

The F.O.T. and The Restoration of Physical Israel

by Brian Convery, February 21, 2004

As the scattering during the end of the age intensifies, we as the “called of God” will have many opportunities to make choices between good or evil and right or wrong. To become heirs of God the Father and co-heirs with His Son, our beloved, we will have to suffer many things just as our Christ did. I think that we are all familiar with Rom 8:16-17.

16: “The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
17: and if children, then heirs——heirs of God [and that is the Father] and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with, that we may also be glorified together.”

Now just pause for a moment brethren and think about how awesome a promise that is. It is made to you and me and every human being who has been called of God since the creation of the earth. That promise is, to be glorified together with our Husband in the family of God, the Father. That family name is *Elohiym*. If we understand and believe the doctrine taught throughout the scriptures and depicted in the first three festivals of God, then we also must understand and complete our part in attaining that incredible honor and privilege. I certainly hope that we all understand that it is God the Father who calls us or as some put it, draws us close to His Son, or draws us near. John 6:65 states:

65: “And He said, Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

We have often covered this process in past studies and the implications of our part in it. Our Father calls us near, that is His part in it. As we all know He draws us near to His Son after the example of Abraham seeking a suitable wife for his son Isaac. After we are called and understand our past has contributed to the death, the murder, of our Christ we are stricken with grief and repent of our terrible part in that. At that time we seek out a very personal and intimate relationship with Him, that is with the Son. Satan the Devil understands all this and will do everything he is allowed to, to see we do not complete that journey. We are reminded that many are called and few chosen. Those who will be chosen by Christ, Himself, as His help mate, His wife,

His Bride for eternity, will have had to overcome not only our human nature and the Devil but our fellow human beings as well. That can mean our family, loved ones, father, mother, brother, sister, etc. They can be a very big deterrent to our successful completion due to the emotional strains and stress they can cause. Yes, we do have to suffer with Christ to inherit all things with Him. When we start this journey we are called, “babes” by God. That designation is so descriptive of what lies ahead. Our calling and its fulfilment is likened to growing up as a human being. When we are little we are cared for by our parents. If not for the things they supplied for us we would surely have died. There is no question about that. We are not instant adults are we! No, we start a process of growth in which we are totally dependent on another for food, clothing, shelter, and instruction. As time goes on we grow. We become less dependent on our mother’s milk and are able to take small amounts of solid food under the guidance of our parents or an adult. It is also at this time that we start to develop our own independence for we realize that we can crawl across the room to fetch something that catches our fancy. The first thing an infant does at this stage and for some time to come is to give it the taste test. Everything we find we try to put into our mouths. At least that has been my experience from raising four kids. As infants we did that because that was the most overpowering drive in our lives. Good parents understand these things and thus take the necessary precautions to avoid a very severe problem. They make sure we do not have access to any deadly thing that can lodge in our throats or poison us in some way. Eventually under their guidance we learn and become aware of what is permissible to put into our mouths and what is not. We become more independent and start to make more decisions about what we want to eat ourselves. We have been weaned from our mother’s milk and are able to eat solid food as the adults eat, but are not able to prepare it as in cooking etc. We are still dependent on our parents or an adult to do this for some time except for some of the simple things like making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. We are just not ready to cook a steak or bake a loaf of bread at that stage. But in time we can and should. This is very important to understand and apply to our spiritual growth. We are expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of our

Lord Jesus Christ. That growth is patterned after the process we just covered. Satan the Devil knows this all too well. He understands how vulnerable we can be during it. He uses our curiosity to trap us and trick us to eat things, put things into our mouths that can do us great harm, even killing us in some cases. There are times during the growth process that we are very susceptible because we are gullible and naive. At this stage we learn about sweets as well. If it were up to us that is what we would live on in most cases. If we were allowed to do that we would become very unhealthy and sick for we would be basically lacking the nutrition needed to allow our bodies and minds to grow strong and be alert. There are times during this growth process that we are very susceptible as I mentioned, without the guidance of a loving and caring adult, we could place our lives in jeopardy, not that we would, but could. That is important to remember. But this is only for a period of time as we grow to adulthood ourselves and are able to discern right from wrong, good from evil. Once we attain that maturity it is our turn to do the same for others. Let's read two very clear sections of scriptures which tell us how this is done and why.

