

JESUS THE MESSIAH
OUR HANUKKAH
EIGHT EXTRAORDINARY NIGHTS

I would like to dedicate this booklet and the words it contains to my spiritual brothers and sisters in Israel.

Indeed, God has honored you as sons and daughters of Abraham with His grace, mercy, love and the responsibilities of being his chosen people. Everything that I have ever or will ever learn concerning God has been taught to me by you. The Old Testament history, God's Law, your sincerity of worship, and, most importantly, your hope and longing for the Messiah has sent me on a life-long journey which has found its fulfillment in a Jew from Galilee named Jesus.

To you as a nation, I thank you. To you as individuals, I respect and love you. From me as a believer, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Shalom,
John W. Anderson
Pastor, The Church in Peaster

P R E F A C E

I began preparing this project on December 25, 2017 (Christmas Day). I have recognized over the years how secular our Lord's incarnation (birth) has become and made the decision to reclaim the prominence and importance of such an event.

I would like to thank my secretary, Sonya Escobedo, for being able to translate what most people would consider untranslatable hand writing into something understandable.

I would also like to thank my editor on this project, Baily Mize, who took the transcripts and who also had the unenviable task of reformatting a spiritual jigsaw puzzle into what I hope you and your family view as a beautiful painting, drawn by God himself, representing the real and only meaning of His love and grace as revealed through His son Jesus Christ.

All Hail the King! Jesus the Messiah!

Koinonia,

John Anderson

THE DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT

AT / ONE / MENT

Passover	(Justification)
Unleavened Bread	(Substitution)
First-Fruits/Pentecost	(Adoption)
Trumpets	(Sanctification)
Atonement/Tabernacles	(Glorification)

INTRODUCTION

At this time of year Jews from around the world will be celebrating the feast of Hanukkah. The Hebrew word “Hanukkah” means dedication. Hanukkah lasts for eight days and signals the beginning of winter. Ground zero for this feast is December 25, 165 B.C.

The entire chapter of Leviticus 23 is a description of what God himself calls “The Feasts of the Lord.” In other words, God commands His nation (Israel) to celebrate seven feasts:

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Tabernacles

These feasts were very specific in their order and timing. Despite the fact that Israel no longer has a temple in which to sacrifice and worship, Orthodox Jews today attempt to keep these feasts to the best of their ability. You will notice that Hanukkah is not mentioned in Leviticus 23 as a Feast of the Lord. This is due to the fact that through Israel’s history, three more feasts have

developed which commemorate important historical crossroads for their nation. These historical feasts are Tisha B'Av, Feast of Purim (Esther), and Hanukkah.

The Tisha B'Av means, the ninth of Av, and takes place in the summer using the Jewish calendar. It was on the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av that two terrible tragedies struck our Jewish brothers and sisters. On the ninth of Av, 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroyed Solomon's Temple on the Temple Mount. Even the Jews knew that this destruction was caused by their own evil kings who refused to worship Jehovah-Elohim. In a strange turn of events, hundreds of years later when King Herod had rebuilt the temple, it was again destroyed by the Romans under General Titus on Tisha B'Av A.D. 70. Our Lord Jesus Himself wept over this inevitable destruction which was the judgement of God for Israel's rejection of its own Messiah.

The second historical feast not mentioned in Leviticus is the "Feast of Purim" (Feast of Esther). This feast commemorates the attempted annihilation of all Jews by the Persians which was stopped by the bravery of the Jewess Esther. This brave and faithful woman interceded for her Jewish nation and turned the tables on Israel's accusers and enemies. The biblical book of Esther gives a full account of this history.

This brings us to the third historical feast, "The Feast of Hanukkah." It begins on December 25 on the

Roman calendar, but varies yearly using the Jewish calendar. The story of Hanukkah finds its roots in what is known to the Jews and world history as the “Maccabean Revolt.”

