

The 17 Things God Wants You to Know and to Honor!

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Published by VisionQuest Publishing, Inc. Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416

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There really are 17 things that God asks of you. That doesn't seem like much, but then again I remember that Adam, the first man, only had one duty to perform in the Garden. All God asked Adam to do was tend the Garden, Genesis 2:15-17, ¹⁵ Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." We all know what happened with only one duty, or rule, to follow. That didn't turn out very well for mankind as a whole. Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, they caused mankind to enter into a condition of sinfulness and separation between God and mankind. This means a spiritual separation and not a physical separation. However, God had a plan.

Within God's plan He selected a people to become His beloved people, and His goal (plan, etc.) was for them to represent God to all the rest of the peoples upon the earth. In a portion of this plan, God caused them to become enslaved in Egypt and for them to cry out to their God for deliverance. God delivered them through the leadership of Moses. This same time was the beginning of testing in the desert. Along this journey God instructed Moses to write down Ten Commandments for the people to follow. Once again, we have some simple rules to follow and they shouldn't be that difficult to follow. However, we see that even ten rules were too much for the people to follow and they created a golden calf to be their god. God saw what they were doing and caused them to wander for 40 years before they were allowed to enter into what God called the promised land.

Maybe we should look at these Ten Commandments to see what they really say. Can mankind really follow ten rules? Prior to looking at these ten rules, I'm going to provide an answer to my first question concerning whether mankind can really follow these ten rules. God's plan provided a means for the breech between Himself and mankind to be healed. That plan was for God to send His only Son to earth to become the living sacrifice to be presented as the offering to God. That same offering would redeem His people and provide a means for all of mankind to have a method so they would once again have a spiritual relationship with Almighty God. Here is my answer: Jesus made the following statement to all of mankind; Matthew 11:27-30, ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Look at verse 30 above. It clearly tells us that believing in Jesus provides an easy yoke and His burden upon us is light. Therefore, we should not have a difficult task in believing Jesus. But once again we need to look at the ten rules that God gave to all mankind to follow. We find these rules in the 20th chapter of the book of Exodus. Exodus 20:1-17; ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰



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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 cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." That is the full scripture record of God's Ten Commandments or rules in Exodus. Let's look at each one individually:

Verse 3 gives us commandment ONE: ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. That should be rather straightforward that there is only one God who is God Almighty. In our present day and age it seems mankind, themselves, has created several new gods for all people, in general, to follow. We have those who push science as a new god for mankind to follow. Their statement seems to be that science proves all things and is to be worshipped as the only truth to follow. Following right behind this new god is health as another new god. We are all to believe that science has given all of mankind greater health but we must also follow and worship the vaccines that mankind has developed as new found answers to today's problems. A third new god is humanism whereby the human spirit can out perform any unseen God who created the entire universe. The greatest new god is AI (artifical inteligence) in the form of smart phones and tablets. It even seems that a child is born with this AI infection and must be pressing keys by the time they are two years of age to be connected to today's world. From where is all of this new god belief coming? There is a simple answer: Satan, mankind's adversary. Satan will use any means available to distract mankind from the simple truth: there is only one true God!

Verses 4-7 gives us commandment TWO: ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. That is rather complex in its verbiage. Maybe a short version will make this rule simpler; worship no idol! Mankind has taken great steps to create idol after idol with no concern that the object of their creation is being worshiped. The worship of any object, other than God Himself, is an idol. You may ask what am I speaking about? Look around you at your hobbies, your sports, your pets and your possessions. You place a greater importance upon your hobby of quilting, or fishing or collecting than you do toward worshipping God. You idolize a sports team and follow every game and desire to be where the action is. You pick up your dog or cat and kiss it on its mouth as if it was your child. You really allow your pets to control you instead of you being the master having dominion over the pet. Finally look at the gifts that God has given to you; your house, your car, your wealth, your health, and your family. Instead of praising God on Thanksgiving and Christmas you praise and worship material items that God's grace has provided to you.

Verse 7 gives us commandment THREE: ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Once again we have a straightforward and simple rule. Do not take the name of the LORD in vain!

Verse 8-11 gives us commandment FOUR: 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six



days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ 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 cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Christianity has really done a wonderful job messing up this one commandment. Through the influence of Satan, Catholic priest, bishops and popes have misunderstood the crucifixion of Jesus and by some wording here or there have rejected this one commandment and made Sunday the day for Christians to worship God. God's Word plainly reads that mankind is to honor the seventh day, or the Sabbath, and keep it holy. The Bible does not say anything about honoring the first day of the week or anything about Jesus being resurrected from the dead on a Sunday (the first day of the week). Every Christian who believes that Friday to Sunday equals the statement made by Jesus that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish makes Jesus out to be a liar. I personally do not intend to call Jesus a liar. DO YOU? Isn't that the same thing as violating the third commandment by taking the word of the LORD in vain? Final words on this rule: Jesus says that He is Lord of the Sabbath and not the lord of the first day of the week.

We have gone through the first four commandments and are at the natural dividing point within this set of rules. These first four rules pertain to God and the honoring of our God. Jesus shortened the ten commandments down to two when He answered the lawyer with the following in Matthew 22:35-40, ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." The final six rules (commandments) represent a moral code for an orderly society, no matter where you are on the planet, or of which society (race) you are speaking.

Verse 12 gives us commandment FIVE: ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. This is the first moral rule and it honors your parents and also is the only commandment that provides a promise of long life.

Verse 13 gives us commandment SIX: ¹³ "You shall not murder. Murder is a punishable crime in every society and nation on earth. However, at the same time, some societies make up laws that establish wording that make excuses for murdering innocence children. They carry this forward and call this a health function for female members of society. They call this act an abortion, God fearing societies call this murder. In the Bible God instructed His people not to worship, or follow, the practice of sacrificing their children through the fires of Moloch. In either case this was, and is, the practice of murdering innocence children.

Verse 14 gives us commandment SEVEN: ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. Here rests a simple rule that is multifacited in its meaning. First, the meaning of this rule would give us the concept that there was a lawful Godly marriage between a male and a female. This is established in the first book of the Bible in Genesis 2:24, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* Mankind has once again established a manmade rule that is contrary to what the Bible teaches. The purpose of marriage is to produce children. A marriage of two individuals that are of the same gender fails to fulfill the purpose of marriage because of a simple principle: two men cannot produce children and neither can two women produce a child. Secondly, same sex marriage is the unnatural sexual function of sexual perversion. God calls such a practice an abomination.

