

WWW.RESTORATIONTIMES.ORG

JULY-AUGUST 2026

RESTORATION TIMES



RESTORATION TIMES

VOL. 16 | No.4 | July-August 2026

3



7



A R T I C L E S

10



16



3 | Power of Fellowship

by Randy Folliard

7 | The Royal Seven

by Alan Mansager

10 | 'Trust Me, I'm Your Savior'

by the Late Donald R. Mansager

14 | Q & A

16 The Lesson of the Fig Tree

by Ryan Mansager

19 | Eldertorial - Make It a Feast Vacation

Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

This publication is made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.

© 2026 Yahweh's Restoration Ministry



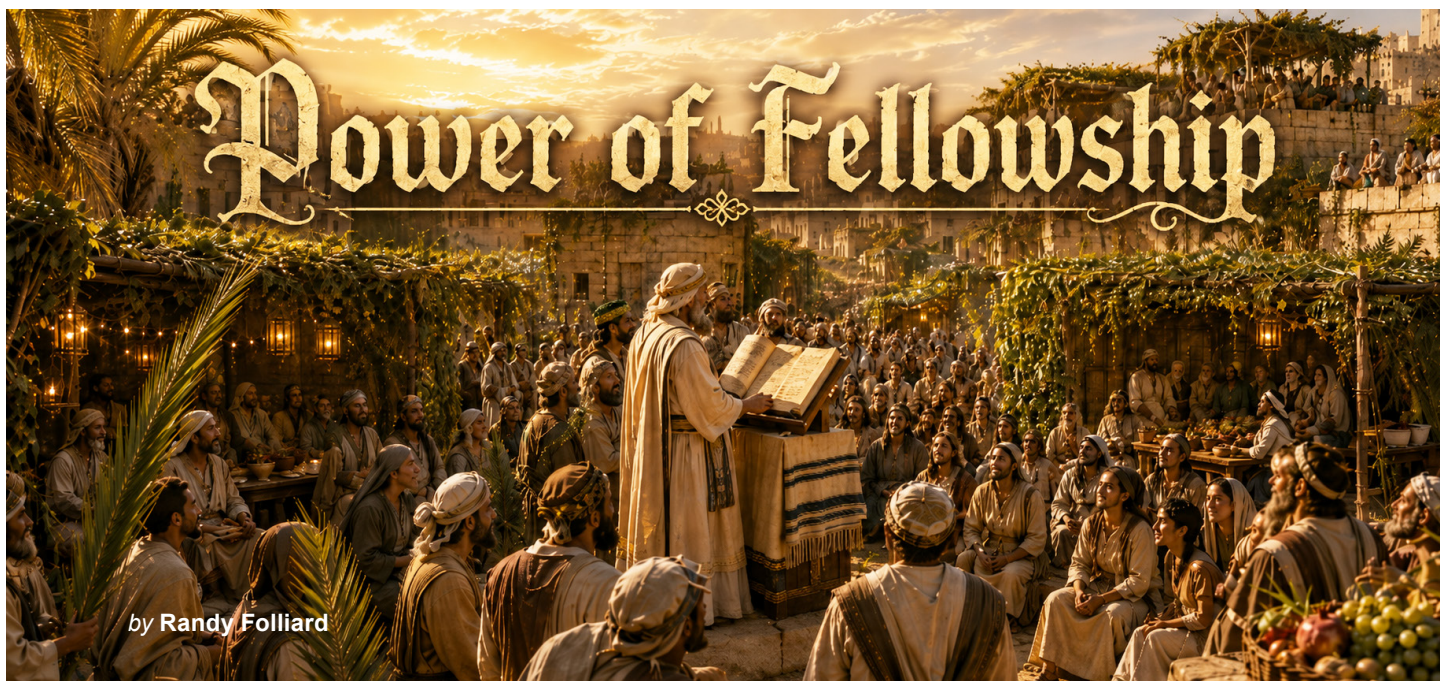
COVER:
Solomon's
Temple with
a fig tree in
front.

EDITOR Alan Mansager
COPY EDITOR Debra Wirl
GRAPHICS / LAYOUT Ryan Mansager
CONTRIBUTING WRITER Randy Folliard
DIGITAL PUBLISHING Lucas Cecil



Yahweh's Restoration Ministry
PO Box 463
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Telephone: 573-896-1000
Office hours M-F 8am-4pm
www.yrm.org info@yrm.org



Few associations are more vital to a believer than regular fellowship and communion with other believers. Yahweh's Word provides many examples of this.

We also know spiritually that there are many benefits to fellowship. Here are but a few: it helps us understand who Yahweh is; it provides strength and support; it lets us know that we are not alone; and it gives us an anchor and balance through the wisdom of others.

Not only does Yahweh command us to come together but there are also benefits to be gained. It's for this reason that we should all seek fellowship with those of like faith when possible.

Forsaking the Assembly

Hebrews 10:23-25 encourages us not to forsake fellowship: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; he is faithful that promised; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Standing firm in our commitment is an absolute must. We must never forsake our calling by ignoring the command to come together. We've

been called to the truth, and we have an obligation to remain strong in the faith. We also are to support and encourage one another, which leads to love and good works. All have this responsibility. This is not something only for ministers.

What happens when we forsake fellowship and go it alone, as some do? We can become spiritually disconnected from Yahweh, which can lead to depression and feelings of unfulfillment. We can also become spiritually imbalanced to the point of leaving the assembly and ultimately forsaking the faith. Fellowship keeps us spiritually grounded and focused on Yahweh.

Hebrews 10:25 ends by saying, "exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

We can all agree that this world is not getting better. As it worsens, fellowship with others in the faith will become even more important. There's coming a day when we must flee and depend upon the strength of others. This day may or may not come in our lifetime, but when it does, the fellowship bond is going to be crucial.

It's for these reasons that we're not to forsake fellowship and coming together as a body of believers.

Defining Holy Convocation

"Holy convocation" is a common phrase in the Word. It comes from the Hebrew *qodesh miqra* and refers to a sacred or set-apart meeting. By definition a holy convocation is a commanded time to come together to worship Yahweh and to fellowship with those of like faith. The phrase "holy convocation" appears 16 times in the Old Testament Hebrew, which shows how important fellowship is to Yahweh. He commands that we gather as a body of believers during His days of worship. Below are specific, commanded gatherings:

- Leviticus 23:3 (Sabbath): The Sabbath is a holy convocation. No work is to be done on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is mentioned along with the Feast days. It's a holy convocation.
- Leviticus 23:6-8 (Feast of Unleavened Bread): The first and seventh days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread are holy convocations. In addition, we're to abstain from leavened products during this Feast. It marks the barley harvest through the wavesheaf and represents the timing of Yahshua's resurrection.
- Leviticus 23:21 (Feast of Weeks): This is commonly known as Pentecost. It too is a holy convocation. We are to count seven complete weeks from the wavesheaf and add a 50th day. This is a

statute forever.

- Leviticus 23:24 (Feast of Trumpets): This Feast is also a holy convocation. This Feast always occurs on a new moon day. It prophetically points to the return of the Messiah.

- Leviticus 23:27 (Day of Atonement): Also known as Yom Kippur, it falls on the 10th day of the seventh month. It's a holy convocation. We're to afflict our souls, meaning to fast or go without food and drink. No work is to be done on this day.