We have often covered Ephesians the fourth chapter, it is a message of hope and of warning to how and why we are to function a certain way. We are told that Christ is the Head of the body which is the Church. We are told that each part of that body is given a gift and placed in it accordingly. We the members of that body are to use these gifts to edify the entire body in love. We do this as a unit under the direction of Jesus Christ. No one part of the body lords it over another. We have only one Head. We are given this instruction because there are those who would want to use our simplicity in Christ to get gain for themselves. They can be very tricky and cunning in achieving that end. The body is to look out for the well being of all its members until each part is able to survive these attacks. Those of the body who are more mature and experienced in this warfare are to stand up and defend the younger parts or members until they too grow wise in that knowledge to be able to take up that task for themselves and others. Eph 4:7-8; 11-16:

7: "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8: Therefore He says: When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

11: "And He Himself gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12: for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13: till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14: that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie and wait to deceive,
15: but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
16: from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

So many have taken this simple and wonderful pattern and have turned it into a grinding stone of dominion and hierarchy to oppress and extract from the brethren. As we grow in grace and knowledge, we are to be doing two things. The first is developing an intimate relationship with our betrothed. We are to be dependent on Him giving us the answers to our questions and not some self proclaimed benefactor. Secondly we are to do everything within our power to direct others in the body towards Christ. We are not to suffer and stumble over delusions of grandeur about ourselves or others. Our Husband is the focal point of all we do. That is why we read at the start of this fourth chapter the following words,

1: "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
2: with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
3: endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Simple and sober words to us all. We do not keep the

unity of an organization, or that of a man, but of the “spirit,” the life blood of the body of Christ. It is that unity and no other that is to be kept in the bond of peace. Do we have a responsibility basically to stand on our own two feet and eat one on one with our Husband, our Creator? Heb 5:9 - 6:3:

- 9: “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
 - 10: called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek,
 - 11: of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
 - 12: For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need to be taught again the first principles of the scriptures of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
 - 13: For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.
 - 14: But solid food belongs to those who are mature, those who by reason of use through practice have their senses exercised to discern between both good and evil.
- 1: Therefore, you are to be leaving the discussion of the juvenile principles of Christ, and go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
 - 2: of the teachings of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
 - 3: And this we will do if God permits.”

We are not to remain an infant and eat infant food if we are to qualify to marry the Son of God and be co-heirs with Him and all the Father has put under His feet. We are to grow strong and straight and be one with our beloved Husband. If we undertake this walk it will be because God has seen that we are ready to develop a much closer relationship with Christ and His body. We will not be permitted to go this step if we show the signs of future failure from the point of view of turning our back on the Father and the Son, for that would have dire consequences as verses 4 through 6 clearly tell us here in Hebrews, the sixth chapter. Yes, we do have a merciful and loving God! We are the second Eve in the plan. The first Eve allowed a

supposed benefactor of knowledge to come between her and her husband. Instead of seeking truthful answers to questions from her husband, the first Adam, she listened to a cunning trickster. We must never do that. When our Husband gives us a clear and direct answer we are not to muddy it up with what-ifs, as well we are not to let another confuse us. It is for that very reason Paul instructed the Corinthian Church in the following way, “Let your women keep silent in the churches for they are not permitted to speak but to be submissive as the law also says. And if they want to learn something let them ask their own husbands at home for it is shameful for women to speak in church.” That is not a put-down of anyone. Satan the Devil has appealed to the vanity of many women, called and uncalled of the Father, to twist this simple command and pattern in their minds. There is order in the body. We are the bride of Christ and as such we are to seek the answers from our Husband and no other. We are to recognize His voice and dine with Him. As easy as that may sound we have only to look at the first Eve to see it can become difficult at times. Satan and his ministers of light have made an art of coming between Christ and those called to be His bride. They do this in many ways. But the most punishing is by teaching false doctrines which can and will separate us from our Husband and Savior. Look how simple, subtle, and seemingly harmless it can be. Let’s read it from J.P. Green’s Interlinear. Gen 3:1-8:

- 1: “And the serpent was cunning above every animal of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Is it true that God has said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? [That is a question. Notice the slant on the question. He is questioning whether she in fact heard the command right in the first place. Thus the seed of doubt can make it appealing to our human nature, as to a way out to what was actually said.]
- 2: And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,
- 3: but of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. [Here we see Eve clearly understood what was said. She successfully withstood Satan’s first attempt to confuse her and put in doubt. Good job Eve! She should have left

it at that.]

4: And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,

5: for God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as God, knowing good and evil. [So here we see the subtle approach failed with Eve. Now the Devil dug deeper and presented Eve with a direct challenge to her vanity and the word of God. Adam and Eve had obviously been taught by God that if they followed the plan set before them they in time would qualify to be part of the God family, the *Elohiym* family. Here Satan set Eve up for the kill. He told her there was a short cut to that end and God was not telling her the truth about it.]

