ex.12:5-14, Lev.23:5). Christ and His apostles kept Passover (Matt.26:17-19, 1 Cor.5:7). Indeed, Christ is the

Passover Lamb from God that redeems our souls by His blood (John 1:29, Rev.5:6). Part of that first Passover included being loosed from religious and physical bondage in Egypt and given freedom within God's law of love. This is the most basic of truths! God's plan of redemption is clearly portrayed through each and every one of God's commanded Holy Feast Days. Each one is like a gold coin to buy our freedom from dark obscurity into His lighted path.

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD:

The second of God's annual Holy Feasts is the Days of Unleavened Bread (Ex.12:15-20, Lev.23:5-6). Yeshua, our Passover sacrifice, was humbled and sinless, which are lessons taught by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We too are told to put out the leavening (sin) from our lives and to Eat Unleavened Bread during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex 12:14-24). Unleavened Bread is a type of the Body of Yeshua the anointed One. This Feast teaches us that we must eat of Christ, the unleavened Bread of Life, daily (1 Cor 10:1-4, 16, John 6:54-56). Not only do we see Christ and His disciples keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but also Paul kept this feast and taught the Gentile churches to keep it as he traveled on his evangelistic tours (Acts 20:6, 1 Cor.5:8). During these seven days, we are to put all leavening out of our homes, and eat only unleavened bread (Ex.12:19). This is because leavening pictures sin and vanity, while unleavened bread symbolizes a humble and

repentant heart coming out of sin to live a new life God's way (Matt.16:6-12, 1 Cor.5:8). God's enlightened people understood the symbolism of this Feast as an annual reminder to separate from the sins of the world and to draw closer to God (Ezra 6:21-22). God tells His people, right to the very end (Rev.18:4), to come out of the world to avoid her punishments.

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS – PENTECOST:

After Israel was freed from slavery under the Egyptian sons of Ham (Ps 78:51), God brought them first to Mount Sinai and gave them his royal laws on the day of Pentecost, which made their freedom complete (Ex 19 & 20). This royal law for the free was also later to be written on men's

hearts by God's Holy Spirit on the same day of Pentecost (Acts 2, Jer 31:31-34, Heb 10:16-17)!

As we begin obeying God, He gives us His Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). With the help of God's Spirit, we can begin to obey God more fully and to grow in understanding (2 Tim 1:6-7, 1 Cor 2:10-13). As we follow God's Spirit, we become His sons (Rom 8:14). This is the same Holy Spirit or Holy Seed that impregnated Mary and

filled the life of our Savior. Pentecost is so rich and abundant with meaning that this brief summary does not do it justice. But suffice to say here, Pentecost is truly a fitting

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reflection of our Lord's Body and like a bar of truly refined gold, its' worth is immense.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS:

God's fourth annual Holy Feast Day is the Feast of Trumpets (Lev.23:24-25). It foreshadows the Day of Christ's return and of the resurrection of the dead, at the 7th blast of the Trumpet (1 Cor.15:52, 1 Thes.4:16). It also portrays a merciful warning of God's coming punishments upon those who have abused Israel and the saints (Isa 43:14, 54:15, Matt 24:22). Further, the Trumpets picture the correction of an evil and immoral rebellious warring world, as detailed in the book of Revelation. Each of God's punishing plagues are preceded by a warning blast of a trumpet (Rev.8:6-...) and are designed to bring man to repentance. As we repent and turn to God, His mercy on us triumphs over judgment (James 2:13). The blasts of the Trumpets will finally bring an end to all false religion (including all atheists and agnostics) and usher in a utopia of life and peace for all mankind.

