

Hine Ze Ba Return, Beloved!

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In the last volume, we shared how the whole Bible is united by the scarlet thread of redemption- the blood of the covenant. In the mideast, when two males covenanted with each other it symbolized an exchange- the two were becoming as one. They exchanged their garments (character), belts (strength), weapons (they agree to fight each other's enemies), names, gifts, blood (life). They both passed between the pieces of animals cut in half symbolizing a walk of death to independent living to take on the life of the other. The promises and penalties of the covenant were ratified by an oath. They celebrated a memorial feast and to remember the covenant they would plant a tree or set up a stone memorial.

We shared how the ancient Jewish wedding was considered a blood covenant and how each of the seven major biblical feasts were related to the ancient Jewish wedding. At Passover or *Pesach* bride Israel was **chosen** (Is. 62:5) and the *mohar* (bridal price) was **paid by** the groom *Yeshua HaMaShiach* (Jesus Christ) when he died on the cross at exactly at 3:00 p.m when the lamb for the nation was sacrificed.

Pesach, a barley harvest, was made up of three feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Feast of First Fruits. The bridal *mikvah* (baptism or washing) can be likened to the cleansing of the house prior to the Feast of Unleavened Bread (*Hag Matzah*) symbolizing the burial of *Yeshua* and the Feast of First Fruits (*Bikkurim*) *Yeshua's* resurrection.

Pentecost or *Shavuot* - the wheat harvest is united with the first three feasts with the counting of the omer following the sabbath during *Pesach* amounting to 50 days. On *Shavuot* the **first trump**(shofar) was blown. The shofar became a symbol of God's covenant with Israel and God's voice. Israel linked its significance when a ram was provided to replace Issac as Abraham's sacrifice. (The second trump called the **Last Trump** is blown on the Feast of Trumpets - *Rosh HaShana* and the **Great Trump** is blown on the Day of Atonement -*Yom Kippur*).

The first *Shavuot* was the time of the giving of the law (called *Torah*). The giving of the Ten Commandments and 1

the *Torah* in general were considered by Jews to be their **ketubah**- a **marriage betrothal contract** . In a *ketubah* the groom promises to provide for the bride and the bride promises to be faithful. Blessings are included in that contract and curses for breaking it. (See Deut.28). Jews called the Ten Commandments the "*Ten Words*" The first "word" was "*I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*" (Ex. 20:2) God, Israel's bridegroom was declaring his provision for his bride- that He is her Savior and her Deliverer. Lord is translated from *YHWH* (I AM THAT I AM). His greatest provision is HIMSELF! The other

"words" are charges to the bride- to be faithful! The Ten Commandments are a summarization of all of the 613 commandments in the Old Testament. (There are 1,020 commandments in the New Testament).

Shavuot was also a Harvest of First Fruits- of the wheat harvest. Two wave loaves from that harvest were waved before the Lord symbolizing Jew and Gentile becoming one in Messiah *Yeshua*. Let's summarize:

Passover- (*Pesach*)- Israel chosen, redeemed (bought) and washed (That also includes the church -BUT DOES NOT REPLACE IT- because we are Abraham's seed through faith in Jesus- *Yeshua*)

Pentecost-(*Shavuot*)- Israel betrothed and presented her marriage **ketubah**- The **WORD**. On the same day 50 days after Jesus' resurrection on 120 Jews the Holy Spirit was poured out. The Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is like our marriage **ring** (giving us authority and power).

The fall feasts are preceded by 30 days of preparation called *Teshuva*. It means **return**. It is the Old Testament's word for repent. (There is a spiritual linking between the physical return of the Jews to their homeland and the spiritual return which will come. There is also for us a link between physically going back to church -and being faithful- and spiritually coming back to God.) Return means **Return to Covenant**- where you put God first, where He is your first love, where you are obedient to his Word, submitting to His will. It is a **change of mind, a change of heart, a change of direction**. Each day of *Teshuva* the shofar was sounded. Each person was to examine their hearts. It was to be the time of the greatest repentance, the greatest giving, the greatest seeking after God. Each person was to write letters to friends and relatives restoring their relationships and renewing their bonds. As the shofar was blown each person was to humble themselves individually and as a nation.

This year the month of Elul (the thirty days of *Teshuva*) starts **August 24**. Exactly after those 30 days of repentance comes the ten days called the Days of Awe. On **Sept. 23** and **Sept. 24** is **Rosh HaShanah (Feast of Trumpets), Yom Kippur on Oct.2**, and **Sukkot** (Feast of Tabernacles) from **Oct.7-13**. I have a natural tendency to be late and to forget. Biblically speaking, **to remember** is a covenant word and to forget is going away from covenant. I am determined this year to remember the Biblical feasts ahead of time (most of them called *mo'ed*- *God's appointed times*) Jesus' death was the ultimate sacrifice and eliminated the need for sacrifices. Jesus came not to destroy the law but fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). So the laws concerning the temple, sacrifices and punitive punishments for lawbreakers was done away with but nothing else! It is One Book! The feasts were also referred to as **testimonies** (*edah*) -visual reminders of God's plan of redemption.