6: And the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and the tree was desirable to make one wise. And she took of its fruit and ate; [Mother Eve listened to another. She had failed to follow the clear instructions of God. She was beguiled by Satan. And if that was not bad enough, she gave it also to her husband Adam. Misery likes company. Her eyes had been opened as the chronology of events tell us. She ate and touched it first.] and she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. [Here Adam had the chance to become Eve's savior and thus the savior of his own body. Because Eve was of his body. But he did not do that. He became very careless. We are not told anything about this encounter other than the fact that he blamed her and thus God for his sin.]”

Verse 12:

12: “And the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she has given to me of the tree, and I ate.”

Not only had Adam not corrected his wife Eve and sought forgiveness from God, he himself ate and broke the central command God had given him. In verse 13 we see Eve blaming the serpent who had deceived her. Neither one of them would accept responsibility for their actions, let alone have repentant attitudes. That tells us something very important about sin, and in particular the makings and beginnings of the unpardonable sin. The Devil had separated Eve from

Adam. When this had happened she was vulnerable. His first attempt failed, but his second didn't. After she had eaten, she in some way or form convinced Adam to eat it. I hear some trying to twist this by saying Adam was with her throughout the whole series of events. They try to use the last part of verse 6 to offer proof of this. “And she also gave to her husband with her and he ate.” Neither the Hebrew language or the chronology of events or the resulting inquiry of God support that. Sometime after she had touched and eaten the fruit she gave it, or as the Hebrew stresses, “put it or set it,” before Adam. After he ate it the eyes of both of them were open now. Satan wants to distort the lesson being taught in 1 Cor 14, with people today and uses Genesis here to try to distort that. A woman is supposed to seek answers from only her husband in the safe haven of their home, just as we, the bride of Christ are to be doing the same with our Husband Jesus Christ. We are to turn to no one else. Are we mature enough to do that? Are we experienced enough to see through the subtlety and the incredible cunning of the Devil's deceits? He will never stop trying to get the second Eve isolated from her Husband by a surrogate. But unlike the first Adam, Jesus Christ will not be a party to sin. He is our Savior. He is our teacher and protector. He laid down His life for us, the second Eve. We live in very troubling times brethren. Through technology we are being exposed to more and more of the fruit of the knowledge of the tree of good and evil. We are to be able to discern between the two and only follow the good. The winds of doctrine are blowing in every direction and at every speed. We must be using the gifts we have been given to continually lift up the body in grace and knowledge. We must guard our minds against the tricks of the Devil, and his cunningness. Before we internalize a false doctrine by mistake through the taste test, we must put it to the mature test of going to our Husband and asking Him for the answer in the pages of the bible, one on one with Him. We are to have no one present whispering in our ear while we are doing this personal study. But it doesn't stop there. We are also supposed to be able to prepare good meals for our fellow members of the body. This is a central qualification of the bride of Christ. We can see it delineated throughout the scriptures but nowhere is it any more clearly delineated as it is in Proverbs 31. As we should all know and understand Prov 31:10-31 is a

very thorough and complete “resume” or job description of what is required of the successful candidate who qualified to be married to the Son of God. Verse 15:

15: “She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.”

This is one of the attributes we must be developing. It is not enough to feed ourselves, we must be able to feed others. That ability is developed, it just does not happen over night. But it will never start unless we have the work ethic to support it. It isn't a thing of convenience. We do raise up during the night and get to work. We are not to be selective to whom receives these efforts. They are for the entire household and also for those who work in it. This effort must result in good nourishing food, seasoned with salt, not the empty promise of sugar. It takes time and practice to be able to do this. It is all a part of the maturing process. We are not to stifle this growth and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are to encourage it, and help it along as we are placed in the body, until we all come to the stature of Christ. Paul tells of his personal example of this process in 1 Cor 13:11.

11: “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

There does come a time in this calling when God expects us to leave the dependancy and immaturity of childhood behind. Others have done just that before us and others will after us. The first sign of this stage of growth taking place is when we can articulate the hope which lies in us to another. This is the first step in being able to defend ourselves against the onslaught of the Devil. It is the basic skill needed and required to be able to prepare food for others. We read about this in 1 Pet 3:13-16.

13: “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

14: But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed. Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.