Rome had a death grip through its emperors and generals on the necks of the Jews. The atrocities committed against the Jews were numerous and too terrible to mention. Finally, a madman named Antiochus Epiphanes came to rule the Syrian Empire and declared open season on all Jews everywhere. On December 25, 168 B.C. he went so far as to desecrate God’s temple in Jerusalem and had a statue of his favorite deity, Zeus, erected on top of the altar of burnt sacrifice within the temple walls. He believed himself to be the incarnation of Zeus and had his face (bust) placed upon the head of the statue. He chose December 25th for this desecration because according to Greek mythology December 25th is Zeus’ birthday.

This action spurred the Jewish revolt against the Romans (Maccabean Rebellion) which eventually defeated Antiochus. Ironically, the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem by the Jews took place exactly three years later to the day, December 25, 165 B.C.

Jewish tradition says that during this consecration of the altar of burnt sacrifices, there could not be found any sacred menorah oil. A panicked search found one

small vial of oil still officially sealed with the high priests' signet. It was only a one-day supply to fill the oil lamps of the great menorah (lamp stand) within the Holy Place. Deciding that a little is better than nothing, they emptied the oil-fuel into the menorah and hoped for the best. Miraculously, the one-day supply lasted eight days which allowed new oil to be supplied and consecrated to Jehovah.

THE MENORAH

The temple menorah and traditional Jewish menorahs have seven oil lamps. The lamps extend off of the tallest, center lamp, which is called the “Servant Lamp.” There are three lamps on either side of the center lamp.

While the temple menorah had seven lamps, the Hanukkah menorah has nine; eight lamps aside from the servant lamp representing the eight days the one-day supply of oil lasted during the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem. During Hanukkah, the center lamp is lit on the first night. For the next eight evenings after lighting the center lamp and beginning from left to right, one lamp will be lit each night so that at the end of the Hanukkah nine lights will be lit.

It must be remembered that our Lord Jesus Messiah chose the Jewish nation to be a part of when He first appeared in Bethlehem to save the people from their sins. As a practicing Rabbi from Galilee, Jesus not only celebrated the seven “Feasts of the Lord” in Leviticus 23, but also participated in the three additional feasts; Purim, Tisha B'Av, and Hanukkah.

Please read John 10:22-23

“At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at

Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.”

The feast of Hanukkah means “Dedication.” Notice that John 10:22-23, is a day in the life of Jesus the Messiah who is at the temple during the feast of dedication.

The question now becomes, why should we as gentiles care anything about Jewish feasts, customs, and traditional celebrations? The answer is twofold:

1. Our Lord celebrated these feasts.
2. The doctrine of adoption makes us as much a part of the nation of Israel as someone with true Jewish blood, family and roots.

Romans 8:15-16

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Galatians 4:4-7

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you

are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."

It is through God adopting us as non-Jews into the faith line of Abraham that we are given the privileges, riches and responsibilities of any natural born Jew. Jews are descended from Abraham through a blood line. Gentiles who believe God through Jesus the Messiah are grafted into the Jewish tree through the faith line.

For the next eight days we, as gentile believers with reverent hearts and thankful spirits, will commemorate Hanukkah by understanding how the seven Feasts of the Lord (Lev. 23) apply to our Messiah (one lamp for each day) and on the eighth and final night (Hanukkah) we will dedicate ourselves to the will and purposes of God through Jesus, and in the Holy Spirit.

EVENING ONE

“Passover”

Leviticus 23:5

“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover.”

NOTE: Every evening, light the center candle on your menorah remembering that our Lord Jesus is the “Light of the world.”

Tonight, recite John 1:1-5, to your family:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

Now read 1 John 1:5-9

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with

Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

NOTE: Remove the center candle (servant candle) and light the first candle only (far left) which will celebrate the first feast of the Lord, the Passover.

Passover remembers God delivering Israel from the bondage and enslavement by Pharaoh (Satan). The blood of a lamb was to be sprinkled upon the door of each Jewish slave’s residence. This night, God sent a death angel to judge those who were not protected by the blood of the lamb.