- Leviticus 23:34-36 (Feast of Tabernacles and LGD): The Feast of Tabernacles is on the 15th day of the 7th month. The first day is a holy convocation. The eighth day, also known as the Last Great Day, is a separate Feast. It too is a holy convocation. During this time, we are commanded to stay in booths or temporary dwellings.

Precedents: Nehemiah and John

One of the greatest portrayals of fellowship is in Nehemiah 8:8-13:

"And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law. And they found written in the law which Yahweh had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month: And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written. So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of Elohim, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that

day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of Elohim. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner."

This took place during the Persian Empire when the Israelites were allowed to return to their homeland. At this time Israel kept the Feast of Tabernacles. We find two noteworthy situations: the congregation came together, and they made booths in observance of the Feast



An assembly has many members and everyone in it has a role and an opportunity to contribute.

of Tabernacles. This had not been done since Joshua, the son of Nun's leadership. Scholars generally say that Joshua lived between 1355-1245 BCE, and the time of Nehemiah was around 445 BCE. This is a difference of about 800 years.

Consider the significance of this time. About 800 years had passed from Joshua to Nehemiah, and during this time they had not built booths. It also says that there was great gladness when this was done. Why was there joy?

First, they were worshiping Yahweh. And second, they came together to fellowship in one accord. This is the meaning of holy convocation. Yahweh commands that we come together during these times. And as we also know, there are many benefits when we do so.

Another depiction of fellowship is in John 7:2-10, 37: "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him. Then Yahshua said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret... In the last day, that great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

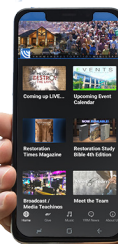
Before explaining the context of this passage, let's answer an important question: why does it attribute this Feast to the Jews? Based on this, some will say that the Feast days are only for the Jewish people. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This is called a Jewish Feast simply because the Jews were the only ones observing it. According to Zechariah 14, which is a prophetic passage, all nations will observe this Feast in the coming Kingdom. Yahweh's Feast days are not only for the Jews, but for all people and nations.

This passage took place during the Feast of Tabernacles. And we see Yahshua's brethren encouraging Him to go up and keep the Feast in Jerusalem.

Paul Was a Sabbath Worshiper

Now, because it wasn't Yahshua's time, meaning His time to die, He went privately. In verse 37 Yahshua stood up on the Last Great Day, or the eighth day, and said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." Yahshua



spoke here about the salvation that He would offer through His sacrifice.

We also find that Paul worshiped and fellowshiped during the weekly Sabbath. One of the first instances of this is in Acts 17:2: “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”

The Bible confirms that it was Paul’s manner to worship on the Sabbath. The word “manner” comes from the Greek *ethos* and is defined by **Strong’s** as “a usage (prescribed by habit or law).” **Thayer’s Greek Lexicon** adds that it is through institute, prescription, or rite.

In light of this, what was Paul’s motivation to gather on the Sabbath? It was a prescription or command. It says that he reasoned three Sabbath days from the Scripture. This refers to three consecutive Sabbaths. It shows that Paul worshiped and fellowshiped during the weekly Sabbath.

We see a second instance from Acts 18:4 in which Paul worshiped on the Sabbath, “And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”

This is critical for those who believe that the Sabbath is no longer necessary. Some maintain that Paul was only there to witness or evangelize to the Jews. There are two issues with this line of reasoning.

We read in Acts 17:2 that it was Paul’s custom or obligation to worship in the synagogue every Sabbath. If he was simply there to witness the truth to the Jews, going every week seems a bit excessive, especially in the presence of Greeks.

As an aside, we know Paul witnessed to the Greeks on Mars Hill (Areopagus), but we don’t find him doing so every week the way he observed the Sabbath. This is further evidence for the need to fellowship weekly.

New Testament Feasts

Acts 2:1 is another time of worship at Pentecost: “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all

with one accord in one place.”

We know that this was the first Pentecost after Yahshua’s death and resurrection. We also know that on this day Yahweh’s Holy Spirit was poured out upon those gathered. We also know that when this happened, those who received the gift of tongues were able to speak and understand in different languages. In fact, there were believers there from 15 different locations, including Rome.

What key lessons can we learn here? Even after Yahshua’s death and resurrection there were many believers still observing the Feast days, including Yahshua’s own disciples. We also see that they were there in one accord or unity to worship Yahweh.

This last point is especially valuable. It again shows by example that the Feast days are times to gather with other believers to worship and fellowship in unity.

Acts 20:16 provides yet another example of worshiping with others during the Feast days: “For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.”

Notice Paul’s urgency. He “hasted” to get to Jerusalem to observe the day of Pentecost. In Greek this word means to speed, to urge on, or to wait eagerly. Paul was making every effort to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost or *Shavuot*.

The Word commands us to keep three pilgrimage Feast days: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. These were all times that Israel would travel to gather to worship Yahweh.

For those who are unable to gather because of location or health, worshiping online is a suitable alternative. YRM provides live streaming of all its services on every Sabbath and Feast. Even though you may be remote, you can still join in spirit.

There is one caveat here, however. We are commanded to stay in temporary shelters for the week. To comply, we encourage everyone to attend this Feast in person, if medically able.

Paul was urgent to worship Yahweh at this special time. As believers, we should have this same urgency, this same drive, to worship and fellowship during His Feasts.

One Body, One Family

The Word associates the assembly or the body of Messiah with a human body. Paul speaks of this in 1Corinthians 12:28:

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Messiah. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not

2026

Biblical Feasts

Join us at Holts Summit!



Passover Memorial:
April 1 (evening)



Feast of Unleavened Bread:
April 3-9



Feast of Weeks (Pentecost):
May 24



Feast of Trumpets:
September 13



Day of Atonement:
September 22



Feast of Tabernacles:
September 27 - October 3



Last Great Day:
October 4

one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath Elohim set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”

Just as the human body has many members, so does the body of Messiah. An assembly has many members and everyone within it has a role and an opportunity to contribute. Some contribute in ways others may not notice, but everyone has the ability to give back in a meaningful way.

Some may have the gift of encouragement for strengthening others, while others may have the gift of music or teaching. The point is, the assembly or the body of the Messiah is not a single person, but a collection who serve to make the body whole or complete. This is another reason that fellowship is so important. Meaningful fellowship brings the body together and allows each to share one another’s gifts.

The assembly is a family. At YRM, building a healthy and thriving family in Messiah is crucial! This is why YRM encourages being an active member. When we’re active we are going to be blessed, and we are going to bless others.

This is achieved only when we are engaged and participating in the assembly. We read in Hebrews 10:25 that we’re not to forsake the assembling of ourselves as some do.

A Fast Recap

To review, here are 10 transformative takeaways from this study:

- Forsaking regular gathering with

other believers breaks a vital spiritual lifeline. Isolation frequently leads to serious consequences, including spiritual imbalance, depression, a deep sense of unfulfillment, and an increased risk of completely walking away from the faith.

- Fellowship gives important spiritual anchors. Through collective wisdom, shared strengths, and diverse life experiences, the community of individuals gains the personal balance and accountability required to navigate life accurately.
- The command in Hebrews 10:24 to “provoke one another unto love and to good works” is a shared covenant responsibility. Actively supporting, motivating, and encouraging the body of faith is a duty assigned to every member of the assembly, not just the ordained ministers.