Verse 15 gives us commandment EIGHT: ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. God tells us that we are not to be thieves. Over the course of the last two years we have seen an increase in rioting and looting. It seems the practice is to instill a crisis, start a riot and while everybody is wrapped up in the moment break into a store and steal everything you can. Maybe it is the fact that the current pandemic has created a do nothing, get it given to you society, or society will just break in and steal what they want. There is a statement in the Bible that says, if you don't work you don't eat. So tell me why it seems that everyone has a new mindset that it should all be free with no punishment for stealing it. Let's take this one step further. Manufacturers have lost sight of producing a quality item for a reasonable price. God tells us to have a fair and honest set of weights. In the days of the Bible, a balance was used to provide an exchange between seller and buyer. The set of weights used were not to be drilled out to be lighter for one set and the drilled out portion to be filled with lead to be heavier for the other set. A cheating seller would use the lighter set when they purchased an item and the heavier set when they sold their product. Today we see engineered obsolescence in many of today's products. There is a desire to use plastic parts instead of metal for the wear and tear to quickly be influenced upon a product. At one time this nation produced the best the world could build. Today it seems that cars, buildings, and consumable products are all engineered to fail as quickly as possible so another one must be bought, or the profit is greater because the least expensive building material is used. Let's use another example. Look at the corruption in our present day government system. In days gone by our forefathers would call it a bribe. Today they call it a law and use these type laws to manipulate everything from your bank account to the taxes you have to pay to the government. These laws do not take into consideration how many times a tax has already been paid, somehow the government will now tax you again on the same thing. The incentives to work hard and produce the best you can has gone by the wayside. You will pay taxes on your wages. Take part of your wages and invest it in savings for the future and you will be taxed on the interest. Sell stock or property and you will be taxed on capital gain. Die and your children will be taxed on their inheritance. That is a form of manipulated deception and it is the same thing as stealing. It really doesn't matter the form it may take, it is still, in truth, committing thievery by illegally cheating, stealing or deceiving. The people of this nation seem to have forgotten the fact that this nation and the nation of Israel are the only two nations that have made a covenant with our God. God blessed us as a nation when we acted in a godly manner. However, we have been on a road of self destruction ever since the end of World War II and our blessings have been getting less and less as we travel down that forbidden pathway. It is time this nation takes a moment to think about the history of this nation and our constitution. That history, now days, seems like something that we no longer need to know about. Society has turned its back toward our God, our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and all things that have helped make us a nation of united people. We are now split 50/50 on just about everything. We are either Republican or Democrat, right or left, for or against, just or unjust, fair or unfair. Many of those who desire a socialistic, one world government believe it will solve the problems of our planet. I hate to tell you this but every action toward that one world government is a stamp of approval for Satan, his antichrist and false prophet. Those three are the trinity of hell and every step this nation takes away from the God our forefathers made a covenant with only brings these three closer. Wake up sleeping giant! Wake up all you believers of the one true God! Repent, change your ways, stand up for the blood of Christ and be the Godly people you were meant to be! God's warning is now, God's wrath is near. Remember what Jesus said, "You are either for me or you are against me!"

Verse 16 gives us commandment NINE: ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. To state this in simple terms is to say "you should not lie." Even in a court of law we take an oath that we shall tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Do you really believe that fake media tells the truth in every broadcast that they make? It does not matter if you are reading the

newspaper, listening to radio or television, or streaming on the Internet, you don't know what is truth and what is propaganda. There is no unity in this nation and the country is now divided just about 50/ 50. United We Stand, Divided We Fall is the motto of both the states of Kentucky and Missouri. In reading the book of Jeremiah, we should understand what the prophet told the nation of Judah about what was going to happen to them because of their unbelief. The same destiny is about to overtake this nation, and there doesn't seem to be many who understand the warnings that God is sending. The fires, heavy rains, drought out west, snow in Hawaii, earthquakes and volcanoes are all warning of God's judgment against the nations of the earth because of their unbelief. Wake up and try to smell the roses. Mankind is causing their own destruction and no one seems to understand why this is happening.

Finally, verse 17 gives us commandment TEN: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." This actually a very simple rule. It means that you are not to envy anything that does not belong to you. In many ways the violation of this rule also causes you to violate rule SIX, SEVEN or EIGHT. By being envious over what your neighbor has, you may want to steal from him, or have a sexual encounter with his wife or servant, or you my be led to murder your neighbor to obtain what belongs to your neighbor. The choice you should make is to believe in God and through His grace you will experience a healthy and wealthy life. There really is no reason to violate any of these ten rules that God has given to mankind to follow.

Just to show you that it is easy to find God in almost everything, I'd like to give you my version of a Tex Ritter story called Deck of Cards. Many people would not believe that a deck of playing cards could be used to stimulate Holy memories in your head. Tex Ritter tells the story of a soldier in World War II after a six day march in the African Campaign. He tells that a group of men went to church and after the opening prayer many of the men took out prayer books, but this one soldier took out a deck of cards and spread them out. A Sergeant saw the soldier and told him to put the cards away. After the service the Sergeant took the soldier, as a prisoner, before the Provost Marshal. Many reading this story will not understand what the Provost Marshal position is in military service. The Provost Marshal is like the chief judge over the military police unit. The Provost Marshal asked the Sergeant why he had brought the soldier to him, and the Sergeant said the soldier was playing cards in church. The Provost Marshal asked the soldier if this was true and if so that he would be punished more seriously than others. The soldier spoke and told the Provost Marshal that he hoped by his story the Provost Marshal would understand his pure intentions. He said he had been on the six day march and that he did not have a prayer book like some of the other men, however he did have his deck of cards which reminded him of the following:

The <u>ace</u> reminded him that there was only one true God,

the <u>two</u> reminded him that there were two parts to the Bible, the old and the new testaments,

the **three** reminded him of the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,



the four reminded him of the four evangelist of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,



the **five** reminded him of the five wise virgins who trimmed and filled their lamps,



the six reminded him of the six days that it took God to create the heavens and the earth,



the seven reminded him that God rested on the seventh day and made it Holy,



the **<u>eight</u>** reminded him of the eight persons who were saved from the great flood, they were Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives,



the <u>**nine</u>** reminded him of the nine lepers who were healed by Jesus who did not even thank Him, only the one returned to thank Jesus for healing him,</u>



the ten reminded him of the ten commandments that God gave to Moses,



the Jack reminded him of a knave who is Satan,



the **Queen** reminded him of the virgin Mary, the mother of Christ,



the King reminded him Jesus was the King of kings and Lord of lords,

the **<u>number of spots</u>** of all the cards is 365 reminding him of the number of days in a year,

the **<u>number of cards</u>** in the deck is 52 reminding him of the number of weeks in a year,

the **<u>number of suits</u>** in the deck is 4 reminding him of the seasons, spring, summer, fall, and winter,

the **<u>number of face cards</u>** is 12 reminding him of the number of months in a year,

the **<u>number of tricks</u>** in the deck is 13 reminding him of the number of weeks in a quarter.

He told the Provost Marshal that the deck of cards provided him with the memory of both the Bible and a calendar. Both the Provost Marshal and the Sergeant learned something at that meeting. The soldier was released from arrest and returned to duty without punishment. Isn't it amazing what memory can be recalled from a deck of cards? This story can most likely be listened to on You Tube in the country-western music by Tex Ritter under the title - Deck of Cards.

Another View of The Ten Commandments

During the week of July 23rd, in the year 2000, the courts in the Commonwealth of Kentucky determined that the Ten Commandments could not be displayed on the grounds of the State Capital Building because it violated the separation of church and state.

I would like to address my view on this matter. I would have to start out by stating that the attorney representing the state surely was not a believing Christian. If he was, he surely was not prepared, nor understood the truth. In modern day thought, it is said that someone who goes into court Pro Se has a fool for a client. Yet, I believe that I could have gone in Pro Se and represented the case in opposition to the ACLU. The case said that the Ten Commandments are a Christian document. It was also implied that the Ten Commandments represented religious instruction. Really? What would the truth say?

Where do we find this Document? The Bible. Well! That explains the problem real quick. The ACLU would do anything that they could, in the name of civil liberties, to get the Bible destroyed. However, righteousness would have to stand and challenge this thought and present the truth. While the verbiage we call the Ten Commandments may be located in the book we call the Bible, we must define what it is we are really looking at and what it indicates.

The Old Testament is the portion of the Bible that contains the Ten Commandments, thus a Jewish teaching and not a Christian teaching. Christians only borrowed the original teachings and incorporated them into their own. Now, for the argument that the Ten Commandments does not consider any other religion other than Christianity, we have the testimony of the document itself for the basis of saying that is wrong. This was a Jewish writing and furthermore, Mohammed taught the followers of Islam, in the Holy Quran, that the reasons the Jews and Christians failed was because they did not submit to the Law. The Law he was speaking of was the Ten Commandments. Then in practice don't we find the basis of this teaching present in all the major faiths around the world?

Secondly, this portion of the Old Testament has to do with the history of a people and not with a religion. At the time of the writing, Moses, acting as God's agent, presented God's rules to the Jewish people who had left the bondage of Egypt. Unless I misunderstand the concept of religion, within its framework and meaning, these rules do not create a religion.

