

## YAHWEH, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, IS WITH US!

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins...”  
( [Isaiah 58: 1](#) )

Yahweh / Yahovah

# Yahweh's Feast Days

## 1. The Weekly Sabbath

**In the Scriptures the seventh day of the week is called the Sabbath.** The word Sabbath is synonymous with rest, repose, restoration, refreshment, calm, tranquillity, freedom, peace, harmony, holiness and sanctification. It is, therefore, a fitting sign of the Creator's character and aims. The divine record of the creation is brief; but it leaves one in no doubt that the **Creator rested on, blessed and sanctified** the seventh day of the week at the creation of the world. Notice what His Word says on this matter.

Genesis 2: 1: *“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*

*2: And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*

*3: And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”*

Many people will be surprised to learn that the true Sabbath day is not Sunday but Saturday. **Sunday is the first day of the week.** Saturday is the **seventh** and in Scripture is called the **Sabbath of the LORD**. In other words Saturday is the true **LORD'S Day**. The Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday evening and ends (24) twenty-four hours later at sunset on Saturday evening.

Leviticus 23: 32: *“...from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.”*

The Sabbath commandment is part of the **Ten Commandments**, which were written with the **finger of God!**

Exodus 24: 12: *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which **I have written**; that thou mayest teach them.”*

Exodus 31: 18: *“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God.**”*

Deuteronomy 9: 10: *“And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone **written with the finger of God**; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.”*

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

Exodus 20: 8: *“**Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.***

*9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*10: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor*

*thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

*11: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, **and rested the seventh day:** wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”*

You may read the Bible from cover to cover and you will not find a single verse which cancels or amends the Sabbath commandment. **That is a fact.** You will, instead, find many texts which call for the observance of the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday.

## 2. Yahweh’s Sabbath Day

In view of the above facts, it is a mistake to refer to the Sabbath as the **Jewish Sabbath**; or that it is only to be observed by Jews. **The Sabbath is Yahweh’s Sabbath**; or, as the Scriptures put it: **the Sabbath of the LORD thy God!** To be sure it is kept by Israel and the Jews; but it is not for Israel alone, any more than the Ten Commandments are for the Jews alone. According to the fourth commandment, even **‘strangers’** (Gentiles) are expected to keep the Sabbath day. If they obey this royal command, Gentiles will also be greatly blessed. Notice the word **‘stranger’** in the following texts:

Exodus 20: 8: **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

*9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

*10: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:”*

Isaiah 56: 6: **“Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;**

*7: Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.”*

Yes, the Sabbath belongs to the **LORD God of Israel** and, like all the other nine commandments, He made it to be remembered and kept holy by all nations. In obedience to this commandment the seventh day Sabbath was kept by all the great and holy personalities mentioned in the Bible:

- By all the Old Testament Prophets of the LORD God of Israel.
- By the early Christian Church long after the death and resurrection of the Saviour.
- By all the early Apostles, including the Apostle Paul.
- By **Yeshua the Messiah** (Jesus Christ)
- And by **Jehovah (YAHWEH)** Himself.

Neither is there any evidence in the New Testament to suggest that the Saviour or his Apostles changed the Ten Commandments and transferred the sanctity of the Sabbath from the **seventh** to the first day of the week. Instead, Jesus kept his Father's commandments. If he hadn't done so he would have been classified as **‘a sinner.’** But we read that the Saviour kept the Sabbath day **as it was meant to be kept**, much to the annoyance of the **Scribes** and **Pharisees** who had burdened the day with many **petty, man-made** restrictions. **These the Master brushed aside.** Commenting on the eternal nature of his Father's law the Saviour said these words:

Matthew 5: 17: **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

*18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

Moreover the Master advised his followers, who were mostly Jews at that time, to pray to God that He might allow them to keep the Sabbath at the destruction of Jerusalem: **which was to take place in AD 70, some 40 years after the**

**resurrection.**

Matthew 24: 20: *“But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:”*

Pause and consider this text and see how pointless it would have been for the Saviour to have given this advice to his predominantly Jewish followers if the Sabbath commandment was going to be abolished at Calvary. **The truth is, the Saviour had absolutely no intention whatsoever of doing away with or changing the Sabbath commandment.** He had an extremely high regard for his Father's law; **which he was instrumental in giving to Israel in the first place.**

James 4: 12: *“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?”*

**In short, the true Sabbath day is still the seventh day of the week, the day commonly known as Saturday!**

This unequivocal fact means that those who break the Sabbath commandment are guilty of sin, whether they realize it or not; for **sin is the transgression of the law.**

1 John 3: 4: *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*

For further proof of this astonishing fact, see the **A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada** article [Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath?](#)

### **3. Yahweh's Annual Feast Days**

Hanging from the Sabbath commandment in the law of the Almighty are the seven annual Sabbaths of **Jehovah** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Unlike the popular holidays of Christmas, Easter, Hallowe'en etc., which have absolutely no scriptural backing whatsoever, the Feasts of the Almighty are the sacred memorials of the Creator's mightiest acts in the Plan of Salvation; each and every one of them being an **appointed anniversary** of a distinct, decisive achievement in His plan. Yahweh's Feasts are the **high days** in His Diary.