- As global and societal conditions worsen, fellowship becomes critical. Believers must actively build deep, trusted relationships now because a time is approaching when survival may rely on the strength and support of a unified assembly.
- The Hebrew phrase *qodesh miqra* confirms that a “holy convocation” is a sacred, set-apart meeting explicitly mandated by Yahweh. Appearing 16 times in the Old Testament, this repetition underscores that Yahweh strictly requires His people to cease regular labor and gather before Him on His designated days.
- The appointed times outlined

in Leviticus 23—including the weekly Sabbath, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles—are not temporary suggestions for an ancient era. The text explicitly defines these holy convocations as permanent, perpetual statutes for the body of believers.

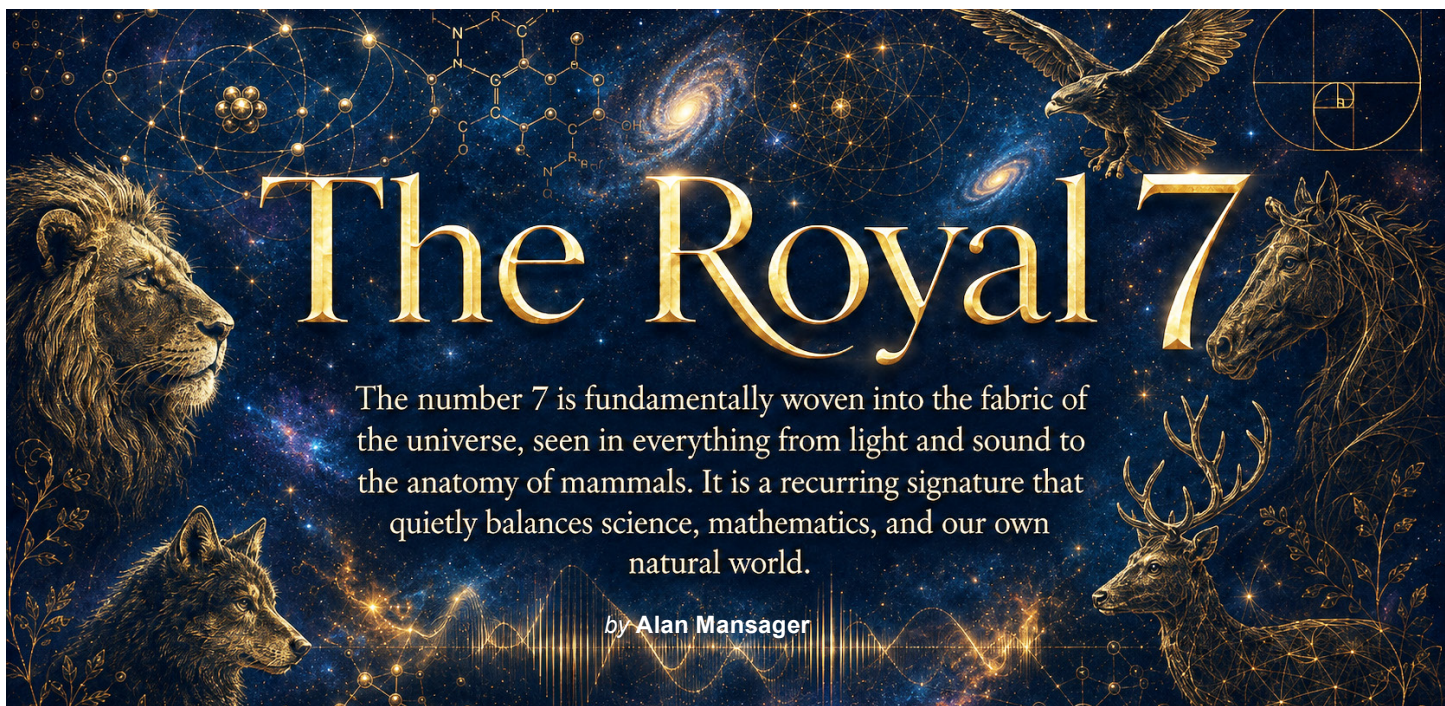
- The historical account in Nehemiah 8 demonstrates that true joy is recovered through collective obedience. The returning remnant was unified to live in physical booths during the Feast of Tabernacles. They restored a practice neglected for 800 years, which produced immense spiritual gladness.

Labeling the biblical festivals as strictly “Jewish” is a scriptural misnomer. John 7 records Yahshua and His disciples gathering for the Feast of Tabernacles, and the prophetic text of Zechariah 14 confirms that all nations will be required to keep this festival in the coming Kingdom.

- The New Testament establishes that the weekly Sabbath remains completely binding for believers. Acts 17:2 and 18:4 document that it was Paul’s permanent, lifelong *ethos*—meaning a custom prescribed by divine law—to worship in the synagogue every consecutive Sabbath.

Utilizing the human body metaphor in 1Corinthians 12, the assembly operates as a fully interdependent family where every member holds a vital, unique role. Spiritual blessings cannot be fully realized passively; a believer must be actively engaged to both receive strength and be a blessing to others.

Ultimately, fellowship is not an optional luxury for a believer, but a divine command and a spiritual necessity. Believers secure the strength from other believers needed to firmly stand as the day of Yahshua’s return approaches. ✓



The number 7 is fundamentally woven into the fabric of the universe, seen in everything from light and sound to the anatomy of mammals. It is a recurring signature that quietly balances science, mathematics, and our own natural world.

by Alan Mansager

It would not be farfetched to say that our world and even the universe operate on the number seven. You see sevens everywhere in creation and in Yahweh's spiritual world.

Human Cognition

Consider these remarkable facts about the number 7:

- When white light splits through water droplets, it reveals seven colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)
- Music and sound—the diatonic scale, which forms the foundation of natural harmony, consists of 7 distinct notes (Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti) before the octave repeats.
- With very few exceptions, all mammals possess exactly 7 cervical vertebrae in their necks, from mice to giraffes.
- You can't fold a common piece of paper perfectly more than 7 times.
- A cyclical rhythm of sevens is embedded in physical creation, clearly linking Yahweh as the Creator through the significance He places on the sequence of sevens.
- Science is discovering that resting one day out of seven is key to physical and mental rejuvenation, good health,

and productivity.

- According to "Miller's Law," named after famed psychologist George Miller, the average human's working memory limit is 7 items, plus or minus two.

Science is learning that living cells operate by a rhythmic clock. This regularity keeps the cell synchronized with other cells, just as it was designed at creation.

The discipline of chronobiology reveals that seven is the major rhythm in human biology. Human pregnancy is defined as 40 weeks (or 280 days). This is not based on 9 calendar months, but rather exactly on 40 groups of 7 days.

Many plants, insects, and animals also have biological cycles based on seven.

We humans have at the cellular level internal, seven-day clocks regulating and orchestrating our biotic activities like metabolism, maintenance, growth, and reproduction. These sevens, or "septans," lie deep in our neural, metabolic, and hormonal systems.

It is well-known that adults need at least seven hours of sleep to perform well mentally and physically. Your brain uses your sleep time to flush out toxins generated from daily brain activity.

A seven-day factor is also at work in our immune systems. Polio, small pox, and tetanus each begin to show symptoms after seven days. Chickenpox symptoms typically appear 14 days after exposure to the virus, the same with mumps. Ebola has a 21-day incubation time. All of these immune-defense clocks are built on a time element of seven.

And there's more.

It takes seven days for a newborn to fully develop the blood clotting mechanism, and that's why biblical circumcision is practiced on the eighth day (Phil. 3:5).