Thirdly, the major intent of these rules was moral training upon a society and not the rules of a religion. If the truth must be stated, it is mankind that invents religion with its ceremony and rituals. God only asked for obedience to His rules, the same as any sovereign government asks for its rules, or laws, to be obeyed. Now, of these numbered articles, they all could be taken as moral regulations that support civil authority. By themselves, they represent no religion and their basis in training is strictly morality by their very nature. We have written laws within the land that say murder, theft and adultery are punishable crimes. We can say that you could place the name of Buddha, or Allah or any other deity you believe in as the one speaking in the first four rules. You did not change the intent of the rule.

We also have laws that protect us from false accusations and lies being told about us. And we have laws that indicate we should not commit fraud. We have whole agencies that support the honoring of parents and the protection of orphans. In these simple paragraphs haven't I covered the exact same rules as those presented in the Ten Commandments? Where was the religion stated or demonstrated?

Finally, there is the question concerning separation of church and state: The placement of this document was to be a metal plaque located at the flower garden of the State Capital building. Doesn't the building itself represent the seat of government for this Commonwealth and doesn't the grounds itself represent public land? If placed upon public land, how is it that this is interpreted to mean the infringement of church into government? I pray that the intent of these stated rules are within the framework of our government, for otherwise, we have lost the foresight to understand the need to

govern in a Godly manner and not as a mass of immoral people. Furthermore, doesn't public land mean for the people, by the people and of the people? Are we really in such a condition that as a nation we have given up our believing in God? Doesn't it say, "In God We Trust" on every coin and bill of the realm? Is it now the law that we, God fearing people, can not state our belief upon a portion of public land that we ourselves have vested blood, sweat and taxes toward?

Somehow it seems to me that the purpose of the ALCU is not to insure our civil liberties, but to take away our civil liberties of being a FREE God-fearing nation. I find it strange in this land of freedom that a belief in God is now considered alien to government. Upon the world, as a whole, there are governments that if you even utter a word toward any deity other than the one supported by the government you may find yourself incarcerated. If it were not for our forefathers being God-fearing men who had enough intestinal fortitude to stand up and speak their mind with honor, dignity and with a belief that there was a supreme being who created all things around us, where would we be today as a nation? We now, in the name of this hard sought freedom, seem to permit any and all comers to state what they believe and allow a belief in God to be watered down to the point that those who do believe will one day be considered a secret society hidden from the view of everyday life. If actions, such as this, are permitted to recur again, all have failed to carry out the insight of the Constitution framers and you will surely see the nation known as The United States of America fall from grace.

The Law Given to Moses

It is now time to take a serious look at the contribution that Moses gave to mankind. We should understand that everyone of the Hebrew nation was not happy with Moses. We actually could take Abraham Lincoln's quote about pleasing people and apply it to Moses: the people were just not pleased all the time. Even so, there's an article that Moses carried off the mountain that we need to look at and we can find the information recorded in Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5.

Currently, in today's world, I think it is a shame that we Americans have permitted Satan to blind us to the point that we allow groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge the posting of this document, the Ten Commandments. The ACLU indicates the posting of this document in schools, courtrooms and on monuments on government owned land has something to do with religion and therefore we must observe a separation between church and state. Pray tell, how did we become so confused over what this document really is?

First and foremost, this is not a religious document! **Period!** This is a moral document and nothing more. Why is it that because these words are found in the Bible that they have suddenly become a religious document? The instructions on how to construct the Tabernacle, the Temple or the observances performed by the priests would be religious by their very nature. But how is it, when most of the wording in the Ten Commandments could be easily found in the statues of every state and commonwealth in the union, that we call this a religious document? Don't we have laws that state stealing, lying and adultery are punishable crimes? Don't we have state agencies that protect our youngest and oldest members of society? And if you really get down to those commands pertaining to the observance of the Sabbath, did you find anything that says you must be of one particular faith?

I've heard the ACLU state in open court that this is a religious document because it is supported by the Christian faith and no other. Isn't that a total scream! The document wasn't even given to those of the Christian faith. At the time it was given, I'd be willing to say that you could take well over a million people off on a one-on-one discussion of their religion and they wouldn't even know about what it was you were asking questions. The Hebrew people did not see these instructions as being relevant to their Jewish faith. They saw them as being moral instructions from God. Now, are you going to try to take this further and tell me: therefore, anything written that implies it is an instruction from a deity is religious? Somehow I would say that there would be much more confusion among mankind if that was the case. Every instruction from any one deity would not be considered binding upon another group who did not adhere to the teaching of that deity. Thus for the sake of sanity within any moral society these are not religious teachings, they are moral teachings.

There is another question that I must address. Why is it that Christians seem to have this idea they are not to live by the laws that God handed down through Moses? How many times have you heard a Christian say, "I'm a New Testament believer, that doesn't apply to me," or "We're a New Testament church and the old covenant doesn't apply to us?" Once again, I'm lead to believe there are many who missed the point. Christians may be under the New Covenant given by Jesus but that does not exempt them from the principles of the law. Understand this statement! Jesus himself uttered five of the commandments of Moses verbatim. If the principles of the law do not apply under the new covenant, I have several verses to show you to provoke thought. Let us look at the statement of Jesus in Matthew 5:17, Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. How does an individual fulfill any law? Isn't it in the observance of that law? Don't we, as a society, have many laws that we call statues that are written at town, city, county, state and federal level? Don't we as citizens of that town, city, county, state or country fulfill the law by respecting the law, observing the law and by obeying the law? We break the law when we do not obey the law. Isn't that exactly what Moses gave to the Hebrews at Mount Sinai? Isn't that what Jesus meant when He said he came not to destroy, but to fulfill? Seriously, is this a religious instruction or a moral instruction? It is time that mankind figured out that to be righteous in God's eye is to be moral in man's eye by following the laws that have been handed down. Stop and think, if mankind had followed the laws given by Moses there would have been no reason to issue further laws (on heaven-only-knows what subjects). Jesus did not come to set up a religion: He came, as heir to the throne, to illustrate to mankind how to worship God the Father by being obedient to the law and to the teachings of the prophets.

For the sake of illustration let's go through the teachings of Jesus to see which of the Ten Commandments He also taught. The first commandment is "*You shall have no other gods before Me*." For this illustration I'll show you the two verses that give the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament and also the verse or verses that Jesus taught.

Commandment One: Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me." Deuteronomy 5:7, "You shall have no other gods before Me." Jesus used, thus taught, this commandment in the following manner; Matthew 4:10, Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.""

Commandment Two: Exodus 20:4, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Deuteronomy 5:8, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Jesus never used this statement directly, according to the Gospels, and the one verse that I can come up with is the same one that He spoke to Satan. Matthew 4:10, Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Jesus also taught the following in Matthew 22:20-21, And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are God's."

Commandment Three: Exodus 20:7, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for



the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Deuteronomy 5:11, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His *name in vain.*" Once again, we have one of the commandments that Jesus did not speak verbatim, however, Jesus did teach the following: Matthew 5:33-37, "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." Also in Matthew 23:16-22, Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. And also in Matthew 26:63-64, But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Commandment Four: Exodus 20:8, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*" Deuteronomy 5:12, "*Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.*" In reading the Gospels one finds that Jesus did many things on the Sabbath, in fact, it was one of the major reasons that the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus spoke the following in Mark 2:27-28, *And He said to them,* "*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.*" We can also see the manner of the Jewish rulers in the following: Luke 13:14, *But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."* Today we see great conflict among mankind over the Sabbath. Is it on Friday, or Saturday or is it Sunday that makes the Sabbath? What if we observed the statement that there are six days to work and one day to honor God? If we followed the instructions as they are given we must honor the Sabbath as being our Saturday.

Commandment Five: Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you." Deuteronomy 5:16, "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you." This one command was quoted more by Jesus than any other and can be found verbatim in five different verses. Matthew 15:4, "For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'" Matthew 19:19, "Honor your father and your mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Mark 7:10, For Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'" Mark 10:19, "You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother." Luke 18:20, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.'"