In the **ancient Jewish wedding** after the betrothal ceremony

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at the bride's home, two glasses of unfermented wine were exchanged to seal the covenant. After the *ketubah* was exchanged and signed, the bridegroom would say to the bride, "I go to prepare a place for you; if I go, I will return again unto you." This same statement Jesus said to his disciples in John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you: I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

The bridegroom would go away to his father's house where he would build a *chuppah* or wedding chamber- an addition to the father's house. It had to be just right according to the father's specifications. It would generally take about 12 months to complete.

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During this time of separation, the bride is to be faithful and consecrated. The Song of Songs refers to her state:

"A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse: a spring shut up, a fountain sealed."

A garden enclosed is a metaphor for a chaste woman. She is said to have "dove's eyes" (S.of Songs 1:15) - eyes for no other. The groom could come back at any time. She had to be ready with her bags packed. Most of the time he would arrive at night but she had to be awake. Although she did not know specifically when he would return, there were signs of his returning. Shortly before his return, the bridegroom would send a gift- usually a gift made of gold. One block away, a shofar would be sounded. with the shout, "**BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH!**" The bride was assisted by ten virgins or bridesmaids who accompanied her. They had to be ready as well. Then the bride would be carried in an *aperion*- a carriage supported by four poles and carried by four men to the awaiting groom.

These customs are directly related to *Rosh Ha Shanah* - the Feast of Trumpets celebrated this year on **September 22 and 23**. On the thirty days before *Rosh HaShanah*, the shofar is sounded. On the day before *Rosh HaShanah* it is quiet. It is believed that the day of judgment is hidden from satan. "Believers never said said when the day of *Rosh HaShanah* was; they simply said, 'Of that day and hour no one knows, only the Father'...Because *Rosh HaShanah* was known to be the hidden day, the statement of Yeshua (of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only'- Matt.24:36 is actually an idiom for

Rosh HaShana."¹ (We are NOT setting dates; but merely pointing out an interesting comment.)

Other names and meanings for this feast are:

Rosh Ha Shanah- head of the year, birthday of the world (Passover is the first month of the religious new year but Rosh Ha Shanah is the first month of the civil new year) Tradition says this is the birthday of the world because the Hebrew word *bereshit* when turned around read, *Aleph b'Tishrei*- or the first of Tishrei- the day of Rosh HaShana.

Yom Teruwah- Day of the Awakening Blast- On these two days the shofar is sounded 100 times. The last time it is sounded is called the **Last Trump**. Compare this to 1 Thess. 4:16,17:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Yom Ha Din-- Day of Judgment

Yom HaZikkaron- Day of Remembrance- On this day it is believed that three books are opened: the book of the righteous, the book of the wicked, and the book of remembrance.

Opening of the Gates- It is believed that on this day the gates of heaven are open to the righteous.

Natsal- the resurrection of the righteous dead - may be likened to the rapture

Yom Hakeseh- the Hidden day- In Psalm 27:5 it says that the righteous will be hid in the time of trouble and specifically the time of tribulation. This psalm is read during the 40 day period of *Teshuvah*- the 30 days prior to *Rosh HaShanah* and the ten days following it. It is believed by Jews that on this day, the righteous will be resurrected and rewarded as the books are opened. The wholly wicked and "average" or intermediates will have 10 days (there are seven days between the two feasts) to repent. The righteous are hidden with God in heaven during these "seven days" symbolizing the seven year tribulation period.

This can be compared to the parable Jesus told of the Ten Virgins (Matt. 24). Ten virgins were to assist the bride in getting ready. All had lamps. All had oil (had the Holy Spirit so all are believers) but only 5 had **extra oil**. But all were sleeping. They were all to be awake. They were not cognizant of the urgency of the hour. The bride is not

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¹ Chumney, Eddie, The Seven Festivals of the Messiah, p. 138.

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mentioned in the parable because she is fully awake. The bride will be those believers that have extra oil **and** are awake and ready!!

Some Messianic scholars feel that this is the wedding day- **Kiddushin/Nesu'in**. They believe that the seven year tribulation period is likened to the seven days the bride and groom are in the wedding chamber where they physically consummate their marriage after the formal vows while the guests wait outside the *chuppah* or wedding chamber. The friend of the bridegroom waits outside the door for the message that the physical consummation has taken place. At his signal, great rejoicing breaks out (John 3:29) The blood stained linen from this night is preserved for proof of her virginity (Deut. 22:13-21) (The wedding feast takes place at the **bride's house**).

Others feel the formal wedding day is on **Yom Kippur** because many of the traditional customs relate to this day. (We will share about *Yom Kippur* in the next issue.)