Code of Seven in Creation

The sequence of seven is imbedded in the very building blocks of life. Almighty Yahweh wound up the clock of creation and by the time He rested on the seventh day, He had left His divine imprint, including the Sabbath, on systems everywhere.

It's clear proof of an intelligent Creator. From the seven days of creation week in Genesis to the seven seals of Revelation, the number seven permeates Scripture.

The Apostle Paul's observation in Romans 1:20 of the miracle of creation

is confirmed. For those who deny a Creator, all they need is to look at the complex design of creation itself.

Paul writes, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and majesty; so that they are without excuse.” King David wrote, “Only the fool says in his heart, ‘There is no Elohim’” (Psalm 14:1).

Sevens Everywhere in Scripture

The number seven is, hands down, the most significant number in the Bible. Throughout the Bible the number seven appears repeatedly as a symbol of divine perfection – the seven days of creation, Yahweh resting on the seventh day, His laws telling us to do the same, the seven assemblies, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, etc.

A Russian named Ivan Panin discovered 30 separate codes involving the number seven in only the first verse of the Bible. Genesis 1:1 reads: In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth.”

- The number of Hebrew words here is seven;
- The number of letters equals 28 (7 x 4);
- The first three Hebrew words translated, “In the beginning Elohim created,” contain 14 letters (7 x 2);
- The last four Hebrew words “the heavens and the earth” have 14 letters (7 x 2).

Before his death Panin, accumulated over 40,000 pages of detailed calculations covering most of the text of the Bible. These mathematical patterns are not limited to the number seven. There are numerous other patterns.

These amazing patterns appear in

the vocabulary, grammatical forms, parts of speech, and particular forms of words. They occur throughout the whole text of the Bible’s 31,173 verses.

We in the faith are especially interested in the number seven because it establishes Yahweh’s holy calendar.

Seven is the center of the weekly Sabbath and annual Feasts. Yahweh tells us that these observances will be celebrated in the coming Kingdom.

But that isn’t all. There are years based on seven called Sabbatical years in the Scripture, and they are key to

that it is also something imprinted in our very being.

Consider this: maybe He not just created the Sabbath by resting on it, but in the process of creation He also infused the seven-day rhythmic cycle of rest into our DNA. That gives new meaning to His making the Sabbath for man, Mark 2:27.

Studies have shown that we humans don’t function well without a day of rest every week. Without it we are more prone to error, function less well, suffer more stress and irritability, and live shorter lives.

We read in Genesis 2:3 of that first Sabbath rest: “And Elohim blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which Elohim created and made.” Translation: go and do likewise.

Clearly the Sabbath is more significant than just a day to stop working. When He sanctified the Sabbath Yahweh infused the seventh day into creation itself.

The spiritual benefits of the seventh-day Sabbath are profound. The Sabbath was given to keep us synchronized with our Maker and His design. He blessed it, and that blessing

is passed on to us when we keep it by ceasing from work as He did.

Land to Rest the Seventh Year

Our understanding of the importance of the number seven really opens up when we trace some of its manifestations through the Bible.

We learn early on that the rhythm of seven is a pattern not just for the week day but also for annual obligations.

Most are familiar with the term sabbatical, a time when professors take a leave of absence traditionally every seven years to do research or travel.



knowing when the Messiah Yahshua will return in the not-too-distant future. Yahshua said in Mark 2:27 that the Sabbath was made FOR man. Does that mean we can ignore it or change it? If I say, here, this gift is for you, do I expect you to throw it in the trash?

The Sabbath commandment is the only one of the royal Ten that says to “remember.” It’s a throwback to creation week and the special status in which Yahweh endowed the seventh day at the beginning of creation.

Beyond telling us that Sabbath rest is an obligation, the Greek indicates

This practice comes right out of the Scriptures. There we find Yahweh's command for a Sabbatical year, when planting and tilling the fields is to stop, thereby giving the soil a rest every seven years.

This land rest rejuvenates the soil as it takes a year-long break from producing. Exodus 23:10-11 commands: "And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard."

If today's agriculture followed the Bible's Sabbatical year land rest, the soil would be much more productive and the use of chemical fertilizers could be reduced or eliminated.

Notice that the Sabbatical year is also a system of welfare, where the poor could go out to the fields at harvest time and gather whatever the spontaneous crops had produced. What was left over the wild animals could eat.

Financial Relief the Seventh Year

Another important component to the Sabbatical is financial relief. Every seventh year debts were canceled. Loans were prorated for the time remaining of the seven years.

Deuteronomy 15:1-2 says, "At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbor, or of his brother; because it is called Yahweh's release."

Borrowers would not be burdened by heavy debt from a lifetime of financial strain at high interest fees. Throwbacks to the sabbatical still exist today in the world of finance, where banks hold certain records accessible for seven years while some financial contracts have a seven-year depreciation clause.

Anciently, Hebrew slaves were to be

freed on the seventh year, according to Deuteronomy 15:12.

Jubilant Sevens

Sabbaticals go even deeper. Every 50 years, after seven Sabbaticals of 49 years, is another great Sabbath command known as the year of Jubilee. Look up the word jubilee and *Webster's* will tell you it's a special anniversary of an event, especially one celebrating 25 or 50 years.

Have you ever felt "jubilant"? Maybe you attended a diamond jubilee celebration. These terms are based on the biblical Jubilee. There's even an apocryphal Book of Jubilees.

Jubilees are observed around the world in many cultures. The concept comes right from the Bible.

In the Scriptures the word "jubilee" is derived from the Hebrew *teruah*, which means a sound of joy or alarm. It was the ram's horn or shofar trumpet that announced the beginning of the Jubilee year.

Leviticus 25:9 says: "Then shall you cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall you make the trumpet sound throughout all your land."

The biblical Jubilee comes after seven cycles of seven years, and was a time when the land was to go back to its original owner. This ensured that the tribes of Israel did not lose their promised inheritance.

The law of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years is one of the more intriguing subjects in Scripture. Important events of history and prophecy are tied up in these specially sanctified times, and likely even in the return of Yahshua.

Feasts Based on Sevens

These benchmark holy days are universally overlooked, in the same way the first day of the biblical month is disregarded today, even when the thin new moon crescent shouts to all the earth, "This is the first day of the sanctified month."

This natural phenomenon goes right over most heads today because the new

moon has been factored out of today's Gregorian solar calendar.

Much more significance remains with the number seven. Throughout the year we find seven sacred holidays that Yahweh commanded His people to observe.

These Feasts or holy days are the only annual observances given in the Scriptures. Holiday is a contraction of the words "holy day." Each is tied to the number seven as to when they occur and length of observance. The Feast of Unleavened Bread in the spring and the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall are each seven-day observances.

Four of these observances are in the seventh biblical month. They are: the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day.

Prophetic Keys in the Bible's Feasts

If you want to understand the prophetic plan for this earth and the return of the Savior, important keys are the Feast days. Each reveals facets of the Messiah's coming and the setting up of His kingdom on earth in the future Messianic age. Each gives insight into what's ahead for this world.

They are the only holidays sanctioned in the Bible. They were all observed by Israel in the Old Testament, kept by the Savior and His apostles in the New Testament, were taught by the apostles, and will be enforced in the coming Kingdom.

As critical to Yahweh's Truth as these days are, the vast majority of Bible believers are ignorant of them, as 2Peter 3 describes them.

Along with the seventh day of the week, these seven annual observances have been neglected and mostly ignored through the centuries by the vast majority of Bible believers and self-declared followers of Scripture.