15: But sanctify [or set apart] the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

16: having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”

There are many today who revile our good conduct in Christ. We have been granted to go beyond the milk of the word and to taste with our own lips and tongues the good word of God and the powers of the age to come. We have received this in our understanding of the first three festivals of God; Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost and through the understanding of the true calendar of God, the keeping of it. The understanding we have gained from this knowledge has allowed us to mature in discernment and enabled us to answer our Husband's knock at the door, and the individual calling of our name. As a result of these actions we are able to dine one on one with Him and be fed by Him. We are becoming intimate with Him. He is learning about our very inner being and we too are gaining a greater appreciation, understanding, and love for Him. We have come to understand who and what we are. That has been very uplifting at times, at other times very humbling, and at others sad. This process is not for all. In spite of that we are to continue to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, and we are to remember one another in order to stir up love and good works, unless we leave behind in gathering together our own after the poor habit of some. But on the contrary brethren we are to admonish, exhort, and urge all these, all of them, in a greater degree to perceive the return of our Husband for us, on the day He has shown us in His scriptures. We do this through personal involvement and by leaving a written record of our testimony.

We have gained a good understanding of the first phase of the plan of salvation. It is all about spiritual Israel, the bride of Christ. It is about a few being chosen out of the many who were called, both under the first covenant and the second. It is about the resurrection of the wife of the household of God. We have left a record of our testimony in the studies, titled “The Passover of The Lord,” “Pentecost & All Its Fullness,” “The 7 Churches, 7 Days of Unleavened

Bread, and the 7 Week's Journey to Pentecost," "Abib, Wavesheaf, Bride and the Plan of Salvation," and "The Calendar of God." We have identified what we are to be doing in this process to qualify. Do we know it all? Not likely. But we have been given what is required to make it in that first phase of the plan as to the degree of truth, and I stress this brethren, to the degree of truth. Be mindful however that truth is only half of the equation in true worship. Spirit is the other component. My question can be, are we tapping the fruit of the spirit individually. That brethren is another topic that I personally feel other parts of the body are more qualified than me to talk about. So with this in mind, what we have just gone over, it is now time to put some focus on phase 2 of the plan of salvation.

There appears to be a lot of confusion on that subject even within those who understand the fundamentals of the first phase. So let's look at this subject from the scriptures, not from confusion, vanity or desire to separate ourselves from past teachings, whether they be right or wrong. There is a deepening darkness filtering through what we know as the Churches of God. Many are taking their new found freedom from the dominion of men to unparalleled depths of spiritual depravity which I never thought I would see. As the old saying goes, "out of the pan and into the fire." In recent years I have heard some incredible heresy about what we call the "fall festivals." For some this term, "fall" has become truly that. Their new teachings surrounding Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles and the Great Last Day are truly causing them to trip and fall from their calling at this time.

We need to come to grips with a few things in regard to our past affiliation with the World Wide Church of God and its doctrines for those of us who have been there. That organization prior to 1986 clearly had much of the milk of the word. It is that very thing that attracted us to it. We were in need of milk and recognized it as such. We fed on that milk for years in most cases. It was not always good pure milk. On many occasions it was mixed with other substances used to put us to sleep. There were also times it was spiked with sugar to give us artificial short lived energy when it suited the designs of the leaders. As corrupt and spiritually diseased as that organization was it still had much of the milk right. Because of the

trap of dominion and government, it and we, did not grow beyond that milk. We were dumbed down but all the same we did have some milk. We had the doctrine of repentance before baptism fundamentally correct. We understood about faith in its juvenile forms. We understood about baptisms and symbolisms of the newness of life towards God. We had a doctrine of laying on of hands partially correct. We had a basic grip on the resurrection of the dead. We had the outline of eternal judgment. All of these are the milk of the word. We as an organization would have grown in these if it were not for the leadership suffering from delusions of grandeur. Their disease of having "dominion over another" led to the way of Satan, that being hierarchical rule and not the loving, nurturing, caring way of God which is patriarchy. As we know, that word is hated and vilified by the women-libbers of this day and age, and those who support them. Patriarchy has purpose, it has life, it has continuance, and it has rules and commandments. It is the outward expression of the love of the Father towards His household. Under it we are to grow in grace and knowledge. That is the course we are on today or we at least should be. We have been building upon the milk of the word. We have gone beyond it in many instances but not all of them. Our Husband has taught us that the "Spring Holy Days," the first three festivals, are all about the bride and her qualifying. That places a Father, Son, and His wife in the family spiritually. That is culminated at Pentecost, the jubilee of the bride of Christ, her release. Everything depicted in the plan of salvation through the "fall festivals" is about that family now growing larger. It is about the rest of mankind who are not called in this life and those who were but were not chosen for the function of the bride. The bride's suffering is over at Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Firstfruits. The journey of the rest of the family starts on Pentecost and stretches out to the Great Last Day. The bride's time of testing is depicted in the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread and the corresponding seven weeks journey in the wilderness to Mt Sinai and then the wedding supper on the 50th day of which only 74 people were allowed to participate in, out of the millions who undertook that journey and time of testing. The remainder of the 40 years in the wilderness is not about the bride. It is about the rest of the family and that is something we need to understand. When we look to understand what