Commandment Six: Exodus 20:13, "You shall not murder." Deuteronomy 5:17, "You shall not murder." Jesus spoke the following: Matthew 5:21, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, you shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment." Matthew 19:18, He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness." Paul also spoke about this commandment in the following: Romans 13:9, For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." I must ask another question: Why does mankind have so much confusion over this one commandment? One can find division between people, between denominations and certainly between church and state over this one command. You don't think so! Okay, explain to me why there is so much said on both sides of the capital punishment issue or over abortion rights. If you take the stand that both are murder and against the commandment, I have to raise another question. Why did God direct the Hebrews to kill, murder if you will, complete groups of people? There is a great problem in the argument! Either God does not follow His own laws and He is a liar or there is another answer. Let's reverse the statement and answer the second point first. We find in the following two verses that God cannot lie. Titus 1:2, In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. Hebrews 6:18, That by two unchanging things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. Now, let's address the other point. There are different translations of the Bible and different words used in both Greek and Hebrew that can mean kill. If you view the NIV, NRSV or the NKJV the word used in this command is murder. If you view the KJV verse for this command the word used is kill. To further explain the differences look at Strong's Concordance. In looking under the word kill there are no less than 14 different words that translate kill (8 in the Hebrew and 6 in the Greek). Understandably when there are 14 various words translated to kill it would seem that murder is the more correct translation than that used in the King James; however, by so doing this the verses where God directs the Hebrews to kill places a conflict in the minds of men. We can even see that this was the reason that King Saul was removed from the throne. 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." We should understand that God does cleanse sin from what is His and that may include the killing of the sinner. That does not violate the law, for it is directed destruction and is not murder. Murder has the implied intent to do harm. Therefore, there is a difference between someone killing in a time of war, or on the other side of the fence, killing someone to get revenge, the intent to do harm against another individual because you think you have been wronged and must make amends. Do I hear that God is a loving God and wouldn't do this? God may be a loving God, but even more so God is a righteous God. Out of righteousness one can find love. Out of deception, lead by Satan, one can find the change of thought to

lead many astray from being righteous to being what they perceive to be right. Every one of us should take the time to read and study this one command to see if our personal thoughts are in accord with the intent of the Bible or if they are in accord with tradition that may lead us away from what the Bible actually teaches.

Commandment Seven: Exodus 20:14, "You shall not commit adultery." Deuteronomy 5:18, "You shall not commit adultery." We see Jesus speaking this commandment in the following, Matthew 5:27, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, you shall not commit adultery." and in Matthew 19:18, He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness." Paul continued the teaching in the following verse. Romans 13:9, For the commandments, "You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Commandment Eight: Exodus 20:15, "You shall not steal." Deuteronomy 5:19, "You shall not steal." Jesus spoke these words in the following: Matthew 19:18, He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness." Paul spoke them in Romans 13:9, For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Commandment Nine: Exodus 20:16, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Deuteronomy 5:20, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Jesus spoke this command in Matthew 19:18, He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness." Mark 10:19, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and your mother.'" Luke 18:20, "You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and your mother.'" Luke 18:20, "You know the commandments: 'Do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and your mother.'" Paul taught in Romans 13:9, For the commandments, "You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Commandment Ten: Exodus 20:17, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Deuteronomy 5:21, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." Jesus did not speak this command directly, and furthermore there are many who do not understand what this command means. We don't use the word covet that often anymore, but if you associate the act of greed, plus personal desire (wanting something that isn't yours, or being desirous), in this command you should have something on the order of: You shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor's house; you shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor's. To see this in a Biblical verse look at the following: Deuteronomy 7:25, "You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination

to the LORD your God." To see how Jesus applied this command look at the following. In this first verse we see the overall intent that covetousness, or desire may cause. Luke 12:15, And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." In the second verse we can see the desire of lust, even for your neighbor's wife, illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 5:28, "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Paul did speak more about this command in the following: Romans 7:7, What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." Romans 13:9, For the commandments, "You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Blessings for Obedience

If one really wants to see the intent of the law and the righteousness of obedience to God it is easy to find in the following verses. Deuteronomy 28:1-14, "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them." Do I hear some say that this does not apply to them because they are not Jewish? Better go back and review how your line of descent ties you into the covenant God gave to Abraham.

Curses for Disobedience

Deuteronomy 28:15-29:1, "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the

fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me. The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed." "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away. The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you." "You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes. Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them. Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually. So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see. The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head." "The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods; wood and stone. "And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you." "You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vinevards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off. You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land." "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail." "Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever." "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your

flocks, until they have destroyed you." "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you. You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates." "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues; great and prolonged plagues; and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed. You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess." "Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known; wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see." "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you." These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb. So there, you have a choice: abundant life or existence; freedom or slave; lender or borrower and it is all left up to each of us to make our own choice whether we will be obedient to God's commands or not. Each of us will make a choice and each will see the results of that choice. What will yours be, abundant life through obedience, or existence through disobedience?

We have now reviewed the first ten rules that God wants us to know and honor. God gave these rules to Moses and called them the Ten Commandments. We still have seven other items to review and grasp what God is asking us to understand. Those seven items would be God's feast days.

God's Ordained Feast Days

Considering today's standards many of us know very little about God's ordained feast days. These days we put little faith in what the Bible says in the Old Testament! We have some denominations teaching replacement theology whereby the Church has replaced Israel in Bible teachings. Some of the reasoning is due to our denomination's leaders teaching us during our lifetime that the Old Covenant has been replaced by the New Covenant, therefore the old no longer applies. Additionally, some schools of thought have decided that prophecy is no longer needed and they disregard one third of Bible teaching. I must read a different Bible from most people. My personal faith and knowledge of what is recorded in the Bible directs me in a different direction. I still like to use the following acronym for BIBLE, **B**asic Instructions **B**efore Leaving Earth.

My God did not instruct me to read only a portion of His guide book. He seems to have implied that the guide book was to be understood in its entirety. Part of that instruction was to show, and for us to see, the disobedience of God's chosen people and how God dealt with their disobedience. Ultimately, God sent His Son so the breech between God and His people could be mended.

There will be those who will say that this statement is all fine and good, however it doesn't apply to them because they are not Jewish. Those who question in this manner will also wonder why I'm leaving them out of the picture, yet the great tie point for these people is through Jesus.

Allow me to make a quick point of reference and then I will attempt to tie the pieces together for everyone's understanding. **There are three times every year a man is to appear before the Lord.** These are the <u>Feast of Passover</u>, the <u>Feast of Weeks</u> and the <u>Feast of Tabernacles</u>. Here are the verses to prove these things to each person reading this material. These verses are given from three different translations: King James (KJV), New International (NIV) and the New English Translation (NET):

Exodus 23:17, <u>Three times in the year</u> all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD. (KJV) "<u>Three times a year</u> all the men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord." (NIV) <u>At three times in the</u> <u>year</u> all your males will appear before the Lord God. (NET)

Exodus 34:23, <u>Thrice in the year</u> shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. (KJV) <u>Three times a year</u> all your men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord, the God of Israel. (NIV) At <u>three times in the year</u> all your men must appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel. (NET)

Deuteronomy 16:16, <u>Three times in a year</u> shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty. (KJV) <u>Three times a year</u> all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed. (NIV) <u>Three times a year</u> all your males must appear before the Lord your God in the place he chooses for the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Temporary Shelters; and they must not appear before him empty-handed. (NET)

We can also show that even King Solomon observed these feast days: 2 Chronicles 8:13, *Even* after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, <u>three times in the year</u>, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles. (KJV) According to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and <u>the three annual feasts</u>—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. (NIV) He observed the daily requirements for sacrifices that Moses had specified for Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and <u>the</u>

<u>three annual celebrations</u> — the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Temporary Shelters. (NET)

Why would it be necessary to use more than one verse from three different translations to have you, the reader, understand that every male must appear annually before the Lord on three occasions? It is necessary to show you that there are the two or three witnesses to establish the truth. Deuteronomy 19:15 (NIV), *One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed.* <u>A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses</u>. Matthew 18:16 (NIV), *"But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses*." Any time you can find the same wording in two or three different places in the Bible you have a principal rule from God. We must also remember that the <u>Bible tells us that God cannot lie</u>. Titus 1:2 (NIV), *In hope of eternal life which God, <u>who cannot lie</u>, promised before time began. So we have our basic fact and our confirmation that there is the requirement for every male to present himself before God on three days each year.*

There is one other important conditional statement that establishes the requirement for males to present themselves before God three times a year: This requirement never ends until the final days of the earth! Many will gasp and step back saying: No! I'm a New Testament Christian this doesn't apply to me in any manner whatsoever.

