

ANNUAL SABBATHS, THEIR MEANINGS, AND THEIR LINK TO REVELATION

Holy Day	Meaning	Revelation Chapter
Passover	Need for a Saviour	1 and 4-5: We meet the Lamb
Unleavened Bread	Need to remove sin from our lives	2-3: Church coming out of sin
Pentecost	Need for the Holy Spirit	6-7: Sealing of the 144,000
Trumpets	Last call to come out of Babylon	8-11: Trumpets
Day of Atonement	Final opportunity to purge sin from our lives	12-15: Probation closes
Tabernacles—1st day	Preparing to meet our Redeemer	19-20: Second Coming
Tabernacles Great Feast (8th day)	Marriage supper with the Lamb	21: New earth

If you believe that we should acknowledge our need of a Saviour, remove sin from our lives, be filled with the Holy Spirit, come out of Babylon, purge our lives of sin, and prepare to meet our Redeemer, then you can see that the meaning of these annual days is still significant for God's church.

Just like satan has a counterfeit to the 7th day Sabbath, he has a counterfeit to the annual Sabbaths as well. It is my prayer that you will begin to keep the Biblical Holy Days, rather than the pagan holidays, (like Sunday, Easter and Christmas) this season.

To study this matter more fully, as with all Bible study, you must leave behind any preconceived notions and Laodicean attitudes, and prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into truth. Here are two excellent books, both available free online, or to purchase in print, for further study.

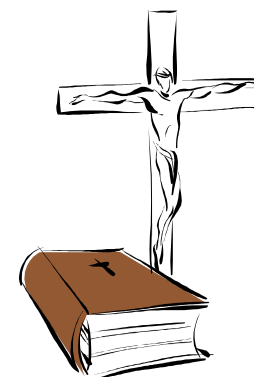
The Testimony of the Moon
by Shauna Manfredine
www.lightedway.org

God's Holidays
by Richard and Melody Drake
www.godsholidays.com

Other resources:
www.wildbranch.org
www.bibleexplorations.com
www.lionandlamb.net
www.billcloud.org

This brochure was written by a layperson, prompted by a conversation with her pastor. It is based in part on her study of the above referenced books. Through the study of the Bible, she began keeping God's seventh day Sabbath within months after her conversion to Christianity, from the deception of the New Age philosophy, in 1996. After several more years of regular Bible study to guard against further deception, she became an annual Sabbath keeper. The blessings she has received as a result compel her to share this good news with others. She invites you to study for yourself, and distribute this widely, with no copyright claimed. To download this file in PDF format, visit www.nailedtocross.com.

NAILED TO THE CROSS?



Modern Christian churches teach that God's weekly and annual Sabbaths, found in Leviticus 23, were "nailed to the cross." But were they? Here is a brief look, with the early Christian church and Jesus as our example.

THE EARLY CHURCH KEPT THEM

The spring feasts of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread/First Fruits were kept in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8: “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” Remember, the church in Corinth, Greece was founded by Paul well after the death of Christ – at least 20 years after his death. But he uses the words “keep the feast.” Why would he do this if they had been nailed to the cross?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread/First Fruits was kept in Acts 18:19-21. Paul was asked to remain in Ephesus, but he said that he “must by all means KEEP this feast that cometh...” Some people who say that God’s Annual Sabbaths were nailed to the cross claim that Paul was only going to Jerusalem to proselytize the Jews that would be gathered there. But scripture does not say this, and we must be careful not to read in something that is not there. Moreover, this theory is fully contradicted in Acts 20. Here, you will see that Paul refers to leaving Philippi after the days of unleavened bread in Acts 20:6. He obviously had kept these spring feasts with the church in Philippi, a Gentile city where a Christian church was founded years after the death of Christ. Why would he keep this feast with the Gentile church if they had been nailed to the cross?

Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 16:8, Paul tarried at Ephesus until Pentecost. If this Annual Sabbath had been abolished, why is it even mentioned, let alone being of enough importance that Paul would remain there, at Ephesus, where there was only the Gentile Christian church, until after it had passed?

JESUS & HOLY SPIRIT KEPT THEM

Clearly the annual Sabbaths were more than sacrificial events. If their only function was atonement for sin through sacrifice, Christ, who never sinned, and

who is our example in all things, would not have kept them, as He had no reason to keep a day that revolved around the atonement of sin. Yet Christ kept the Passover (see Luke 2:40-43 and 22:13-16) and the Feast of Trumpets (John 7:2, 37). Remember also that Jesus told us himself that he didn’t come to destroy the law.

The Holy Spirit himself descended on Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. If God had “nailed to the cross” His annual Sabbaths, why were the disciples gathered together on that date, and why on that date did the Holy Spirit descend? Wouldn’t God have chosen a different day if He wanted us to believe that these Sabbaths were abolished? Instead, the Holy Spirit memorialized this feast day by coming down to us.

WE WILL KEEP THEM IN HEAVEN

Zechariah 14 shows that the Feast of Tabernacles will be kept in heaven. Also, several times in Leviticus 23, God instructs us to keep them “forever.” There is no distinction made between the seventh day and annual Sabbaths. All are listed together as His Sabbaths. Isaiah also references gathering in heaven at the new moons, which was the basis for determining the timing of the annual Sabbaths.

WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

“The handwriting of ordinances that was against us.” (Colossians 2:14) By looking at the Greek and other English translations, plus the context of this verse, we see that what was done away with was the evidence of our debt, similar to a mortgage becoming void when a house is paid off. The only laws that were done away with were those of animal sacrifice and the temple service, because the eternal sacrifice had been made. Is God’s Torah against us? Not according to Romans 3:31 and 7:7. Romans 7:12 assures us that the law is holy, just, and good. Would God take something holy, just, and good, and nail it to the cross? 1 John 1:7-9 gives us the wonderful assurance that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin, and that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us. Which makes more

sense: that the handwriting of the record of our sins as recorded by our recording angel and associated with the Lamb’s Book of Life is what was blotted out and nailed to the cross, or that God’s holy, just and good law was nailed to the cross? In addition to animal sacrifice, wasn’t it our sin, rather than God’s law, that the cross did away with?

AREN’T THEY ONLY FOR THE JEWS?

Two passages, John 5:1 and 6:4, use the term “feast of the Jews”, and John 7:2 uses the term “the Jews’ feast” but these instances were during the life of Christ, when there were no Gentile Christians. So at that time, all of the Sabbaths could have been called “of the Jews”. This is in no way indicative that the Sabbaths were done away with after the death of Christ and thus were only for the Jews.

There are passages that use the phrase “of the Jews” that are relevant: Romans 3:29: “Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.” This is relevant because we see that God is God to Jew and Gentile both, and since these are God’s Sabbaths, based on this text, would they not apply to Gentiles as well as to Jews?

Romans 9:24 “Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles.” If God has called both Jew and Gentile, would he give them different callings, different worship days, different object lessons?

WHY DON’T MODERN CHRISTIANS KEEP GOD’S SABBATHS?

The Roman Catholic church takes credit for having changed the annual and seventh day Sabbaths to Sunday and holidays like Christmas and Easter. For evidence, please refer to the recommended reading listed on the back panel. Obviously, God’s Holy Days were being kept if the Roman Catholic church thought to change them. (This should remind you of Daniel 7:25.) Where does Holy Scripture teach that any church has the actual power to change or do away with God’s word? No where.