the four fall festivals represent, we must do so with this in mind. Many today do not do this and thus fall into confusion and error in their understanding. In the past we had the time line for most of these events correct. And do not be deceived brethren, there is a perfect and precise time line to them, which we will see later just as we have seen for the spring festivals. We can find them all wrapped up in Leviticus 23.

In regard to Trumpets, we had it right that Christ would return to make war with the rulers of this world. Unfortunately we had thrown in many of the events surrounding Pentecost here as well. Atonement we had even more correct, it is the putting away of Satan, a true day of separation and a true jubilee for **physical Israel**. The Feast of Tabernacles we understood to be a time period of 1000 years of peace and learning under the guidance and leadership of Christ and His bride. As for the Last Great Day we did understand this was about the final judgment of all of mankind and the completion of the events depicted by the 7 festivals. There are some today who in their zeal to separate themselves from all that was WCG, mistakenly have thrown out the baby with the bath water. And then there are the wackos. We will not be discussing their upside down **lifeless** doctrines in this study. What we will be discussing is the true understanding of what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about from what the very clear scriptures tell us and not the traditions or commandments of men or organizations. The reason why we are going to start here at the 3rd festival in the fall festival succession is because many today are being led to believe that this time period is about the qualifying of spiritual Israel, the bride of Christ, when in fact it is not. She has already qualified at this point and she is heavily involved in carrying out her duties and functions as a spiritual member of the household of God and the wife to Jesus Christ. The time line of the great events depicted in the festivals of God are clearly spelled out in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Involvement of the bride of Christ, spiritual Israel, is spelled out there if one understands the deep meaning of the first three festivals; Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost and the relationship they have with each other as to the wave sheaf of barley and the seven weeks harvest.

What many forget to do in putting together the time

line of the feasts from the first month to the seventh month is to insert the simple and clear time line of Revelation 19 & 20. In Rev 19:7-8 we see the bride of Christ is marrying the Lamb. Verse 7:

7: "Let us rejoice and let us exult, and we will give glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb came, and His wife prepared herself." (JP Green Literal)

Did we get that? Present tense in the Greek not future tense. Number 2064 in Strong's,

"*erchomai*, middle voice of a primary verb (used only in the present and imperfect tenses, the others being supplied by a kindred [middle voice] *eleuthomai* or [active] *eltho*, which do not otherwise occur); to *come* or *go* (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively):"

Now the New King James,

7: "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

So here we see it is definitely present tense as in, "it has come or came." Clearly this is not a future event spoken of here from the perspective of the point of view of the time line or the sequence of these scriptures. The subsequent verses through this chapter tell us the sequence of events which follow this. We see Christ's return to the earth **to do battle** and proclaim judgement on the armies of opposition. This is clearly the Feast of Trumpets and look who is with Him. So here we had Pentecost up above with the marriage as we have seen through the time line in studying and understanding those things. And now we see He is returning with His bride, and to wage war. So we know this is Trumpets. And we read that in verse 14 of chapter 19. In chapter 20 we see the Devil separated from mankind which is the incredible lesson of the Feast of Atonement. The 10th day of both the 1st and the 7th months is about separation. Each phase has a separation involved in it. Just like Atonement we have 2 goats separated. It is important to understand these things. Then we see the saints, spiritual Israel, living and reigning with Christ for 1000 years. That is His wife. She is about the household business. The

time line continues through the Feast of Tabernacles and moves into the Feast of The Great Last Day depicting clearly many of the events which will take place during that time period. So with the marriage having taken place before Trumpets there is no need for any qualifying process or qualifying time for the bride being depicted during the fall festivals is there? No! It is a done deal already. So what is the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles depicting and where do the scriptures clearly show us all about it? Let's start in Lev 23:33-36.

33: "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
34: Speak to the children of Israel, saying: The fifteenth day of this seventh month starts the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.
35: On the first day a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.
36: Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, you shall do no customary work."