In every key aspect of our existence we see a prominent rhythm of sevens. We see it in Yahweh's physical creation, in His command to pause and worship, in His salvation plan, in the prophetic timetable – sevens are everywhere. 



As we witness the world's increasingly unsettled political climate, we see many Bible prophecies about the end of the age of man being fulfilled or will soon be realized. Each must come to pass before the return of the Savior Yahshua to this earth to establish His Kingdom.

Central to end-time events is the rise of a very powerful and intelligent deceiver known as the Antimesiah, Man of Sin, or beast.

Both the books of Daniel and Revelation reveal that the Man of Sin will cause the death of millions. In the middle of a seven-year agreement he will turn on the saints as well as the city of Jerusalem. For three and one-half years a terror of persecution will ensue. The Bible gives us ample warning and describes in general how this will play out.

Signs of the Antimesiah

The number 666 is a significant clue to the Man of Sin, and the following verse is the source of the number given to this beast system that is soon to encompass the world:

“Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Rev. 13:18).

Much has been written about the number 666, and in His time Yahweh will reveal the significance of the number. We will know before the Savior returns who it stands for.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that Man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition” (2Thes. 2:3). We are told in verse 4 that this Man of Sin will sit in the temple in Jerusalem, proclaiming Himself Elohim, and will persecute the saints.

Historically, conquerors always took over the temple at Jerusalem. It may be that the mere seating of himself in the temple brings the realization to many that this man is an imposter. His wrath being aroused, he squelches all opposition.

Besides the Man of Sin, Revelation 13 reveals another beast of whom we must be aware. The Man of Sin from

the sea: “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy” (Rev. 13:1).

But the second beast is from another area: “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon” (Rev. 13:11).

While Revelation says there are two beings who will play a major role in the end times, it is the beast who arises from the sea on which we want to focus. The Mediterranean Sea could be the sea referred to here, indicating that the beast will be from the Middle East.

Another school of thought is that the sea represents people; a restless people as in Revelation 17:15 (the waters where the fallen woman sits). However, the waters here represent people from all over the world.

The second beast is not the Man of Sin, but a religious leader. He has two horns like a lamb, possibly imitating the Savior, speaking with great authority.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet” (Rev. 16:13).

Notice that the three seem to be in consort, speaking blasphemies against Yahweh and His saints. The dragon represents the Adversary himself.

The first beast is the Man of Sin, a political and military leader. The second beast is his religious advisor who is able to perform miracles and pull off stupendous acts and miracles. (This man will probably be a world-renowned leader, like the Pope.)

Beware of Deceptions

Those seeking miracles instead of the truth of the Bible will be led astray as Yahweh sends them strong delusion that they should believe a lie, 2Thessalonians 2:11.

Miracles alone prove nothing. However, miracles by the false prophet will deceive vast numbers who are ignorant of the Bible’s warning of coming deceptions. We are to search out the truth

of Yahweh’s Word because many will willingly accept the mark, name, or number of the beast, and will worship him.

The second beast, a religious leader, is described as having two horns like a lamb, possibly imitating the Savior, speaking with great authority. These two evil deceivers will ultimately be cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev. 19:20).

The miracles they perform are a result of Satan’s direct participation.

The Bible credits the devil as the one who is behind the greatest deception ever, whose end also is to be cast into the lake of fire [the second death].

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are]*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:10). *[“were cast” - Bullinger, et al]

Powerful, Convincing Miracles

Our Savior Yahshua’s warning about being deceived reveals deception so great that the elect themselves will be

in jeopardy:

“For there shall arise false Messiahs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the VERY ELECT” (Matt. 24:24).

It is as if Yahshua were telling us that His chosen disciples, who had spent three years with Him studying and learning deeper truth, could almost be swayed by the coming performance of miracles and pompous words of the greatest of all deceivers.

Yahshua implies that even those in close, personal instruction from the Savior could well be taken in by one who claims to be deity. They would come within an eyelash of believing that the deceiver is the “promised one.”

If the very elect are in peril, almost on the verge of accepting the coming “son of perdition,” what about those who are virtually ignorant of Bible truth? There are many tactics the deceiver could and likely will use to convince the world that the Man of Sin is indeed the promised Messiah.

Both Paul and John emphasize the coming working of miracles, signs, and



great wonders:

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause Elohim shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2Thess. 2:9-11).

“And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (Rev. 13:13). The stage is already set for this grand deception.

Ignorance – Setup for Deception

The majority claiming to believe the Bible are ignorant of basic Bible truth. They know little of the covenants and believe confusing concepts such as going to heaven, a rapture to heaven, an immortal soul, and the Trinity.

Most have no idea how they came to keep Sunday when the Bible teaches a Saturday Sabbath. They know precious little of the annual Feast Days that follow the earth’s harvests and reveal Yahweh’s plan of salvation.

The Bible never promises an easy road to the Kingdom. We are told just the opposite. We read that Paul and Barnabas kept busy confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of Elohim (Acts 14:22).

Few understand Bible prophecy

and the future of mankind. Going to heaven to roll around on clouds all day is about as far as most thinking goes regarding salvation.

Many believe that their church will carry them through regardless. However, we are specifically told, “Study to show yourself approved unto Yahweh, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2Tim 2:15).

It is those in their unwittingness who will be moved to accept the beast’s fraudulent miracles and deceptions as genuine and support the coming Satanic system. It will sound so good, and appear to be firmly based on the Bible. In fact, there will be many references made to the Scriptures, leading hordes to accept the emerging system as legitimate.

Old Testament Pivotal?

The Old Testament could be a basis for the grand deception that will be brought about by the Man of Sin. It will be necessary for him to convince world religions that he is the savior promised as far back as the time of Adam and Eve.

The Antimesiah’s plan to dominate the world would include deceiving the world and its three great religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

He will feign that he is the returning Messiah, which would satisfy most of Christianity and Judaism. If he pointed to Old Testament prophecies he could deceive all three, even Islam. Muslims revere Abraham of the Old Testament.

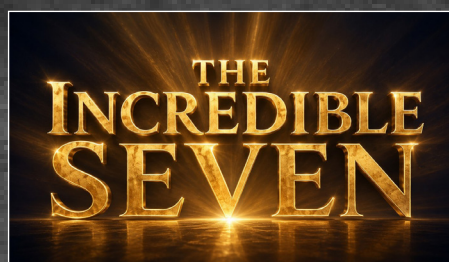
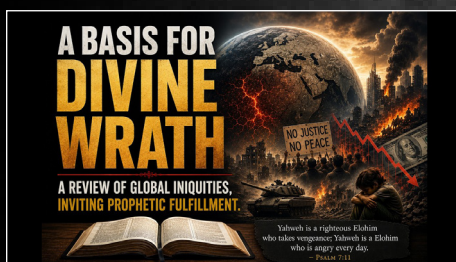
Selection of prophetic verses and using them to fit his program will delude billions to believe a lie. Those ignorant of Bible prophecy would easily fall in line with the coming one-world political, economic, and religious system.

Few messages from pulpits today delve into Yahweh’s plan to save both physical and spiritual Israel. Nor do many ministries show that the teachings in the Old Testament formed the basis for the teachings of Yahshua. The Old Testament was all that was available during His ministry.