Once again it becomes necessary to show those two or three witnesses to establish the testimony of truth. When God established His covenant with Moses as a guide for the Israelites He set aside His permanent rest day and His feast days **for all future generations** to follow. I know you don't believe that because you have never been instructed to follow those days nor celebrate those feast. <u>Stay</u> with me! Let us see what the Bible says pertaining to each holy day or feast.

For Passover and Firstfruits: Leviticus 23:14 (NIV), You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. <u>This is to be a lasting ordinance for</u> <u>the generations to come, wherever you live.</u> For Feast of Weeks: Leviticus 23:21 (NIV), On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. <u>This is to be a lasting ordinance</u> <u>for the generations to come, wherever you live.</u> For Feast of Tabernacles: Leviticus 23:41 (NIV), Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. <u>This is to be a lasting ordinance for</u> <u>the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month</u>.

God's instructions pertaining to His feast days fall on deaf ears for the most part. Our mainstream society is made up of people professing Jesus as God's son in various denominations. All of these denominations do not, nor seemingly will not, declare that there is any association between them and Israel. They might offer a feeble attempt to call themselves the New Israel but they will overlook the truth for lack of knowledge of who we are in our mainstream society.

I am not Jewish, but I am an Israelite, a proud descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No! That does not make me Jewish, nor you either for that matter. We really don't study the old Testament to that extent and when we do, we don't see any connection that we may have to the people identified as God's chosen people.

We should all understand that the original individual considered the forefather of God's chosen people was Abel. Cain killed Abel and the line was cut off the first time. Seth was then born and the line once again had a connecting link as God's chosen people. We transferred the chosen line across the flood event of Noah and ended with the birth of Abraham as the father of all the blessed nations. Through Sarah's maid Hagar, Abraham had Ishmael but it was not through Ishmael that the chosen line was to follow. God performed a miracle and Isaac was born. God tested Abraham's faith and told him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham did as God instructed and this act became the type for the prototype of Jesus who was sacrificed for all of mankind's sins. But where does the link to the people in the United States enter? That part of the overall picture begins to form with the birth of Isaac's two sons Esau and Jacob. Esau was the oldest and therefore the holder of the birthright as the forebearer of all the multitude to become God's chosen people. However, by trickery, Jacob bought Esau's birthright and then by deception gained Esau's blessing from a blind father and became the forefather of God's chosen people.

Stop for a moment and think! Jacob was the father of twelve sons and one daughter. <u>Those</u> <u>twelve sons are the so called Twelve Tribes of Israel</u>. While Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel, was father to these twelve sons, however, there are four women who mothered those sons. Let us look at the birth of the sons by each of the four women. Leah was Israel's first wife and she bore Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and the only daughter Dinah. Leah's maid Zilpah bore Gad and Asher. Leah's sister, Rachel bore Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel's maid Bilhah bore Dan and Naphtali.

History must move forward toward the present day. We see that Levi is appointed as the priest for all the tribes and removed from those counted toward the inheritance or fighting strength. Our count of tribes is now reduced by one to make eleven. Reuben and the other brothers, outside of Benjamin, sold Joseph into slavery and he was taken to Egypt. Years later Joseph was the governor of Egypt and his brothers came to him, unaware that he was their brother. They went to Egypt to buy grain during a period of extended famine. Joseph invited his brothers, their families and his father Israel to come and live in Egypt when it came time to reveal who he was. With Israel's advanced age, it was not long before he called his sons to his death bed. When Joseph appeared, he had with him his two sons that had been born in Egypt. Israel took it upon himself to adopt these two sons and make them as his own. Genesis 48:5-6 (NIV), *"Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers." With this being done, we see that the name Joseph is also removed from the tribes but the two new names of Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons) are added, once again, making twelve tribes.*

I have said that I was an Israelite but not Jewish. That is true for my forefather was an Israelite-Egyptian governor and his wife was my Egyptian mother. I am a part of the thirteenth tribe of Manasseh, which is represented as the United States. Great Britain is our brother country of Ephraim. Together we are a portion of the ten lost tribes of Israel. Those tribes are lost because God gave Israel a divorce and scattered them throughout the nations. I am including the entire third chapter of Jeremiah to illustrate for you the displeasure of the Lord God and why God gave Israel a divorce! Jeremiah 3:1-25 (NKJV), They say, "If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again? Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me," says the Lord. "Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain with men? By the road you have sat for them like an Arabian in the wilderness; and you have polluted the land with your harlotries and your wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot's forehead; you refuse to be ashamed. Will you not from this time cry to Me, 'My father, you are the guide of my youth?' Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end? Behold, you have spoken and done evil things, as you were able."

The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, **I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce**; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and <u>committed adultery with stones and trees</u>. And yet for all this her

treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense," says the Lord.

Then the Lord said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel," says the Lord; "I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful," says the Lord; "I will not remain angry forever. Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the Lord your God, and have scattered your charms to alien deities under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice," says the Lord.

"Return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the Lord, "that they will say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore. At that time Jerusalem shall be called *The Throne of the Lord*, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers."

But I said: "How can I put you among the children and give you a pleasant land, a beautiful heritage of the hosts of nations?" And I said: "You shall call Me, 'My Father,' and not turn away from Me. Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the Lord.

A voice was heard on the desolate heights, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel. For they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God.

"Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings."

"Indeed we do come to You, for You are the Lord our God. Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains; truly, in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. For shame has devoured the labor of our fathers from our youth—their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. We lie down in our shame, and our reproach covers us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God."

Read Jeremiah chapters 2 through Jeremiah 11:17 to further see the truth of Israel's disobedience and its affect on the land and the people. Read my book *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel* for additional information about the tribe of Manasseh (to which you might belong) and to show how all this fits together.

We have now linked the United States to Israel and our connection to the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament! Any location in the Bible where the term Manasseh is used, especially when used with Ephraim, indicates something that should be known to all the people of the tribe of Manasseh! This also means that the feasts God set up with Moses and had placed under the Law still apply to us today, this day and all the following days until there are no more generations to come.

Therefore God's feast days should be our feast days and we should know about them. The following will identify the various feast days, give a reference from the Bible and tell you when the feast days are on the calendar. Your pastor should be able to help you clarify this.

The Sabbath — Every Saturday

Leviticus 23:3 (NIV), "There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the

Lord."

Any calendar will show that on the left side is the first day of each week and that is shown as Sunday. The day shown on the right side is the last day of the week and is labeled Saturday, the Sabbath. Mankind has done all that Satan has directed and stated that Jesus arose on the first day of the week and that should be the reason to change God's Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday as the present day of worship. The Bible reads differently and identifies Jesus as *Lord of the Sabbath* and not as Lord of the first day of the week! Matthew 12:8 (NIV), *"For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."* Mark 2:28 (NIV), *"So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."* Luke 6:5 (NIV), *Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."* Remember what Jesus said in Mark 2:27 (NIV), *Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."* Read my book *Jesus, the Life of Christ* to understand the entire day by day activity during Passion week. All of my books are available on www.VQPub.org as a free download of a PDF file.

The Passover and Unleavened Bread — Passover April 14th, Feast April 15th

We have to begin our study of God's feast days with more information than normal. There are certain pre-Passover activities that must be understood along with understanding the month with which Passover is identified. The following scripture will give us both answers. The first month does not indicate January, this is identifying the beginning month of the sacred year. The name for that month is Abib or Nissan and represents our month of April. Therefore April tenth is when you select your Passover lamb. The fourteenth is when the lamb is slain and the Passover meal is eaten.