Brief and to the point. In the 7th month starting on the 15th day of that month, the Feast of Tabernacles starts, and runs for 7 days. The first day is a *shabbaton* or high holy day. An 8th day is attached to the 7 days of Tabernacles and is also to be a *shabbaton* or high holy day. Here we get the actual dates to keep these days but no explanation of what they are all about. That starts in verse 39 and continues through 43. In these verses we get very clear instruction as to who are the principle characters and why these days are tied to a particular people, place, and lesson. Before we read these, remember the bride of Christ is now the wife of Christ before these events take place. Remember the fundamental purpose of a marriage is to become fruitful and multiply. So verse 39:

39: "Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD seven days; on the first day sabbath-rest [*shabbaton*], and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest [*shabbaton*]."

This once again is repeating much of what we were instructed about in the prior verses with the exception

of one thing. God adds, "when you have gathered in the fruit of the land." In essence this is telling us that the harvest of the land has ended in this particular translation. That is not what the Hebrew says however. The JP Green translation is much more accurate.

39: "Also, in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you gather the increase of the land, . . ."

So here it is talking about something that is a process that's on going. We are not going to spend a lot of time here on this point but you will see why God uses the Hebrew here the way He does as we go through this study. I would hope that you would do a quick study of that yourself about the harvest in both the 7th and 8th months traditionally in Israel. It can be very helpful. Verse 40:

40: "And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days."

Once again we gain more insight into what is being depicted by keeping these 7 days here with this instruction. In Neh 8:15 we read:

15: ". . .Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

From these 2 verses we see several species of trees clearly identified. We see listed palm trees, willow trees, olive trees and myrtle trees. Every one of these trees represent healing and comforting powers. It again is a good personal study to undertake. Most of the brethren understand the benefits of olive oil for that has been taught commonly. But here we have willows listed. Do you know that aspirin comes from willow trees. Yes it takes away pain. Myrtle leaves and the fruit are a very powerful antiseptic and cleaning agent.

The fact is that the species of trees represented here in putting together these booths are not just for,

“protecting” only, but for **“healing and comforting”**. That is a significant point we must all understand so as to understand the purpose of these incredible 7 days of tabernacling with God. Verse 41:

41: “You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. A statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.”

Here for the 3rd time we are told it is to be kept for 7 days in the 7th month. We also see here that the 7 days of this particular feast is to be kept once in the year as the Hebrew depicts, “a feast to Jehovah, seven days in a year.” Now comes some incredible instruction about the main purpose of the 7 day feast. Verses 42 & 43:

42: “You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,
43: that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Now let's read it from the JP Green Interlinear:

42: “You shall live in booths seven days; all who are homeborn in Israel shall live in booths,
43: so that your generations shall know that I caused the sons of Israel to live in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; I am Jehovah your God.”

We are clearly told here that this feast is 1) “about all the native or home-born Israelites.” And secondly, they are to live in booths as a reminder of their forefathers when they came out of Egypt or sin. What did Israel do when they came out of Egypt? They whined and moaned their way across the wilderness for 7 weeks until they came to Mt Sinai. Now I know some of you are instantly tying the symbolism together in your minds. 7 weeks journey and 7 days of this fall feast. All the time God is with them in both instances as scriptures tell us. The end result of the 7 weeks journey however is Israel rejecting God in mass. They looked for a go-between, after all God had done for them. So there isn't the connection that some have

said there is. They were to be special to God however. Let's pick it up in Ex 19:4-6:

4: “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

5: Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

6: And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

For several weeks God has listened to the continual complaining of Israel about everything imaginable. He has been incredibly patient and loving towards them, feeding and defending them on that journey and then 3 days before the 50th day He tells them these incredible things and makes these incredible promises. Did Israel keep their part of the covenant? No, absolutely not. There were only a few who did individually, but not many collectively. That is a profound lesson for those under the new covenant as well. One is a type of the other in action, in deed, and in everything. We know the subsequent history of Israel, their ups and downs as a nation until their sins were so grievous that God used the Assyrians to take captive and scatter among the nations the 10 northern tribes and eventually He used Babylon to take Judah the 2 southern tribes into captivity. Israel never attained the greatness, the special position God had wanted them to among the nations. The vast majority of these scattered Israelites do not even know who they are and what the sins of their ancestors have done to them. That my friends is going to change. We are told that the chief lesson of the 7 day feast of Tabernacles is that all the generations will know why their ancestors were taken out of Egypt and thus what promises were made to them by God. They will come to know that God fulfills His promises if Israel will fulfill their part of the bargain. They will be made aware of who and what they are. These descendants will have the opportunity to undertake this millennial journey of taking up their rightful place among the nations as a special people, a nation of kings and priests. As well, the nations will also have the opportunity to witness this great event and acknowledge what God has done

for the nation of Israel. Israelites living in booths for these 7 days demonstrate God's love for them and His willingness to cover them with his healing and comforting powers. The Hebrew word used for booth 3 times in verses 42 and 43 is #5521 in the Strong's. It says of it,