Relying upon the Old Testament to bolster his position, the Antimesiah will seek to persuade the Jews that he is fulfilling ancient prophecies. Portions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the minor prophets could be used to convince the world that he is the promised Messiah. It could be to his advantage to ignore New Testament warnings of deception, saying that they point to someone else.

The Man of Sin will likely concentrate on the Old Testament to reach out to Islam. Old Testament teachings can be twisted to bring the Islamic people in line with his program. Most of the Islamic peoples are familiar with the Old Testament, but generally they reject the New.

The Man of Sin likely will attempt to get the Jews and Arabs to tolerate one another. With miracles, smooth talk, granting parcels of land, and being a superb politician, he will make deception happen.



Watch on YRM Mobile, Facebook Live, yrm.org/live, and Youtube.

[yrm.org/live archives](http://yrm.org/live/archives)

Paul warned of his coming deception: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshiped; so that he as Elohim sits in the Temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim" (2Thess. 2:3-4).

A general falling away from the truth of the Bible is taking place now, especially noticeable since World War II.

Man of Many Surprises

Make no mistake with the Man of Sin. He will be very charismatic, popular, energetic, engaging, and personable, claiming to have answers to the many problems facing our world.

He might be lenient at first, allowing people to observe pagan holidays, but would restore and enforce the holy days of Leviticus 23. A move to champion the keeping of the laws of the Bible would solidify his claim as the returned Messiah. The Man of Sin could quote Isaiah or Micah (among others) as proof.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of Yahweh's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people..." (Isa. 2:2-4).

This same prophecy is found in Micah 4:1-4. Other Old Testament prophecies dealing with Yahweh's laws being enforced include Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 31:31; Ezekiel 45:21-

24, and Zechariah 14:16-18.

It would be a simple matter for the Man of Sin to teach obedience to the laws of the Bible. After all, those who don't submit can't buy or sell! Or he might allow his subjects to worship as they will, but to keep in mind that in the end, all worship goes to himself.

He would go on to say that he is going to keep the laws of the Torah, and that includes the weekly Sabbath.

If this were to happen, it is easy to see how the Elect could almost be deceived. By so doing, the Man of Sin would convince the Jews and Arabs as well as most of churchianity, as he points to verses such as Isaiah 66:23 in maintaining that he is fulfilling prophecy. He is keeping the Bible's laws. Soon all mankind will be keeping these laws!

In a further attempt to prove that he is the Messiah, he begins to enforce the Sabbath and convinces many, as it is the day that will be observed in the Kingdom. This would explain the following verse where Yahshua warned: "But pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:20-21).

Here is evidence that the Man of Sin will enforce the Sabbath and other laws, working a hardship on the people who break them. How could a "Universal Sunday Law" come close to deceiving the very Elect?

If the Man of Sin enforced a Sunday law, kept Easter, Xmas, Halloween, and walked around swinging a pot of incense – would the Jews and Muslims flock to him? obviously he would be a fraud to them. The Bible clearly says that in the Kingdom the Sabbath will be kept. How can this imposter enforce Sunday when the Bible says otherwise?

The deception will come when this imposter sits in the Temple and claims to be the Messiah. Would the

Jews allow one to sit in the Temple in Jerusalem who enforces Sunday (and other pagan days)? Notice: He "opposes and exalts himself above all that is called Elohim or that is worshiped; so that he as Elohim sits in the Temple of Elohim, showing himself that he is Elohim" (2Thess. 2:4).

Only one from the tribe of David will be allowed to be in the Temple and sit in the Holy of holies (Greek = *naos*). If he is not a Jew from the house of David, he may well have false credentials, as did Herod who was king during Yahshua's reign.

He would be able to dictate terms to Israel with the approval of the world community. He could eventually move to Jerusalem as prophesied: "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Dan. 11:45). The Man of Sin likely will move into a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and there establish himself as the "King of kings."

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom Yahweh shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2Thess. 2:8-9).

We are told to watch for signs that prophecy is being fulfilled in expectation of the return of Yahshua the Messiah:

"Watch therefore: for you know not when the master of the house comes, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:35-37).

Don't be caught sleeping. One way to avoid being deceived is to be open minded, and if necessary, willing to readjust your thinking about events foretold for our day. 

Q Why do artistic renditions of Bible scenes show angels, Mary, Yahshua, and others sporting a halo? I don't recall anything in the Bible about halos.

A The halo, depicted as a radiant ring of light, originated in ancient sun worship. As a symbol of divine power, the halo represents the sun disk, or aura, associated with deities like Ra, Mithra, and Helios.

The earliest disk halos appear in Iranian art, specifically associated with Mithra, the heaven god of light. The symbol was heavily used in Eastern religions, including Buddhism and Hindu art, to indicate divinity. It was adopted into Christianity to depict divine radiance in saints and Savior, bridging pagan sun imagery with Christian figures. The halo behind the Messiah is believed to have been introduced in Christian art following the Council of Nicaea, influenced by the sun worship cult of Sol Invictus. Initially, Christians avoided the halo because of its pagan origins but it was adopted by the 4th century.

Q Help me better understand what is taught about eating food sacrificed to idols. In Revelation it seems to suggest that eating such food is wrong. However, in Corinthians Paul appears to say that it does not matter, since idols are nothing and have no real power. This feels like a contradiction, but I'm sure there is a clearer explanation that I may be missing.

A Paul in 1Corinthians 8 says that idols mean nothing to the believer, who knows that there is one Elohim the Father and one Son by whom all things are made, v. 6. He goes on to say that simple eating does nothing to commend us to Yahweh. However, if the weak see you sitting in the idol's temple eating meat sacrificed to idols, they will be emboldened to do the same. Clearly you are not worshiping idols. But if your eating such meat offends your brother who has certain views about doing so, then refrain from eating it rather than create a division with him.

Verse 10:27 is sometimes employed to say that the believer doesn't need to inquire whether a meat is clean, but just eat what is set before you without questioning. The next verse shows that the issue again is about meat sacrificed to idols, not whether the meat is scripturally clean according to Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Two assemblies in Revelation, Ephesus and Thyatira, are warned against eating what has been sacrificed to idols. The *Living Bible* renders this as encouraging the people to go to idol feasts.

The entire issue revolves around worship. The same erroneous conclusion could be drawn if someone sees you not working on Sunday. They then might accuse you of keeping a Sunday sabbath, even though you have no intention of worshiping on this first day of the week in place of the Sabbath but are simply resting.

Being in sight of a pagan as a possible convert, then avoid even the appearance of evil, 1Thess. 5:22.

Q Why is the tribe of Dan missing in the listing of the tribes of Israel in Revelation 7?

A Jacob had twelve sons that made up the tribes of Israel, with Joseph being one of them. When Joseph moved to Egypt, grandfather Jacob took in Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. In some lists of the 12 tribes, Joseph's two sons are combined under just the name Joseph.

Joshua 14:4 says that the descendants of Joseph became two distinct tribes, replacing the tribe of Levi which as priests did not receive a land inheritance. Joshua 16:4 explicitly records that the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh officially received their land inheritance as the sons of Joseph.

Joseph and Manasseh appear in the Revelation 7 list of the Israelite tribes sealed as the 144,000 servants of Elohim but Ephraim and Dan do not. Scripture doesn't reveal the reason for this deviation. We can only speculate as to why Dan and Ephraim are missing from the list. Judges 17-21 gives two stories of apostasy in Israel. Both stories center on the tribes of Dan and Ephraim. The tribe of Dan sinned by rejecting the land Yahweh assigned them. While passing through Ephraim, they also stole idols from an Ephraimite and enlisted a Levite priest-for-hire to serve in a false temple. Dan became the first tribe to embrace idol worship.