Exodus 12:2-11 (NIV), "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."

Leviticus 23:4-8 (NIV), "These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the Lord by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."

Firstfruits — April 18th

Firstfruits is almost a mystery feast. It appears to be a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and to be performed as a feast during that seven day period. However, there is still a question concerning the date of this festival. First look at Exodus 23:14-17 (NKJV), "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven

days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); and the <u>Feast of Harvest</u>, the **firstfruits** of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the <u>Feast of Ingathering</u> at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God. Did you see the one feast of Firstfruits hidden in this passage of scripture? After that look at Leviticus 23:4-16 (NKJV), *These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the <u>Feast of Unleavened Bread</u> to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. <u>On the first day you shall have a holy convocation</u>; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The <u>seventh day shall be a holy convocation</u>; you shall do no customary work on it.' "*

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord. We must remember that this feast was set up while the Isralites were traveling through the wilderness and it plainly states in verse 14 of Exodus 23 that all the males were to appear before the Lord three times each year. This was long before the crucifixion of Jesus and long before the 2nd Temple era. Therefore, we are seeing a type prior to seeing the prototype. Firstfruits offering at the time of Moses was the first grain you would harvest. In Israel this would be the barley harvest. In scripture, at the time of Moses, we do not have an established time for the feast of firstfruits. To further complicate the matter: We must identify the three feast days that the males of Israel were to appear before the Lord. Look at Deuteronomy 16:16 for the correct understanding. Verse 16 (KJV), Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty. This verse clearly identifies the three feasts that a man was to appear before the Lord. They are the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks; and the third is the Feast of Tabernacles. The above scripture indicates that Firstfruits is not a feast day when all the males must appear before the Lord. It also indicates that the second feast is the one called Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) in the month of June and is the festival at the time of the wheat harvest. The third feast (Feast of Tabernacles) also includes a harvest time and is the period for the firstfruits of olives (oil) and grapes (wine). Therefore, it seems that God established a harvest incorporated into each "must appear" feast. When is Firstfruits?

Do we have an understanding of when Firstfruits occurs? No! I don't think so. Verses from Leviticus indicate that firstfruits are offered on the day after the Sabbath. Here is where we all get lost! Which Sabbath? Does this mean on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Remember that the first day is a high holy day (a Sabbath). What about the eighth day after the close of these feast days because the seventh day is also a high holy day? What about the normal weekly sabbath? Surely we can all see that a seven day festival will include at least one normal weekly sabbath. I say at least one weekly sabbath because the period of eight days could include two weekly sabbath days if the main

Feast started on a sabbath. I respect Perry Stone and have a copy of his old testament Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible. He included a table illustrated on page 143 showing the Hebrew Feast Days. This table indicates that Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. Now we have something that we can build upon and bring the prototype of firstfruits into this discussion. Under the New Covenent Jesus is the Passover sacrifice and upon His ressurection He is the first of God's firstfruits. Look once again at the passage from Leviticus saying that *you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the firstyear*. Isn't Jesus that lamb? Doesn't He represent the spiritual firstfruit? Then let us take facts and see if we can figure out a little more about this feast called Firstfruits. We know by Jesus' own words that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. I have explained elsewhere that Jesus must die on Wednesday for everything to work as it is recorded in the Bible. With Jesus dying about three in the afternoon on Wednesday and taking into account the full three days and three nights that He must spend in the tomb He would arise at three in the afternoon on the first sabbath after Passover. Therefore, this makes Jesus Lord of the Sabbath and the firstfruit of the resurrection, thus fulfilling the statements made in the Bible pertaining to firstfruits.

The Folly of Easter — March 20th to as late as April 24th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case s, it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case S or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation, this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40: "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." To not accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not mean what He said! I'm sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus' own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact to aid in our understanding. The chief priest and the Pharisees went to Pilate to ask that a guard detail be stationed at the tomb for three days. Matthew 27:62-66: 62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. Recall the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th, the high holy day or the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover the 14th as a Friday, then the high holy day of the 15th is Saturday. The priest could not go to Pilate and perform work at the time to have the tomb sealed because they would violate their own rule of law. Text tells us that the tomb was opened by early the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. Look and read! The priest and the Pharisees understood what Jesus said about spending three days in the grave. Why don't we understand this today? Read my book, Jesus, the Life of Christ, if you desire to see the full truth explained. In the account just presented above, we clearly see the preperation day and how the guard for the tomb was requested of Pilate. Pilate instructs the chief priest to place his temple guard at the tomb. Continue with this thought and

review the scripture passage from Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became *like dead men.* The women left the tomb to go and tell the disciples. The guards left the tomb to go and tell the chief priest. I know you don't recall that portion of the story. The proof of that statement is in Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Any person who has ever served as a guard in the military will tell you, if you go to sleep while on duty, you are subject to disciplinary action. It is hoped that this grouping of scripture will illustrate for you the truth from preparation day to ressurection day. Now, allow me to explain how we get this false date to celebrate what is called Easter. The church had divided into several different viewpoints with different dates for feast and festival by the time of Constantine. There was the Catholic viewpoint along with the Greek, Syrian and Russian Orthodox viewpoint. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325. This date was a movable date based upon a lunar cycle by Constantine's decree. Therefore, Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox! Even this has some variance for the date. The Spring Equinox may be on the 19th, 20th or 21st of March, in the Northern Hemisphere, or in September in the Southern Hemisphere. What I desire for you to understand is that mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover. But, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 19th of March, a full moon was that night and the next day was Sunday, thus the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 20th of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that if the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox and the Spring Equinox was the 21st, we must add 28 days for the lunar cycle to get to the next full moon. If at that point we find the full moon occurring on a Sunday, we must also add another week to get the first Sunday after the full moon. Therefore the latter date for Easter could be as late as April 24th. Here is my question. Do you find any of this foolishness in the instructions ordained by God? Plainly and absolutely, I do not! My God said Passover was the 14th of April (Nisan) and that it is to be such in all of mankind's generations. The full instructions from God is given in the following explanation for Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

Second Passover — May 14

Moses was approached and asked: How can a person who has buried a dead body eat the Passover meal when they are unclean. Moses said he would inquire of the Lord. Numbers 9:9-12 (NIV), *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites: When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they may still celebrate the Lord's Passover. They are to celebrate it on the <u>fourteenth day of the second month</u> at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations."*

Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost — June 6

Leviticus 23:15-22 (NIV), "*From the day after the Sabbath*, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, <u>count off seven full weeks</u>. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sab-

bath, and then **present an offering of new grain** to the Lord. From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord. Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. The priest is to wave the two lambs before the Lord as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the Lord for the priest. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God."

This feast also has a grain offering as a portion of its regulations. The firstfruit grain in this case is wheat.

Feast of Trumpets — October 1

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NIV), The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, <u>a sacred assembly</u> commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the Lord by fire."

Remember, the first month is April, therefore, the seventh month is October.

Day of Atonement — October 10

Leviticus 23:26-32 (NIV), The Lord said to Moses, "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. <u>Hold a sacred assembly</u> and <u>deny yourselves</u>, and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God. <u>Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people</u>. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. <u>This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live</u>. It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must <u>deny yourselves</u>. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath."

It seems the implication is a full day of fasting and abstaining from anything (deny yourself). No food!, No drink! No drugs! No smoking! No earthly pleasure! You are to abstain from all things and to rest!

Feast of Tabernacles — October 15

Leviticus 23:33-43 (NIV), The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. The <u>first day is</u> <u>a sacred assembly</u>; do no regular work. For seven days present offerings made to the Lord by fire, and on the <u>eighth day hold a sacred assembly</u> and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work.

These are the Lord's appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the Lord by fire—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. These offerings are in addition to those for the Lord's Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord.

So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, <u>after you have gathered the crops of</u> <u>the land</u>, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. <u>This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to</u> <u>come</u>; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

There is another firstfruit offering to be made within the Feast of Tabernacles. The firstfruit for this offering is grapes (wine) and olives (oil).