There are so many parallels between Israel and America. If there is a time for America to repent, IT IS NOW! Bad is called good, and good is called bad! Homosexuality is being called an alternate life style but God calls it abomination! (See Romans 1:26-29, 1 Cor.6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:10, Genesis 19, Leviticus 18:22; 20:13) (We are to love the sinner but hate the sin!) Fornication and adultery is rampant; spiritual lukewarmness, unfaithfulness, gossiping, backbiting and division are tearing up churches, the Bible, and prayer is neglected (spiritual adultery). We are to leave the Babylonian worldly system not tolerate it! What about the current trend for women to wear low cut -see everything you got- blouses? Where has modesty gone to???? Are we to wear indecent clothing just because it is in style?? When Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, they began shouting and cutting themselves. Pagans did this because it released demonic powers. Now young people are getting tattoos in which 3000 tiny holes are punctured into their skin participating in the ancient pagan "blood letting". (http://www.biblebelievers.com/watkins_tattoos/pagan.html) Drugs and drinking go hand in hand and are associated (even by non-Christians!) with worldliness. According to David Wilkerson, author of *The Cross and Switchblade* and *Sipping Saints* "moderate" drinkers beget alcoholic kids many times. Go through **every** scripture on wine and drinking and see if drinking is God's highest standard (don't just pull one or two out of context). Drinking liquor is a substitute for the Holy Spirit and there is no "high" like the high of the Holy Spirit. But all of these outward things are really symptoms of sins of the heart. We all have plenty of those. Recently, I have been laid low and seen the ugliness of my sin- pride, arrogance, anger, and stubbornness to mention a few. We all need to fall on his grace KNOWING that HE can enable us to overcome. We don't repent and keep on doing it. Change is possible IN HIM! America, individually and as a nation we need to repent!!!

About a month ago, a Bible dated at 800-1000 A.D. was found in the bogs of Ireland by a construction worker. That was a miracle in itself. But it was open to Psalm 83 called a war psalm and relates how the nations round about Israel are coming against her and the Lord would fight for her! Is God saying something!!!! Fairly recently I have heard many amazing stories of how the Bible has been miraculously preserved sometimes in a fire, tornado, or flood. One lady shared how their family car exploded (with no one in it). Their Bible was in the back- ashes all around but the Bible was fine. There was even a "God is awesome" sticker on the back window. Everything around was in shambles but NOT THE "GOD IS AWESOME" !!! Another lady shared how in a tornado a family trailer was scattered all over killing one but two others were physically transported to another place but were okay. Everything was in shambles but their family Bible was untouched. A man from Louisiana with tears in his eyes shared how friends had lost their home in that terrible flood. But one thing remained: their family Bible which was on top of a coffee table. That coffee table rose above the water and with all that wind, all that rain the Bible was completely dry!!! That is our **indestructible Word of God**. Hundreds of Wycliff's followers and Tyndale were strangled and burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. Our love letter- the Word of God -has the blood of martyrs mixed with the blood of Christ on its very pages!! And yet, there are many times Christians don't have TIME to open up its pages!!! What if God would not have time for us when disaster strikes?! It is time to RETURN to

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our BELOVED to his LOVE LETTER the Bible. It is time to pray, seek God for Israel and the Church, it is time to renew that covenantal love. Do we have TIME to eat? Let's eat his Word! Do we have TIME to sleep? Let's rest in his promises. Do we have time to work? Then, let's work sharing the Word. Do we have time to watch TV and movies? Then let's SEE HIM- our BRIDEGROOM waiting for us. Let's not let him wait TOO LONG. He is coming SOON!!!! Love, Edith

About the Author: Dr. Edith Saller graduated from Shalom Bible College located in Des Moines, Iowa with a master's degree in divinity and a doctorate in theology. She did her doctrinal thesis on *"The Law through Hebrew Eyes"* which presented the law/grace issue in Romans from a Hebraic perspective which is largely overlooked by most theologians. This document was incorporated by Shalom Bible School (a Pentecostal school) at the request of President Dr. Rice into a Bible study which is now being used as a course of study for international as well as national students.

Last year on the second day of *Rosh HaShana* (Feast of Trumpets) Dr. Edith Saller was awakened with the song *Kol*

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Dode, Henay Ze Ba (The voice of my Beloved, Behold He Comes!) running through her mind. She feels alerting believers to the soon coming of Jesus Christ to be her mission. Jesus was our **Bridge** to God. As a believer to Him, she feels she is to also help bridge the gap between Gentile believers who have not been taught the beautiful and rich Jewish roots of our faith and Jews who have not yet seen the BRIDGE- *Yeshua Ha Mashiach* - Jesus Christ as their long awaited Messiah!

Edith Saller is committed to the whole body of Christ and is available as a speaker to any denomination or group subject to permission by the Holy Spirit. She can be contacted at : Dr. Edith Saller, 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616, phone: 870-749-2386 or email: edith812@yahoo.com..

Right now, there is an open door for Edith to share the Word in various countries with Jan McArthur who leads mission trips to places such as Mexico, Uganda etc. We covet your prayers that a financial door will open as well.