ATONEMENT:

The fifth Holy Feast Day is the Day of Atonement (Lev.23:27-32). It is a Holy Day of humble prayer and fasting to help us draw nearer to God and to help us repel Satan's influence (Matt.4:1-11, Matt.17:18-21). We enhance our relationship with God as we draw nearer to Him in humble appreciation for His ATONEMENT (James 4:6-

10)! Just like the Jerusalem Church of God, we also fast on the Holy Day of Atonement (Acts.27:9). The Day of Atonement pictures the atoning sacrifice of the life of Christ for the sins of mankind. The Day pictures the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God to restore God's people to Him; and it pictures the banishing of Satan for 1000 years (Lev.16:9-31, Rev.20:3). Whereas the Passover begins God's plan of merciful salvation, Atonement is its fulfillment, since Atonement pictures real unity with God (AT-ONE-MENT) being made complete. When one understands God's Feast of Atonement, one does not wonder why the New Testament Church of God, like the righteous in Israel, kept Atonement as such a sacred day. Truly it is a fitting reflection or shadow of the Body of our Lord being sacrificed for the atonement of all mankind as well as the banishing of the great deceiver, Satan. Once Atonement is fulfilled, world peace and Jubilee (Lev 25:9-10) will begin.

FEAST OF BOOTHS – TABERNACLES:

Following in the steps of Yeshua our Messiah, we also keep His fun, rewarding and meaningful seven day Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:2-14). This Feast foreshadows and teaches us of God's desire and plan to Tabernacle (dwell) with us (Ex 25:8-9, Ezek.37:27, John 1:14, Rev.21:3) – which is finally fulfilled in the coming Kingdom of God. Just like a booth is a temporary dwelling, this Feast also pictures our temporary fleshly status and sojourn on this earth (Lev.23:43, Heb.11:8-16). Indeed, Yeshua

(Jesus) came and was born in a booth – a temporary dwelling or manger - and Biblical events place His birth during the Feast of Booths. The lessons of this Feast teach us to rejoice before God (Neh.8:9-18) in anticipation of the millennial abundance of God's awesome City (New Jerusalem) in His wonderful world to come. Jesus kept this Feast and taught his brothers to do the same (John 7:2-14). The Feast of Tabernacles is the sixth of God's annual Holy Feasts, and is usually a favorite, for its celebratory and millennial focus!

LAST GREAT DAY:

God's seventh Holy Feast follows on the heels of the seven day Feast of Tabernacles, as the eighth day. This most glorious day will be fulfilled after the 1000 year reign of Christ with the Firstfruits (Rev.20:6, Rev.21). Therefore it is called the Last Great Day. God saves the best for last. This Day pictures the hope of all mankind who have not yet known God. As God commanded His people, and as Jesus referred to often, we keep the Last Great Day which foreshadows the Great Day of judgment and of the resurrection of all mankind (John 6:39-54, 7:37, 11:24, 12:48, Rev.20:4-6). This day also pictures the final judgment of Satan, the demons and all sin. With all sin permanently removed, the coming of the Father and the utopian New Jerusalem will finally be realized. This feast is a beautiful refection of mans most desired promises from God – the day of complete forgiveness and healing for all mankind and complete removal of all

sin in a time of paradise where there will be no more pain, no more sorrow, no more tears and no more death (Isa 25:8-9, Rev 21:3-4). All things will be invigorated and full of joy and life in this Last but greatest of days. Halleluiah! What a fitting reflection of God's beautiful plan of salvation Yeshua our Lord has given us – it is worth more than all the gold in the world!

NEW MOONS:

As Paul instructed us all, we should not let men judge us for keeping God's Sabbaths, Holy Days or New Moons (Col.2:16-17). God commanded His people to observe the New Moons as a Statute (Deut.16:1, Ps.81:3-4). David observed the new moons with fellowship and special worship (1 Sam.20:5, 18, Ps.81:3-4). New moons will continue to be observed in the world tomorrow as a special time of worship (Isa.66:23). The new moons were observed as the beginning of each month, and as a special time to worship God, to fellowship with others in the faith, and to reflect on our walk with God. It was used as a monthly "check" of one's spiritual progress in their walk with God. The new moons were NOT Sabbath days nor was it commanded to assemble on a new moon. Many did however assemble, often sharing a meal together, as they reflected on God and rejoiced together. This spirit of rejoicing and eating together on God's Sabbaths, Feasts and new moons bothered the Gentile populace of Colosse because they believed in penance and asceticism as a sacrament and form

of atonement. To them self-denial was the way to their god, “touch not, taste not...etc”

Col 2:20 – Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

This is why the apostle Paul told the church not to let any man judge them for celebrating and feasting when they kept the Holy Feast days of God. Paul did not want us to let anyone interfere with our obeying God in this way. This Gentile Church Paul established was FEASTING and eating and rejoicing before God as they kept his commanded holy days and new moons. These Holy Days were originally kept by both the Jewish and Gentile members of the early Church of God! They are God's time markers

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reminding us of where we are in God's plan of salvation – as taught through the keeping of God's Holy Feasts. They too are a reflection of the Body Jesus for the benefit of all mankind.