He looks forward to them in much the same way as we would some special anniversary or event. At this moment in time, most of them point to realities that are still future. But all through eternity the redeemed host will look back at these days and will then - year by year - commemorate the mighty deeds the Most High and His Son performed on them for the salvation of the human race. **“What”** you may well ask, **“are the Almighty's Annual Sabbaths?”** There are **six** Feast days and **one** Fast day. I list them:

1. The **First Day of Unleavened Bread** which falls on **15<sup>th</sup>** day of Abib, the **1<sup>st</sup>** month **in the sacred calendar.**
2. The **Last Day of Unleavened Bread** which falls on **21<sup>st</sup>** day of Abib.
3. The **Feast of First Fruits (Pentecost)** which occurs **50** days after the Passover Sabbath.
4. The **Feast of Trumpets** which falls on the **1<sup>st</sup>** Ethanim (the **7<sup>th</sup>** month **in the sacred calendar.**)
5. The **Fast of Atonement** which falls on the **10<sup>th</sup>** Ethanim.
6. The **Feast of Tabernacles** which falls on the **15<sup>th</sup>** Ethanim.
7. The **Last Great Day** which falls on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** Ethanim.

These are the seven annual **memorial Sabbaths** of the Almighty; which all peoples, Jew and Gentile alike, are commanded to observe. These days do not belong to any particular race or religion. They are not **Jewish feasts**. They are the Almighty's **‘appointment times’** and all nations are required to keep them. The Most High refers to them as **‘My Feasts, My Sabbaths.’**

Leviticus 23: 1: *“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, **Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.***

*3: Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.*

*4: These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*

5: In the **fourteenth** day of the first month at even is the **LORD's passover**.

6: And on the **fifteenth** day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: **seven days ye must eat unleavened bread**.

7: In the **first** day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8: But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the **seventh** day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

9: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

10: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the **firstfruits** of your harvest unto the priest:

11: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12: And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

13: And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14: And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

15: And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

16: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number **fifty** days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17: Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; **they are the firstfruits unto the LORD**.

18: And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

19: Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20: And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the **firstfruits** for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21: And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an **holy convocation** unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22: And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

23: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24: Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the **seventh** month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

25: Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

26: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

27: Also on the **tenth** day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28: And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29: For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30: And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31: Ye shall do no manner of work: **it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings**.

32: It shall be unto you a **sabbath of rest**, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month

*at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.*

*33: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*34: Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The **fifteenth** day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.*

*35: On the first day shall be an **holy convocation**: ye shall do no servile work therein.*

*36: Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the **eighth** day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.*

*37: **These are the feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:*

*38: Beside the **sabbaths of the LORD**, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.*

*39: Also in the **fifteenth** day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the **eighth** day shall be a sabbath.*

*40: And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.*

*41: And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. **It shall be a statute for ever in your generations**: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.*

*42: Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:*

*43: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*

*44: And Moses declared unto the children of Israel **the feasts of the LORD.**"*

For further information about these divinely appointed memorial Sabbaths of the Most High request the free **A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada** booklet entitled: The [Feast Days of the God of Israel](#).

## **4. Animal Sacrifices, are they Necessary?**

Animal sacrifices may be traced back to the dawn of human history: to the creation of the world when **Adam** and his son Abel sacrificed animals to gain access to the Almighty's presence and favour. Thus the Genesis record reads:

Genesis 4: 2: *"...And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

*3: And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

*4: And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:"*

Since Adam's day generations of believers have **sacrificed animals** as an **expression of faith** and a **means of reconciliation**. (Genesis 8: 20-21, 12:7, 13:18) But whose idea was it in the first place? Was it man's idea, or was it God's? Strange as it may seem it was God's idea. The Almighty had diligently instructed man that he would not receive forgiveness or blessing if he did not approach Him with the **blood of a sacrifice**. So down through the ages many thousands of animals were sacrificed as a means of access to Yahweh's holy presence. Later, again by divine decree, animal sacrifices were included in the laws given to Israel through Moses: but with a difference:

- The blood of the sacrifices was to be brought to the **Door of the Tabernacle** (Exodus 29: 11, 32, 42) and later to the **Temple in Jerusalem**.
- And there an **Aaronic priest** would consecrate the sacrifice and apply its blood to the altar and the repentant sinner.

Failure to meet these basic requirements would prove disastrous for the persons involved. So in the course of time, millions of animals and birds were slain by Israel's priests and Levites as part of the worship installed by **YAHWEH**

**the Almighty God of Israel.** It was a ghastly, bloody drama to say the least; and it went on year after year for many centuries.