The angel was to “pass over” those homes which were under the protection on the lamb. Our Lord (Messiah) was crucified during Passover and His sacrifice “Justifies” (as if we had never sinned) those who are under the blood of the Lamb.

Please read I Corinthians 5:7-8

“Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump,

just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Please read John 1:26-29

“John answered them saying, ‘I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.’ These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Consider the cross, the sacrifice, the blood of the Lamb and thank God for the great plan shared between Himself and His son Jesus to secure our deliverance from the death angel as we have applied the blood of our Lamb (Jesus) to the door of our hearts.

NOTE: You may now blow out the candles.

EVENING TWO

“Feast of Unleavened Bread”

Leviticus 23:6-8

“Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work.”

NOTE: Please light the center candle, the servant candle, first remembering Jesus as the Light of the world. Using this candle, relight the first candle and reflect upon the sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God and whose blood cleanses us from all sin. Jesus is not only our Savior, but He is our substitute! You may now light the second candle which remembers the second feast of the Lord, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

This feast is to be observed on the 15th day of Nisan or on the day after Passover. Jesus was crucified during Passover and buried the next day on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The scriptures use leaven to denote sin and corruption. Because Jesus was sinless, His body did not experience corruption while He lay in the tomb.

Please read 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

“Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”

These two verses combine the feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread to show us Christ’s sacrifice (Passover) and His sinless life as our acceptable substitute.

Please read 1 Corinthians 15:42-58

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is

from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

We celebrate our Messiah's accomplishment of fully following God's will and plan as mankind's representative.

NOTE: You may now blow out the candles.

EVENING THREE

“Feast of First Fruits”

Leviticus 23:9-15

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to the Lord. Its grain offering shall then be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to the Lord for a soothing aroma, with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine. Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your God, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

‘You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths.’”

NOTE: Please light the center candle and acknowledge Jesus the Messiah as the Light of the world. Using this center candle, light the Passover candle, Feast of Unleavened Bread candle, and now the First Fruits candle.

According to Leviticus 23:10-11, the Feast of First Fruits is to take place “on the morrow after the Sabbath.” The Jewish Sabbath is on Saturdays and so First Fruits is to be observed on Sunday, the first day of the week. Our Messiah was crucified during Pentecost, laid in the tomb on the Feast of Unleavened Bread and raised from the dead three days later during “First Fruits!” The Bible describes our Lord Jesus as the first fruits of the resurrected dead.

Please read 1 Corinthians 15:23

“But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

We are promised that all of us who have cast our lives upon the grace and mercy of God through the sacrifice of the Messiah for our sins by faith will follow His first fruits example and be reunited with our bodies in an incorruptible eternity. Once our spirits have reunited with our new bodies we will live with God forever!

NOTE: After thanking God for Passover (sacrifice), Unleavened Bread (incorruptible life) and First Fruits (resurrection) you may now blow out the candles on your menorah and with gratitude await our next evening celebrating Jesus the Messiah!

EVENING FOUR

“Pentecost”

Leviticus 23:16-22

“You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord. You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the Lord. Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the Lord. You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings. The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the Lord; they are to be holy to the Lord for the priest. On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

‘When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleanings of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the Lord your God.’”

Within these seven feasts of the Lord, three of them have to do with harvests. These are; First Fruits, Pentecost, and Trumpets. It is interesting to note that within their order of observance each harvest is larger than the previous. Therefore, the wheat harvest of Pentecost is larger than the harvest of first fruits but not as bountiful as the final harvest of The Feast of Trumpets.

Our fourth feast is Pentecost, beginning fifty days after the feast of First Fruits. We as believers are now living within the dispensation of Pentecost.