The procedures of the feast ceremonies require sacrifice and burnt offerings as documented throughout the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Now we can bring Jesus into the picture and what He did for us. We must remember that Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, instead to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV), "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." Jesus became the required sacrifice once and for all. Recall that when Jesus was crucified on the cross the veil of the Holy of Holies at the temple was torn in half. Matthew 27:51 (NIV), At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Luke 23:45 (NIV), For the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. This removed the separation between mankind and God and completed the healing of the breech. Jesus effectively removed the curse of the Law: Those parts that required a burnt offering or a sacrifice were removed. However, the instructions for God's ordained feast days were not removed and remain in effect throughout all of mankind's generations.

These are the ordained Feasts of God. Why is it we do not celebrate these feast at their appointed times? We have been deceived in our disobedience to the point that we truthfully do not understand the request of God to obey <u>seven feast</u> each year. The words to identify God's feast days are given and simple to read. The three feast days that every male is required to appear before God are shown. How did we get so far from the truth?

I find it interesting to note that Jesus spent 40 days on the earth after His resurrection. Acts 1:1-3 (NIV), *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. <u>He appeared to them over a period of forty days</u> and spoke about the kingdom of God. That would indicate that Jesus was taken from the earth just before Pentecost on the 27th of May.*

It is hard for me to practice these days for the simple reason that they were not included in my teachings from the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. I have read, and reread these verses and have marked calendar after calendar to try and teach myself and my wife the importance of observing God's feast days. I pray earnestly that you may find this helpful in understanding God's feast days and recognizing who the people of the United States truly are.

I know that I am repeating myself by inserting the following information, however, God's feast days are important! The following is a summary of the information presented in this section.

Sabbath — The seventh day of the week, a day of rest with no work being done. In memory of God's creation and He rested on the 7th day. (Ex 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Lev 23:3; Deut 5:12-15) Jesus is the 'Lord of the Sabbath'. (Mt 12:8; Mk 2:27-28; Lk 6:5) There is no verse in the bible indicating that Jesus was

the Lord of the first day of the week and it is only by the misinformation of men that the Holy Day of God was changed from the Sabbath to the first day of the week. Satan has blinded many men's eyes on the observance of this day and the blinded now lead the uninformed in believing nonsense about Sunday.

The New Moon — Superstition more than anything else. (Num 28:11-15; Ps 81:3) Not assigned as one of God's Sabbaths in either Exodus or Leviticus. I do not follow.

Passover — The preparation of the Exodus. Became the day Jesus had to be crucified. The 14th day of April! (Ex 12:1-14; Lev 23:5; Num 9:1-14; 28:16; Deut 16:1-7)

Feast of Unleavened Bread — To commemorate the days in the Wilderness after the Exodus. The 15th through the 21st of April! (Ex 12:15-20; 13:3-10; Lev 23:6-8; Num 28:17-25; Deut 16:3, 4, 8)

Feast of Firstfruits — To commemorate the coming in of barley. It appears to be the first sabbath after Passover. (Lev 23:9-14; Num 28:26) Because of the agrarian culture at the time of Moses this was an appointed festival; however, present day society is not that agrarian and there seems to be great confusion over how to determine this on any calendar. The mystery reveals that this feast day will depend on what day of the week is designated as Passover. We may revert back to observing this festival during the reign of Christ. Because of the confusion over when this feast is celebrated I am inserting an additional review of firstfruits.

Feasts and Festivals of Israel The Feast of Firstfruits

I. Introduction and review:

A. We have been considering the feasts and festivals of God.

1. We saw that they were considered to be two things:

a. They were appointments with God.

b. They were rehearsals of some event or action God was going to bring to pass in the future.

2. Some have already occurred and we can examine them with hindsight.

3. Others have not yet occurred and we can only look at them prospectively, that is without the precision of hindsight.

B. We began by looking at the first of the Spring feasts, that is Passover:

1. The Passover requirements:

a. Preparation for the Passover begins on the tenth of Nisan when each family takes into their home a yearling, unblemished, male lamb (or goat).

b. It has to be without spot or blemish.

c. On the 14th day of Nisan, the lamb is killed and his blood painted on the door posts and the lentil of the family's home.

d. There is a Passover meal served to the family which is administered by the father.

e. The lamb is the main course.

f. This feast is a dress rehearsal of the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The second Spring feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

a. On the day of Passover, there is a search for leaven in the home.

b. All leaven found of the home is burned and for the next seven days no leaven is used in the home.

c. All of the bread that is baked and consumed by the family during this festival is unleavened.

d. Leaven represents sin.

e. This seven day feast represents the new life of the believer after accepting the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

II. The next feast is the Feast of Firstfruits; Leviticus 23:10-14 (NKJV):

"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; <u>on the day after the Sabbath</u> the priest shall wave it.¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; <u>it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.</u>

A. When it started:

1. The Passover was first celebrated when the last plague befell Egypt.

2. Thereafter Israel left Egypt.

3. The feast of unleavened bread followed the first Passover.

4. But when was the first feast of firstfruits held?

5. After they entered the promised land and not until the first harvest.

B. How the Feast would work:

1. This feast is commenced on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.

2. So **the feast of firstfruits would always be on a Sunday**, that is the first day of the week.

3. The first of the **barley crop** would be bound into a sheaf.

4. You would then take this sheaf to the priest.

5. This sheaf was called the sheaf of firstfruits.

6. The priest would then take this sheaf into the place of worship and waive it before the Lord.

7. There were other proscribed offerings to be presented along with the sheaf of firstfruits.

C. Background information:

1. The word 'sheaf' in Hebrew is omer.

a. omer {o'-mer} Meaning: 1) a dry measure of 1/10 ephah (about 2 liters);2) sheaf.

b. Exodus 16:36 (NKJV): Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.

2. This feast was a harvest festival:

a. It was the first harvest festival in the year.

b. Just as the Feast of Pentecost (wheat harvest).

c. The Feast of Tabernacles (fruit harvest):

(1) important fruits

(2) olives

(3) grapes

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3. The harvest of the barley:

a. Barley, unlike wheat does not stand up straight but hangs over.

(1) Barley is a relatively soft grain unlike wheat.

(2) Therefore Barley is winnowed and not threshed.

b. The barely doesn't always sprout up at the same time.

c. The fields are watched and the earliest grain to emerge is marked, usually with a red cord.

d. When these first emerges ripen and mature, enough of them are cut to make an omer (sheaf).

e. This sheaf was then taken to the priests so that they could offer it to God as a wave offering.

f. Thereafter you would make the other offerings prescribed in Leviticus.

g. Once that process was completed, then the barley could be harvested, but it could not be touched before the offering of the firstfruits is accepted.

D. This Feast is about a picture of resurrection and salvation. Consider some of the events that took place on this day:

1. Israel eats the firstfruits of the promised land; Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV): Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

a. And the next day, the day after Passover, they ate from the produce of the promised land.

b. The Manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land.

2. Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection and had to present Himself to the Father for acceptance as the firstfruit. As the barley could not be touched and harvested until after the sheaf wave offering was accepted. Jesus told this to Mary in different words. John 20:17, ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"(NKJV)

3. Consider 1st Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV):



²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

1. First born son – Matthew 1:22-25 (NKJV):

²²So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

2. First begotten – Hebrews 1:6 (KJV):

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

3. First born of every creature – Colossians 1:15 (NKJV): *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

4. First begotten from the dead – Revelation 1:5 (NKJV):

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

5. First born of many brethren – Romans 8:29 (NKJV):

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. First fruits of the resurrected ones – 1st Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV): But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. Beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14 (NKJV):

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

8. Preeminent One – Colossians 1:18 (NKJV):

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. Now we know the questions to go with the answers:

A. Consider John 20:11-12 (NKJV):

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

1. Did God know that Mary was coming?

2. Did He have those two angels remain there for her to see?

3. What did Mary see?

a. The slab on which Jesus' body had been placed.

b. An angel sitting at the foot of the slab.

c. And an angel sitting at the head of the slab.