To be sure Yahweh commanded it; **but what did it mean?** Why did a God of love design such a bloody and costly route to His presence? What did the blood of an innocent animal have to do with obtaining mercy? What mysterious lessons did the Creator have in mind which could not be taught in any other way? More importantly, are believers today expected to sacrifice animals before they can approach His holy throne?

These are questions which need answering, especially in **Africa** where to this day many **Christian groups** sacrifice bulls, goats, rams and pigeons as part of their worship of the Most High. Are their sacrifices in line with Bible requirements? Is there something they know that the **Christians** in Europe, Canada and the USA do not? Or have their leaders misunderstood the role of the **Aaronic Priesthood** and the all-encompassing **sacrifice of Jesus** and are making unnecessary, yea **unauthorized sacrifices** which amount to a denial of the Christian faith? This [online booklet](#) **Animal Sacrifices** aims to answer these questions by briefly explaining the following:

1. The Old & New Covenants
2. The Sacrificial System
3. The Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood
4. The Melchisedec Priesthood
5. Unauthorized Altars / Sacrifices
6. The Sacrifice of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah
7. The Spiritual Sacrifices of Today

Request the free **A Voice In The Wilderness** booklet [Animal Sacrifices - Are they necessary?](#)

## **5. Signs in the Sun, Moon & Stars**

The sun, moon and stars were originally created by the Almighty to draw universal attention to the spectacular deeds He planned to perform on the appointed Feast days, seasons and sabbatical years in the sacred calendar. This astonishing fact is mentioned in the very first chapter of the Bible which says:

Genesis 1: 14: *“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:”*

According to Strong's Bible Dictionary

- The Hebrew word ‘owth’ {oth} translated **sign** in this verse means:
  - A **signal, distinguishing mark, banner, remembrance, miraculous sign, omen, warning.**
- And the Hebrew word ‘mow`ed’ {mo-ade} translated **seasons** in this verse means:
  - **Appointed place, appointed time, appointed meeting, sacred season, set feast, tent of meeting.**

In other words: the sun and moon were set in the heavens to signal the **appointed sacred seasons, the set feasts, when Israel was to gather in worship at the Creator’s tent of meeting.** To be sure the sun and the moon determine the literal days, nights, seasons and years and they directly influence the climate. But the language of Genesis 1: 14 goes far beyond these natural events. It tells of the **spiritual reasons** why the sun and moon were created. They were created I repeat:

- To serve as celestial **warning signs** and **omens** to signal the **sacred seasons, feast days** and **years** of the Almighty God!
- They were placed in the sky by the Most High to alert the universe to His **appointed meeting times:** when the human race is called to worship Him.

Several Bible prophecies confirm the message of (Genesis 1: 14) by telling us that just before Jesus Christ returns to earth there will be ‘**signs in the sun and the moon.**’ Consider these verses:

Joel 2: 10: ***“The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:”***

Joel 2: 30: ***“And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.  
31: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.  
32: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”***

Amos 8: 9: ***“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:”***

Matthew 24: 29: ***“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:”***

Revelation 6: 12: ***“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;  
13: And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.  
14: And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.  
15: And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;”***

Revelation 8: 12: ***“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”***

These predicted signs in the heavens are scheduled to happen **shortly before** Yeshua the Messiah returns to earth; **and happen they will**. When they occur they will provide unmistakable evidence that one of the Almighty's **appointed seasons** has begun and that the **end of this age** has arrived. World shattering events will occur at that time and all mankind will then become aware of the LORD'S requirements and His anger at the refusal of many to obey His law.

Revelation 6: 16: ***“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:  
17: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”***

If you believe the message of (Genesis 1: 14) then at each **sacred feast** you should be on the look out for celestial signs in the sun, moon and stars. Failure to keep the **Almighty's appointments** could mean that when those signs occur - as they surely will - the **spiritual significance of the feasts** and the prophecies to which they relate will be lost to you. To be sure you will marvel at those celestial signs, all humanity will, but you will not realize their **spiritual significance** and will be completely oblivious to what they mean and, more importantly, **what you are expected to do**.

## **6. Astrology**

**Astrology** is the study of the supposed influence of the stars on human affairs. A **horoscope** is an astrologer's forecast of future events, based on the position of stars and people's birthdays. **The study of astrology and the daily reading of horoscopes is strongly condemned in the Scriptures.**

Deuteronomy 4: 19: ***“And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.”***

2 Kings 23: 5: *“And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.”*

The signs in the **sun, moon** and **stars** mentioned in this Sabbath sermon **have nothing to do with the study of astrology** or the reading of horoscopes. The celestial signs prophesied in the Scriptures will occur at the **Almighty’s appointed times**. When they appear, it will be too late to rush about improving your understanding of God's Word. That must be done now, before it is too late. If on the other hand you are a true believer, then do not be terrified when those signs appear, **because they spell out good news to the obedient**.

Jeremiah 10: 2: *“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.”*

**AMEN!**

**In the Son’s Name - For the Father’s glory.**

**Elder: Max W. Mader**

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