Please read Acts 2:1-47

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each

hear them in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”

But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

*‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says,
‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams;
Even on My bondslaves, both men and women,
I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit
And they shall prophesy.
And I will grant wonders in the sky above
And signs on the earth below,
Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.
The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood,*

Before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over by the pre-determined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says of Him,

*'I saw the Lord always in my presence;
For He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted;
Moreover my flesh also will live in hope;
Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
'You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.'*

“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having re-

ceived from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

*‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’
Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.’*

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their

meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

NOTE: Lighting the center candle first, you may now light the candles representing Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost.

After Christ’s resurrection, the disciples were instructed to wait in Jerusalem to receive power from the Holy Spirit. It was on the day of Pentecost that this promise was kept. It is on the day of Pentecost that the scenes of Acts 2 occur.

Remember that as instructed in Leviticus 23:16-22, the priest is to prepare two loaves of bread of equal weight and size and that they are to be baked with leaven. Leaven in the Bible is used to symbolize sin and corruption. These two loaves represent two groups of people, Jews and Gentiles, both living in need of a Savior. God, through the Messiah, has opened the door for both groups to participate in His kingdom.

Because we are presently living in “The Pentecost Dispensation,” God has promised us power, guidance and comfort as we share the good news (Gospel) with those we come in contact with on a daily basis.

During the time of Pentecost, the way is there, the offer is FREE and the promise is sure.

Ask the Lord tonight to give us all the confidence and courage to share the story of the Messiah with those we know need him. May we have divine appointments to speak with others about Jesus the Messiah. Allow your life to reflect the Light of the world, Jesus who is within us, as individual believers and corporately as the church.

One of the most touching elements within the instruction for Pentecost is the last verse.

Please read Leviticus 23:22

“When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleanings of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”

Our witness to others may not see an immediate harvest but we are promised that our gleanings (leftovers of our Gospel harvest) will be picked up and enjoyed by others that we don't even know! What a promise, what a Savior!!

NOTE: Please blow out the candles.

EVENING FIVE

“The Feast of Trumpets”

Leviticus 23:23-25

“Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord.’”

NOTE: Lighting the center candle first, use it to light all four previous candles (left to right) and reverently light the fifth candle which represents our next Feast of the Lord, the Feast of Trumpets.

With our first feast, Passover, falling on the first day of the Jewish calendar (normally April), we now proceed all the way to the seventh Jewish month (September) to observe the fifth feast of the Lord; Trumpets.

Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits all occur in rapid succession (a three-day period), then a fifty-day gap passes to Pentecost (our present age), then there is a long period of time before the fifth feast (Trumpets) is celebrated.

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

I Corinthians 15:51-52

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

This wonderful feast, the Feast of Trumpets, represents the return of the Messiah to rapture the true church (Jews and Gentiles) who have placed their faith in Jesus. Once He has raptured (called away) His professing church He will judge the world for its refusal to believe His word concerning Jesus the Messiah.

The great doctrine of glorification now begins. Sometime in the future at God’s timing and perfect will, the Messiah will return with a shout of victory and trumpets blaring! Those who have their faith, hope,

trust and eternity in the Messiah will be called home with Him.

It is interesting to note that since the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the loss of the sacrificial system upon the altar of burnt sacrifice, this feast (Trumpets) came to Jewish synagogues around the world where the blowing of trumpets came to symbolize the gathering of God's people back to the original city of God, Jerusalem.

Trumpets uses in the Bible have three purposes:

1. Gathering God's people for a general assembly.

“The Lord spoke further to Moses, saying, “Make yourself two trumpets of silver; of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out. When both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Yet if only one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall assemble before you” (Numbers 10:1-4)

2. Calling God's people to prepare for battle.

“Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The Lord said to Joshua, ‘See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the

men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.” Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.” (Joshua 6:1-4)

3. Announcing the coronation of a new king.

“Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ (Kings 1:34)

When the final trumpet sounds, all three of the usages will be in full effect: God’s people gathered, preparing for battle and crowning the King of Kings, Jesus the Messiah!

Gratitude is a look back. Faith is a look forward. On this fifth evening let us with great and unwavering faith believe in the sure and certain return of our Messiah.