Each of God's Holy Days teaches the observer a vital part of HOW God's plan will be carried out. The Sabbath and Holy Feasts are like a beacon and a topographical map showing us details of God's plan to save all mankind. These Statutes of God are given to us as a light to our path and they make us wiser than our teachers or the ancients (Ps 119:98-105)! Let's all thank God for them.

But of all these beautiful Holy Days – PENTECOST may be the least understood, the least appreciated, and certainly Satan has gone to great lengths to obscure its meaning from all of us.

Are you convinced that you already know the New Covenant meaning, application and biblical method of numbering Pentecost? Perhaps you do, perhaps not. "Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall (1 Cor.10:12)." The world is filled with several billion people – most involved in many different religions that *blindly* accept, believe and practice what their religious teachers tell them. There are a few who insist upon proving their beliefs. They are the ones who open up an exciting journey of faith built upon the solid truths of God's Word. General George Patton once said, "*If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.*" I trust you are a "thinking" truth seeker, or you likely would not be reading this book.

Many sincere people proclaim a desire to know the guiding truth of salvation contained within God's Word. Yet, sadly,

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many have not yet explored and benefited from the full message of the precious Gospel to the degree they can, because they do not understand Pentecost or God's other Holy Days. Sometimes people are nervous about exploring biblical truths that fall outside the scope of their church or peers, lest they be found alone in their journey.

But God will never leave His faithful alone (Ps 4). Further, those who have the vision to carefully pursue His Truth will always find comfort and freedom (John 8:32).

Not everything Jesus said fit the mold of the various sects and religious teachers of His day anymore than they perfectly fit the mold of today's various churches, but the faithful are bold in that they follow only the voice of the true Shepherd (John 10:4-5).

Many recognize the old adage that says, "It's harder to unlearn error, than it is to learn the truth in the first place." For some, a sensed atmosphere of "disunity" with their peers can hamper deeper study into certain biblical arenas. But the only true and lasting unity is unity with God and His Word (Ps.127:1).

A cleverly disguised form of idolatry has also been foisted off on some. Many congregants have unwittingly allowed their church or ministry to "THINK" and "STUDY" FOR

THEM, reigning between them and God's direct Words to us all. Some church leaders seek to unify their parishioners to themselves and their church organization. Wouldn't a better approach be to encourage each of us to place our primary unity with God and His Word – then we would all be in the good company of other faithful disciples who were seeking God in like manner?

When the words of a church or church “ruler” are followed more than God and His direct Words to us all, it is idolatry, camouflaged! Satan whitewashes evil in many ways. Some have been deceived and blinded to this form of whitewashed idolatry because Satan has cleverly hidden it within churches as a means of hiding God's Truth. Not all parishioners are taught to really THINK and to carefully study (and believe) God's Word in a critical or exegetical manner – as God's Word instructs us (2 Tim.2:15).

Respectfully, God instructs each of us to exercise our God-given freedom to THINK and GROW through personal STUDY and EXPLORATION of God's Word (2 Tim 2:15). It is a great loss and waste to give that power over to the teachings and dictates of any church or man, as the church is to foster personal growth in faith so that each individual may stand in hope and joy (2 Cor 1:24). Remember, as God's true saints, we will be best served by being determined to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

The good news is that God has promised to reveal many new truths to His people in the latter days, along with the strength and open mind to accept those truths (Dan 12:4). God has promised that, in the latter days, the righteous (wise) would understand Biblical knowledge (Dan 12:9-

10). Halleluiah! *Are you, dear readers, now ready to learn and grow from God's Word?*

The words of this author are not important. God's Words are important!

Like the man who buries his talents, so the fearful and

closed-minded student

is a waste, but the wise

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As you read on, you

are in for a rich and

valuable treat: The

fascinating and meaningful hidden truth of the counting and the meaning of Pentecost will be made plain.