“*cukkah*, Feminine of #5520; a *hut* or *lair*:”

It is derived from #5520,

“*cok*, From #5526; a *hut* (as of *entwined* boughs); also a *lair*:”

The root of these words is #5526,

“*sakak*, A primitive root; properly to *entwine* as a screen; by implication to *fence* in, *cover* over, (figuratively) *protect*: “

That is exactly what God is going to do for the physical descendants of Israel during the 7 days, or the Millennial rule of Christ and His bride. Take the time in the future to follow the uses of these words. The Brown Driver Briggs (BDB) does a very good job of doing so as to their particular usage.

These booths are foremost symbols of God's everlasting promises being kept. He will heal and cleanse Israel so she can take her rightful place amongst the nations. Now how do we know this is only referring to Israel and not all the nations?

Because verse 42 also tells us, “all who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths.” This clearly does not mean any nation other than Israel as some expound. Other nations will share in these blessings but only through Israel, if in fact they too recognize and obey the same commands God has given her. The Hebrew word for native or home born here is #249 in the Strong's.

“*ezrach*, From #2224 (in the sense of *springing up*); a spontaneous *growth*, that is, *native* (tree or persons):”

The BDB says,

“a native (one rising from the soil)”

It is used of native Israelites and of native trees growing in its natural soil. And so often God uses that context as demonstrated by “even the gentiles being grafted into the tree,” that being Israel. So God uses this word in very specific terms in reference to His people and their homeland and also in reference to the ground itself and planting a tree in it. That becomes

very significant in the language of prophecy as we are going to see.

We can be sure that the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles is focused on native Israelites being restored to their rightful position as God's chosen physical nation. It is about the healing He will give them and about the opportunities they have to correct the errors of their ancestors as we will clearly see. Instead of 7 weeks of whining, moaning, and complaining, we have here depicted 7 days of enjoyment, celebration, and obedience, under the cover of God's healing powers. This 7 day feast does not depict the bride's journey of struggle or qualifying to be the bride. It depicts the restoration of physical Israel amongst the nations with the bride of Christ sitting at His side endeavoring to grow the family of God. Physical Israel is restored to the promised land.

In Romans 11:26-27 we read,

26: “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27: For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

God has made it very clear in the prophecies that He will return and restore Israel as a nation to the place He not only promised her she would occupy, but still intends her to.

Before we go to some of these let's look up this understanding about this feast of 7 days in the 7th month. Ex 23:16.

16: “and the Feast of Harvest [which is Pentecost], the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.”

Now Ex 34:22,

22: “And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.”

Here we have God using the Hebrew word *acyph* or #614 in Strong's to name this 7 day fall festival. He calls it the "Feast of Ingathering" or "gathering in." Now it is commonly understood by the scriptures that Israel was pretty much completed as to their labors of the field after this point in the harvest. So why does God call this the "Feast of gathering in?" Strong's says of the word,

"From #622; *gathered*, that is, (abstractly) a *gathering* in of crops: - ingathering."

It's a primitive root #622, *acaph* means,

"to *gather* for any purpose; hence to *receive*, *take away*, that is, remove"

The BDB says of it,

"Ingathering, harvest, and what is gathered, stored"

This 7 day period depicts all of what we have covered so far but even more, which gives us more information about the time line in the plan of salvation and its purpose. First we have the bride of Christ qualifying and entering the family as the body of Christ, His beloved wife, through the 3 early feasts. The fall festivals are about the growth of the other members of the family. It starts with physical Israel after Christ has restored His rule to the earth and has put away the Devil from influencing His children to sin against Him. And that is through Trumpets and Atonement. After Israel's restoration comes the time of the rest of the nations including all who are alive at that time but also all who have ever lived, and all of the native Israelites who have died prior to that time period depicted by the Feast of Ingathering. Wonderful truths to understand, the plan of salvation has a very specific time line for those called of God to comprehend and rehearse through the keeping of the Feasts of God. Let's just ponder a few of these things before we see the witness of the ingathering of Israel in the scriptures and the subsequent healing and restoration in the prophecies.