The tribe of Ephraim harbored the Danites while they stole those idols to establish idolatry in Israel. These sins would give Yahweh a good reason to deny these two tribes legitimacy.

The RSB footnote reads the following on Judges 18:1: "The Israelite tribe of Dan failed to possess their original tribal allotment (Josh. 19:41-46). The Danites compounded their sin by taking land in the newly won territory in the north. They embraced idolatrous religion through the grandson of Moses, 18:30. Their dereliction may be why the tribe of Dan is missing from the sealing of the 12 tribes for protection in Revelation 7:5-8."

Q I've been praying a lot lately. But it seems that my prayers are not being answered. Is there a reason for this and how can I approach Yahweh more effectively?

A Prayer is more than just communicating with Yahweh. Prayer is worship. In that vein we learn why prayer is answered and why at times it is not. Much has to do with our heart and our faithfulness to Him. "Now we know that Elohim heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of Elohim, and doeth his will, him he heareth, John 9:31. We also read in Proverbs 15:29, "Yahweh is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."

His response to our prayer may not always be what we want but is always what we need. His answer could be "no" or it could be "not now" or "wait," depending on what lesson



He has to teach us. Paul asked three times to be delivered from his “thorn in the flesh” and each failed. The answer he got was to find comfort in Yahweh’s grace (2Cor. 12:8-9).

Effective prayers are:

- Prayed in Yahweh’s Name, John 14:14
- Made according to His will, 1John 5:14
- Made in faith, James 5:15
- Sought through obedience, John 15:7, 1John 3:22

Ineffective prayers are:

- Prayers of the wicked, John 9:31
- Prayers for personal lusts, James 4:3
- When you don’t honor your wife, 1Peter 3:7
- When the law is despised, Proverbs 28:9

Q In Matthew 5:44 Yahshua tells me to love our enemies. How is that possible, especially if I have been badly hurt by someone?

A We mostly associate love with emotional sentiment or romance. However, the word here is *agapao* in the Greek and means love in a social or moral sense. Yahshua was referencing Leviticus 19:18 where the law says to love your neighbor as yourself. Love for a neighbor is expressed by things such as lending a helping hand and being available in times of someone’s need. Your feelings toward them or even to an enemy are not the thing. Love here is a giving, sacrificial attitude. “Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth,” 1John 3:18.

We are told to pray for those who might despitely use us, Luke 6:28. Paul says don’t be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good, Romans 11:22. He reinforces that message with Proverbs 25:21-22: “If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For you shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and Yahweh shall reward thee.” Here coals of fire could refer to the way hot coals were transported in earthen bowls carried on the head and then used to start heating or cooking fires. Good deeds like supplying a need could lead to a change of heart. It is said that the best way to destroy an enemy is to turn him into a friend.

Q I am confused about the immortal soul belief. Does our soul go to heaven or hell immediately at death or does the soul die and await a resurrection? And exactly what is the soul, anyway?

A The immortal soul doctrine is commonly traced to Greek philosophical thought—especially through the pagan Plato—and its later integration into Jewish and Christian theology. The Hebrew view typically argues that the Bible teaches resurrection and conditional immortality, while traditional Christian theology generally teaches that the human soul continues living consciously after death.

In the Old Testament, humans are described as living souls rather than as beings that possess immortal souls. “And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7, KJV). The Hebrew word *nephesh* (often translated “soul”) means a living being, person, or life itself. It is even used of animals (Gen. 1:20-21, 24).

Scripturally a person is a unified being rather than possessing a separate, immortal soul temporarily inhabiting a body. The idea that the soul is a removable part of the human body and inherently immortal was prominent in Greek philosophy. Plato taught that:

- The soul exists before birth.
- The soul is distinct from the body.
- The body dies, but the soul continues consciously alive.

Christian theologians increasingly used Greek philosophical language to explain biblical teachings. Influential figures such as Origen and Augustine of Hippo incorporated concepts that aligned with a belief in the soul’s immortality.

Contrarily the Scriptures teach the soul’s mortality:

- Ezekiel 18:4 — “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”
- Ecclesiastes 9:5 — “the dead know not anything.”
- 1Timothy 6:16 — only Yahweh has immortality.

Because immortality is not a natural human possession, any immortality in man must be a gift Yahweh endows at the resurrection.

Q Can believing in eternal security give one a license to sin?

A Many who believe in eternal security, or “once saved always saved,” believe that because they think they are saved that they don’t need to obey the law. That makes this doctrine dangerous. The New Testament says, “These things I write to you, so that you sin not” (1John 2:1). “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him,” 1John 2:4.





The Lesson of the Fig Tree

by Ryan Mansager

Unlike trees in more temperate climates, a fig tree in Israel often grows in rocky terrain, fractured limestone, and parched ground. To survive, its roots must push deep through cracks in the rock to find hidden water. A fig tree planted near a stone wall can even split the stone in its search for nourishment. It does not surrender to difficult soil; it adapts, takes root, and concurs it.

In late spring, around May or June, long before the main harvest, a few rare figs appear on the old wood from the previous season. This early fig is called the *bikkurah*, meaning “the first ripe fruit.” The word is related to *bikkurim*, the plural term for firstfruits and the Feast of Firstfruits. These figs developed slowly through the colder months and were unusually large, sweet, and full of juice. After a long winter without fresh fruit, finding one in the rocky hills of Judaea was an unexpected and prized luxury.

Isaiah described it this way:

“Like the first-ripe fig before the summer, which someone sees, and as soon as it is in his hand, he swallows it.”

Throughout Scripture, Israel repeatedly struggled with outward religion. The nation built a magnificent Temple and maintained elaborate rituals, but Scripture says their hearts were often far from Yahweh. They displayed the leaves of religion but lacked the fruit of justice, mercy, faith, and obedience.

This helps explain Yahshua’s encounter with the fig tree outside Jerusalem. The tree was covered with green leaves, advertising that the start of fruit should be present, but when He approached it, He found nothing.

As a fig tree awakens from winter, small edible knobs called *taqsh* or *pag* appear on the previous year’s branches. These early figs were sour and not fully developed, but hungry travelers could still eat them and find nourishment. They also indicated

the health of the tree. The tree Yahshua encountered had leaves, but not even the beginning of fruit. It was an unhealthy tree.

Matthew 21:18–22 says:

“In the morning, as Yahshua was returning to the city, He was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves.

“May you never bear fruit again!” He said. Immediately, the tree withered.

This was not merely an angry outburst. Yahshua was acting as a prophet, using a dramatic visual lesson. The tree looked healthy from a distance, but closer examination revealed that it was barren. It was a picture of outward religion without inward righteousness.

When the disciples saw the tree wither, they marveled. Yahshua then told them that true faith without doubt could even move a mountain. True Faith is more than simple belief, it is belief along with fruit bearing.

The contrast is striking: a fruitless tree withers, while genuine faith possesses extraordinary potential.

We may desire faith that moves mountains and answers prayer, but for that to happen Yahweh expects us to produce spiritual fruit. Faith is not simply what we claim to believe. It must be visible in the way we live and treat others. This should cause each of us to ask, “What fruit am I bearing?”