NOTE: You may now blow out the candles.

EVENING SIX

“Day of Atonement”

Leviticus 23:27

“On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the Lord.”

The Day of Atonement is an interesting feast. The church has been called away (raptured) during the Feast of Trumpets and God now will turn His full attention to the remaining remnant of the apple of His eye; Israel. His chosen people will then be given one last opportunity to repent of their generational rejection of Jesus The Messiah, and to mourn and weep regarding the way that they have treated Jesus both physically and spiritually.

NOTE: Using the center candle, you may now light (from left to right) the previous five candles adding the sixth candle.

Please read Zechariah 13:1

“In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”

Romans 11:26

“and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.’”

Jews themselves often refer to the Day of Atonement as the “Days of Awe.”

On this sixth evening let us as justified believers pray for those around us but especially the nation of Israel to see and recognize Jesus Christ as their only hope and only Messiah.

Let us also pray for boldness to bankrupt Hell and share with people everywhere to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Savior and Messiah.

NOTE: You may now blow out all the candles on your Menorah. Peace be with you all!

EVENING SEVEN

“The Feast of the Tabernacles”

Leviticus 23:33-44

“Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the Lord. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the Lord; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.

‘These are the appointed times of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the Lord—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each day’s matter on its own day— besides those of the sabbaths of the Lord, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the Lord.

‘On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day. Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm

branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times of the Lord.”

Historically and traditionally, this concluding Feast of the Lord is a time of great joy, light, and water. Tabernacles is a seven-day celebration concerning God’s past protection of Israel as a nation, totally dependent on Him as they spent forty years in the desert wandering after their delivery from Pharaoh under Moses.

John’s gospel again finds Jesus celebrating this particular feast (John 7). Rabbis at the time of Jesus referred to this feast as, “The Ingathering.” It is also an expectant celebration of hope for the future when Messiah will gather His people together.

Amazingly, this feast offers even gentiles the opportunity to participate in Jerusalem and to share in

the joy and celebration of God gathering Israel together along with the nations of the world!

Please read Zechariah 14:16-19

“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

Please read also the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:26-27

“I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.”

After reading these scriptures, please light seven candles on your Menorah (from left to right) using your center candle to illuminate the other candles.

Time and space prevent me from describing the sheer beauty of this feast. From thousands of campfires lighting the city of Jerusalem to the four Great Menorahs illuminating The Great Temple. This feast must have been by all accounts stunning against the starry desert backdrop.

Please read Isaiah 12:1-6

*“Then you will say on that day,
‘I will give thanks to You, O Lord; For although You were angry with me,
Your anger is turned away,
And You comfort me.
“Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
For the Lord God is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.”
Therefore you will joyously draw water
From the springs of salvation.
And in that day you will say,
“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name.
Make known His deeds among the peoples;
Make them remember that His name is exalted.”
Praise the Lord in song, for He has done excellent things;
Let this be known throughout the earth.
Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

The above is a scripture used during Tabernacles. It is the eighth day of the feast of tabernacles (The Sabbath) that John 8 is written:

“But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?” They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify

about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.” So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

Then He said again to them, “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.” So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you from the beginning? I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but

I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.”

They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not

understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’ Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, be-

fore Abraham was born, I am.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

After thanking God for calling you into His family you may now blow out the candles and prepare your heart for tomorrow evening: Hanukkah!

THE FINAL NIGHT

“HANUKKAH”

On evening one, a brief history of Hanukkah was given. It is important history to Jews and believing gentiles alike. Using the center candle, please light ALL the candles on your Menorah, left to right, considering what each candle represents.