These 7 days during the 7th month have tremendous importance to God by the use of the number 7. The 7th day is a day of rest from our labors. So too are the 7 days of Israel's living in booths. Remember in Mat 13:38, Christ uses the analogy of a field being the world. We have to keep that in mind. The Sabbath is a day that depicts refreshing, regaining of strength of body and mind. I ask you what were the 2 most

prominent activities of Christ on the 7th day, on the Sabbath? Healing and teaching, that is exactly what Christ and His bride will be doing during the Feast of Tabernacles. The 7th month holds the key to many of these great works and promises being fulfilled. Look at what God ties the 7th day Sabbath to in His review of the 10 commandments. Deut 5:12-15,

12: "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

13: Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

14: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

15: And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

It is not a coincidence brethren that the Feast of Tabernacles is tied to the lesson of coming out of Egypt just as the 7th day Sabbath is. We are going to see the similarities. Yes, both are times of refreshing and healing and restoration, as well both are tied to creation week by their numbers. I suggest that this too can be a worth while study for all to pursue. It is God's purpose for this 7 day festival in the 7th month to be called both the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Ingathering for those are the 2 great purposes we are to learn from it. We can't learn about the integrity of this feast day until we understand both the names that God calls it. Just as we did with the spring feast. Remember the Feast of Pentecost is also the Feast of First Fruits, Harvest, and Weeks. We couldn't have gained the understanding of what the meaning of Pentecost was to its fullness if we didn't come to the understanding of all the different names God called it. Thus is the case here with the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Ingathering. Let's start is Isa 11:10-16:

10: "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place

shall be glorious.

11: It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the **second** time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

12: He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

13: Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

14: But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; Together they shall plunder the people of the East; They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; And the people of Ammon shall obey them.

15: The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, And strike it in the seven streams, And make men cross over dry-shod.

16: There will be a highway for the remnant of His people Who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.”

Remember when a woman of Canaan beseeched Christ to heal her demon possessed daughter. That was in Matthew. His initial comments were, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” There is a lesson in all of this. Do we understand how these things all fit in the time line. There is much more. Isa 66:20-21:

20: “Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

21: And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the LORD.”

Jer 16:14-15:

14: “Therefore behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,

15: but, The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them. For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.”

Definitely ingathering brethren. Jer 32:37-42:

37: “Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.

38: They shall be My people, and I will be their God;

39: then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them.

40: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

41: Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.

42: For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.”

Ezk 20:33-38:

33: “As I live, says the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.

34: I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out.

35: And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face.

36: Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you, says the Lord GOD.

37: I will make you pass under the rod, and I will

bring you into the bond of the covenant;
38: I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Amos 9:14-15:

14: “I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

15: I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them, Says the LORD your God.”

So here once again we see the 2 meanings of *aciyph*, the native born and those planted in native soil. Mica 2:12-13:

12: “I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

13: The one who breaks open will come up before them; They will break out, Pass through the gate, And go out by it; Their king will pass before them, With the LORD at their head.”

Brethren there are many, many, more scriptures we could go to which describe this wonderful event of the ingathering and the tabernacling of the remnant of Israel once again with their God. Jer 23:1-8 is just one; Jer 30, the whole chapter with chapter 31 verses 1-6 read with it; Ezk 36:16-38. These are just a few of the many, many, many, scriptures that say the same thing. The scriptures are clear about what takes place during this time frame of the 7 day Feast of Tabernacles. We at this time are to keep this particular feast in its appointed time and as a rehearsal of the reality for which it stands and depicts. It is a time to rejoice together. It is a time to be refreshed. A time to be strengthened and healed. I ask brethren, do we do

this? Do we truly tabernacle with God at this time shutting of the cares of the world around us? We must be mature in our understanding of this great event and our keeping of it. It is a 7 day feast, not a 1 day feast brethren. If we have qualified to be the bride of Christ we will be at His side helping to accomplish all of what we have just read. Yes, we will be ruling with Him in the household of God and working to build a family which resides in it. Rev 20:4 tells us:

4: “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

It is our responsibility to be doing these works at this time, those works brethren which will help us to qualify to do this. We will be judged on such things. I challenge us all to become lights of the knowledge we have been entrusted with, to heal our brethren now, to comfort them now, and thus gain a deeper understanding of our relationship with not only our Father and Husband, but with those called to be a part of the family of God. We have to be able to impart this understanding. It is not enough just to know it ourselves.

In future studies we will cover Trumpets, Atonement, and the Great Last Day. But to be able to understand those we need to understand how tabernacles fits into the time line of the plan of salvation and who tabernacles is talking about. We can't be confused on those issues.

As I stated in the beginning of this study, it is time we started getting the basics together (of which we have most of them) of the fall festivals. But there is a time line that is involved here and we have to clearly understand those things.

Peace be with you.