4. She saw a living display of the Mercy Seat.

B. Consider also John 20:17 (NKJV):

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

1. John 20:17 (KJV):

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

2. Haptomai {hap'-tom-ahee}, Greek reference 680 in Strong's Concordance — **Meaning:** to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, or to touch.

3. Flavius Josephus wrote that the Jews would not touch their barley crop, that is to harvest it, until their firstfruits had been accepted.

4. Jesus now tells Mary that she should not touch Him until He goes first to the Father for acceptance and approval of His "sheaf" and wave offering.

5. Thereafter Jesus was fine with others touching Him, see John 20:27 (NKJV): *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand* here, *and put* it *into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*

C. Why can't the Jews see these things? Here is an even larger question: Why can't Christians see these things? Why have Christians continued for over 2000 years to call Jesus a liar? Oh, yes you have! By not accepting Jesus at His word that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish you are calling Jesus a liar!

1. They have been blinded to some extent. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (NKJV)

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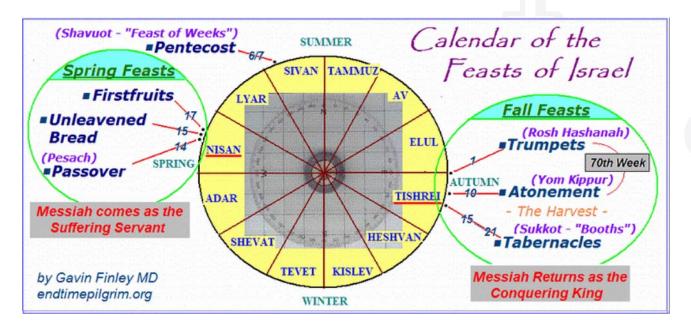
2. Consider Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV):

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

3. That will happen at the second coming of Jesus, at the end of the Great Tribulation.

D. The giving of the firstfruits to God, demonstrated the faith of the covenent people in their God.

1. Do we exercise this same kind of faith today? I don't think so! As Bible Believers following the example of our LORD and Savior Jesus, why don't we exhibit this kind of faith today?



This is a good example of God's feast days, but even with this illustration I have a problem. Once again, Jesus said he had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. This presentation would reflect a more accurate illustration of a Maundy Thursday viewpoint. However, that would still **not fulfill** all that Jesus said. If Passover is the 14th (Wednesday), Unleavened Bread on the 15th (Thursday), Friday would be the 16th, the weekly sabbath on the 17th (Saturday) and finally, Firstfruits on the 18th (Sunday). The three nights are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The three days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Firstfruits is on the day after the sabbath.

We will now continue with our presentation of God's ordained festivals.

Feast of Weeks — It appears Penetecost and the Feast of Weeks are the same, only stated in different words. (Ex 23:16; 34:22; Lev 23:15-21; Num 28:26-31; Deut 16:9-12) At this time I do not observe this day.

Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) 1st of October! (Lev 23:23-25; Num 29:1-6)

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) 10th of October! (Lev 16; 23:26-32; Num 29:7-11)

Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) — To commemorate the time God communed with mankind as He lead His people through the Wilderness. 15th through the 21st of October! (Ex 22:16; 34:22; Lev 23:33-36, 39-43; Num 29:12-38; Deut 16:13-15)

Feast of Dedication (lights or Hanukkah) — Did not come in until later and is recorded in John 10:22. 14 & 15th of December.

The Feasts and Sabbaths in **bold** print are those to be followed in all generations. Meaning they were not changed by Jesus, nor done away with because of His sacrifice for us. All generations means until the end of time.

There are four feasts that have caused some to question what they are and these four feasts are shown in Zechariah 8:19 and are explained in the following manner in most good study Bibles.

These days started out as a day of fasting, but later were changed to a feast day. They are identified to be a feast during the 4th, 5th, 7th, and 10th months.

The 4th month feast commemorated the breach of Jerusalem's walls. (Jer 39:2; 52:6)

The 5th month feast commemorated the destruction of the temple. (2 K 25:8)

The 7th month feast commemorated the slaving of Gedaliah. (2 K 25:25; Jer 4:1)

The 10th month feast commemorated the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by king Nebuchadnezzar's army. (2 K 25:1,2; Jer 52:4,5)

The full answer for these feasts is also given in Zechariah 8:19, This is what the LORD Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. (Emphasis mine.) Therefore love truth and peace." (from New International Version) These feasts only pertain to Judah, thus the Jews, and not meant for all of God's children in all of their generations, as the other Holy Feasts are to be followed. All four feasts have to do with the taking away of Judah into captivity in Babylon.

To help you recall the feast days of God I have prepared a table to give the name of the feast, the date on which it is to occur, and whether it is a sacred assembly or not.

Feast	Date	Sacred Assembly	
1) Passover	April 14th	No	
2) Unleavened Bread	April 15th	Yes	
3) Firstfruit	April ? 1st sabbath after		
	Passover	No	
Resurrection of Christ	April 17th (3 d	April 17th (3 days and 3 nights)	
End of Unleavened Bread	April 21st	Yes	
Second Passover	May 14th	Yes	
(only if you meet the condition	s of missing the firs	t Passover)	
4) Weeks/Pentecost	June 6th	Yes	
5) Trumpets	October 1st	Yes	
6) Atonement	October 10th	Yes	

7) Tabernacles End of Tabernacles October 15th Yes October 22nd Yes

Enjoy and may God bless you.

We are speaking about the feast days that God ordained in His word but I would like to add one more item to this discussion. Allow me to give a list of the Apostles of Jesus by name and occupation:

1. **Simon Peter.** *Meaning of name and relationships:* Petros meaning *Rock*, his Hebrew name was Simon (John 1:42); brother of Andrew (Matthew 4:18). *Occupation:* Fisherman (Luke 5:1-5).

2. Andrew. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Greek Iakobos - the English word for Jacob meaning Israel or He Who Supplants His Brother; brother of Simon and disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:40). *Occupation:* Fisherman (Matthew 4:18).

James. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Greek - Andreas, meaining *Manly*, simply means man; son of Zebedee and brother of John (Matthew 4:21). *Occupation:* Fisherman (Luke 5:1-11).
John. *Meaning of name and relationships:* John means *God is gracious*; son of Zebedee and brother of James (Matthew 4:21). *Occupation:* Fisherman (Mark 1:19).

5. **Philip**. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Philippos, meaning *Lover of horses*; was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter (John 1:44). *Occupation* Unknown, was in Galilee when Jesus found him (John 1:43).

6. **Bartholomew**. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Bartholomaios, meaning *Son of Talmai*; many scholars believe that Bartholomew is also known as Nathanael, a friend of Philip (John 1:45). *Occupation:* Unknown, was in Galilee when he met Jesus (John 1:47.

7. **Thomas**. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Thomas from Aramaic - te'oma meaning *Twin*. Occu*pation:* Unknown, best known for doubting the resurrection of Jesus until he could see and touch the wounds of the risen Jesus (John 20:24-29).

8. Matthew. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Greek - maththaios, Hebrew meaning *Gift of Yahweh*, also called Levi (Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27). *Occupation:* Tax collector (Matthew 9:9).

9. James. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3). *Occupation:* Unknown.

10. **Thaddaeus, also known as Judas, son of James**. *Meaning of name and relationships:* Lebbaeus whose surname was Thadaeus (Matthew 10:3), Judas, not Iscariot (John 14:22). *Occupation:* Unknown.

11. **Simon the Zealot**. *Meaning of name and relationships:* A Canaanite (Matthew 10:3), called Zelotes (Luke 6:15). *Occupation:* Unknown.

12. **Judas Isariot**. *Meaning of name and relationships: Iscariot* is from the Hebrew word *Ish Kerioth* meaning *A man from Kerioth*. *Occupation:* Unknown, best known for betraying Jesus (Matthew 26:20-25).