Candle ONE:	Passover (Sacrifice)
Candle TWO:	Unleavened Bread (Sinlessness)
Candle THREE:	First-Fruit (Resurrection)
Candle FOUR:	Pentecost (Church)
Candle FIVE:	Trumpets (Return)
Candle SIX:	Atonement (Israel)
Candle SEVEN:	Tabernacles (Ingathering)
Candle EIGHT:	Hanukkah (Dedication)
Center Candle:	Messiah; The Light of The World (Servant)

We have observed over the past week the importance of the “Seven Feasts of The Lord,” and how they dramatically reveal the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah as well as His continued work in us as His church, Israel as a nation, and to the nations of the world.

Knowing that Hanukkah means, “Dedication,” may we on this last night rededicate ourselves to God in the coming new year.

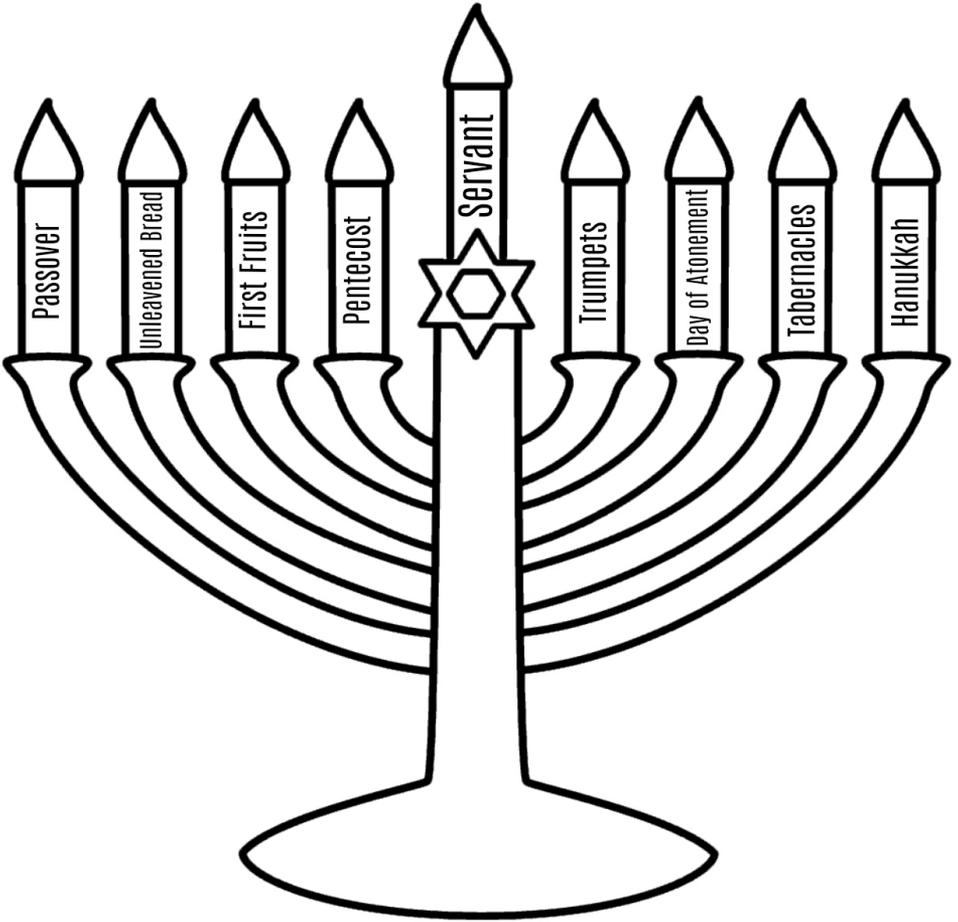
I hope you have found great joy, hope, and encouragement by celebrating Hanukkah this year, probably for the first time. May I leave you with a special blessing tonight, from Romans 15:13:

“May the God of hope fill you with great joy and peace as you trust Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Thank you for celebrating Hanukkah with me and I will leave you with a phrase that you have heard me say many times from the pulpit at The Church in Peaster,

“If Jesus isn’t the Messiah, then one ain’t coming!”

NOTE: You may now blow out all of the candles, or continue to let the light shine!



THE BELIEVER'S MENORAH