James 1:27 tells us that pure religion includes caring for orphans and widows and remaining unspotted from the world. True fruit is seen in mercy, patience, generosity, forgiveness, and love. When was the last time you helped someone who was hurting, visited someone who was lonely, or set aside your own plans in order to help a neighbor?

Remember how the fig tree pushes through rocky soil and fractured stone to find water and bear fruit. We must do the same. Difficult circumstances are not an excuse to remain spiritually barren. We must take root in Yahweh and continue producing fruit.

The fruitless fig tree represented Israel during many periods of its history. The nation often settled for religious appearance instead of repentance, faith, and righteousness. It looked impressive from a distance, but closer examination revealed what was missing.

In contrast, the *bikkurah* represents those who follow Yahweh in sincere obedience and produce good fruit. They are the firstfruits of those who will be gathered in the first resurrection. *Bikkurim* means “firstfruits” and is related to *bekhor*, meaning “firstborn.”

Throughout Scripture the resurrection and gathering of Yahweh’s people are described as a harvest. Those gathered are not merely those who display leaves, but those who bear fruit. If we desire to be part of that harvest, then we must be producing fruit.

The same danger exists today. Our culture encourages us to live on the surface, focused on image, appearance, and reputation. Even religion can become another image we carefully maintain. Yahweh instead calls us to be like the fig tree—deeply rooted, firmly established, and able to bear lasting fruit even in difficult ground.

The Messianic walk is not about polishing the outside while neglecting the heart. It is about inward transformation that works its way outward through our words, choices, relationships, and actions.

Hosea 9:10 says: “When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree.”

When Yahshua stood outside Jerusalem looking at that barren tree, He was not merely seeing a fig tree. He was looking at a living reflection of the people and religious system around Him. There were leaves everywhere, but little fruit.

Throughout Scripture, the fig tree becomes a prophetic picture of Israel—from Abraham, through exile and judgment, and into restoration. Israel’s story is one of unexpected firstfruits, warnings about empty leaves, and the promise of what appeared dead coming back to life.

That lesson is also for us. Yahweh is not looking for leaves alone. He is looking for lives that are deeply rooted, inwardly transformed, and actively bearing good fruit. When we bear

fruit and have belief in Him, our spiritual potential is endless. 

Trees symbolize growth, stability, endurance, fruitfulness, and legacy – qualities the Word applies to the enduring spiritual life.

Biblical Hebrew Word Lesson

בִּכּוּרָה
T .

Bikkurah bik-koo-law

Composition: bet, hireq, kaf,
shureq, resh, qamets, heh

The Hebrew word **Bikkurah**
(H1063) is a feminine noun that
means: the early fig or first ripe
fruit

“When I found Israel, it was like
finding grapes in the desert; when I
saw your ancestors, it was like seeing
the early fruit on the fig tree.

Hosea 9:10



4th Edition



In addition to restoring the sacred names Yahweh and Yahshua, this unique Bible includes: in-depth book introductions, thousands of eye-opening study notes, cross references, instructional and archaeological charts, chronological timelines, and an extensive topical reference section. This study Bible has Strong's numbering for all significant words in the text and Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionaries at the back so you can confirm meanings yourself. It even has a family record section for recording important life events. It is three books in one – a real value.

Three cover choices: Outreach (Paperback), Designer (imitation leather), and Premium (cowhide); the contents are the same in each.

Ten-point main text size (as in standard newspapers and magazines) is easy to read; footnotes are slightly smaller.

Thumb tab cutouts for quick-and-easy referencing (Designer and Premium)

* Ribbons for place-holding

Place your order at: yrmstore.org/shop or telephone 573-896-1000



Feedback

From Mail|Emails|Social Media



Send us your comments
Visit: yrm.org/feedback



ELDERTORIAL

Make It a Feast Vacation

There's no better way to spend your vacation than to honor Yahweh

For years we took our summer vacations like everyone else.

But then we were led to Yahweh's Truth and we discovered that He has annual Feast days He expected us to observe with believers.

We made the commitment to forego the yearly vacation trip frenzy and to use that time and finances to honor and worship our Heavenly Father His way.

Our lives would never be the same again.

Far from the madding crowds and the fleeting pleasures of the world, Yahweh's Feast days gave us a lasting spiritual joy and deep fulfillment we never thought possible.

Spending eight days in inspiring fellowship with like believers, along with life-impacting Bible studies and the practice of biblical precepts at Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles, was nothing short of heaven on earth.

Our whole attitudes were transformed as we saw how Yahweh's precepts put into actual practice could bring true peace and joy to a whole group of people. It was something we had never remotely observed in the world. We felt completely at ease to discuss personal matters with other brethren who shared some of their own experiences with us. By the end

of the Feast we felt closer to those in Yahshua's Body than we did to most of our own relatives.

We witnessed how children raised with Yahweh's teachings were obedient, loving, caring individuals who respected others and could have a fulfilling time without the pulls of the world.

And after eight days of stimulating, eye-opening pursuit of Yahweh's Word through daily messages and Bible studies, we realized we had been blessed with a priceless amount of true knowledge not found anywhere else.

We had experienced deep-down satisfaction! As we gave of ourselves we received far more in return, just as Yahshua promised we would: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over..." (Luke 6:38).

We would soon discover that Yahweh's Feast days are not optional. They are just as much a part of His prescribed worship as His Ten Commandments, which were given to Israel at the same time.

We as spiritual Israel are commanded to observe His Feast days as an ordinance "forever," Leviticus 23:14, 21, 31, 41; 1Corinthians 5:8.

His Feasts are so important to Yahweh that they will be kept even

in His coming Kingdom, showing that they are ordained by Him. Those who refuse to obey at that time will endure plague, Zechariah 14:16-19.

If His annual Feast days are so critical to Yahweh that He will force the nations of the earth to observe them when they come under His direct rule, how necessary it is that we heed His command right now! Those who do will be counted worthy to rule in that coming Kingdom on earth.

"And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" (Rev. 2:26).

When it comes to Kingdom rewards, Yahweh evaluates our actions and works — including our obedience — to see whether our desire to serve Him is sincere enough that we will make the necessary sacrifices in our lives right now while we have the opportunity.

What we do when we have the free choice reveals our heart's true desire. Does He come first or will we put ourselves first? Words and promises are not enough. What we commit to in practice is the real test of our love for Yahweh.

In pleasing just ourselves we will have only temporary, carnal benefits; but serving our Heavenly Father will bring everlasting rewards as well as the added bonus of earthly blessings right now. — *A Believer's Perspective*

Simplify Your Hectic Life

You can conveniently donate to Yahweh's Restoration Ministry automatically using our mobile app. Simply download the app and connect a debit card with the "Give" function. Never forget your tithes and offerings again! Help even more by choosing to cover the processing fee (optional).

Download the YRM app to your phone by scanning the QR code at right with your smartphone camera and click the link, or visit our website: <https://yrm.org/new-yrm-app>. (For assistance call 573-896-1000.)





YAHWEH'S
RESTORATION
Ministry

PO Box 463
Holt's Summit, MO 65043
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holt's Summit, MO
Permit No. 463



Read or request your free copy at
yrm.org or YRM mobile

Prophecy is ramping up!
"He who has an ear, let him hear..."

Here's how to request free literature offered in this magazine:

Online: www.yrm.org

E-mail: request@yrm.org

Phone: 1-573-896-1000

Read back issues online: yrm.org/restoration-times-archive

Mail: Yahweh's Restoration Ministry
PO Box 463
Holt's Summit, MO 65043