LifeRaft Discoveries, Salem, Missouri (admin@creationcalendar.com)

Love **I**s **F**or **E**ver -- **R**ediscovering **A**bba's **F**antastic **T**ruths

Please read Paul's Instructions: 1 Corinthians 4:16

Paul Wanted to go to Jerusalem to (a) Convert Israelites, (b) Keep the Feast, or (c) Both.

Believers, neither adding nor subtracting, should never have trouble accepting what is plain ink on the pages of Scripture. Some say the only reason Paul attended the Hebrew festivals was in order to meet and convert Israelites to "Chr-stianity" but not actually to keep the feasts as commanded in Scripture. It is interesting that Scripture does not make this assessment at all. Saying otherwise is adding to Scripture. One brother said:

You know that Paul was at the feast of Passover, for the "opportunity to meet those who should come from all parts of the world to attend the feast." Acts of the Apostles. p. 389 To lead them "to accept the precious light of the gospel." Ibid.

Scripture says Paul, a Pharisee, was in complete harmony with the Torah (**Acts 24:13-14, Acts 25:7-8**). Pharisees were zealous for the law (Torah). Sure Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for Passover; the place would be full of Hebrews. Paul was an evangelist--evangelists like big crowds. Regarding **Acts 20:6,** one author says this: "At Philippi Paul tarried to keep the Passover. Only Luke remained with him, the other members of the company passing on to Troas to await him there. The Philippians were the most loving and true hearted of the Apostles converts, and during the eight days of the feast he enjoyed peaceful and happy communion with them." *Acts of the Apostles, p. 390-391*. My margin says this event took place 29 years after the crucifixion.

Acts of the Apostles, p. 389, says Paul wanted to--but could not go to Jerusalem this particular year because of a plot on his life. So, at Philippi--a place that did not have and still does not have a Israelite synagogue--Paul kept Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. If the only reason Paul was going to Jerusalem was to preach the good news to unconverted Hebrews, but not to keep the feasts himself, why then, without a multitude of Israelites in sight, does Paul **still** keep these two feasts with his Gentile converts? Paul, by keeping the feasts named in the covenant (**Exodus 23:14-15**) even with Gentiles, is displaying spiritual integrity. In a place where no Israelite could witness or judge his behavior, Paul still obeyed the command of YHVH. Why?

"The opposition grew so fierce that Paul … 'went into Arabia' (Galatians 1:17), where he found a safe retreat. "Here, in the solitude of the desert, Paul … received instruction from the Source of truth. Jesus communed with him and established him in the faith..." *Acts of the Apostles, p. 125*

The simple solution: Paul taught the Philippians and all his other converts to do as he did for He had received his message directly from our Savior. *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do***, **Philippians 4:9**, (See also **Philippians 3:17**, **I Corinthians 4:16** and **I Corinthians 11:1**). When Paul is connected at all with a feast, he is either hurrying to keep it, is keeping it, or has kept it already, all well after Calvary.

Acts 18:21 [AD 54] ==> Unspecified feast, probably Passover as this was the most highly attended feast.
1 Corinthians 5:7-8 [AD 59] and **Acts 20:6** [AD 60] ==> Passover/Unleavened Bread.
1 Corinthians 16:8 [AD 59] and **Acts 20:16** [AD 60] ==> Pentecost
Acts 27:9 ==> Day of Atonement [AD 62].

Remember, Peter preached at Pentecost after the ascension. Peter, the disciples, and the rest of the 120 in the upper room must have missed where the man from Galilee did away with this feast. Prophetically, Pentecost represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is precisely what occurred during this feast.

Why so many references to the feasts if they all met antitype at Calvary? **Acts 18:21** shows Paul's personal responsibility in festival observance: "I must...keep this feast." While **I Corinthians 5:8** indicates our corporate responsibility for festival observance: "Therefore let us keep the feast..." This brother we quoted earlier also said:

Refer to Acts of the Apostles, p. 389, where the L-rd's messenger is telling us why Paul went to the feasts. To help the Jews see Jes-s and the Converts to follow the "Gospel". The Gospel does not include the feasts of Moses' law.

The burden of proof for this reasoning rests on the shoulders of those who present this argument because the good news includes the entire Israelite economy (which includes the feasts). Here are two (of many) witnesses:

"Far, very far, are human minds from grasping the teachings of Christ. These are old truths in new settings. **The entire system of Judaism was the gospel veiled**. Those who will not consider are like the Jews. It is humbling to their dignity and pride to work the mines of truth. But the Light of the world is sending his divine rays to illuminate **the entire Jewish economy**, and the minds that have been accepting the sayings of men as the commandments of G-d are to be educated to look to G-d himself, the author of all truth." *Review & Herald, July 12, 1898*

"**The system of Jewish economy was the gospel in figure**, a presentation of Christianity which was to be developed as fast as the minds of the people could comprehend spiritual light. Satan ever seeks to make obscure the truths that are plain, and Christ ever seeks to open the mind to comprehend every essential truth concerning the salvation of fallen man. To this day there are still aspects of truth which are dimly seen, connections that are not understood, and far-reaching depths in the law of God that are uncomprehended. There is immeasurable breadth, dignity, and glory in the law of G-d; and yet the religious world has set aside this law, as did the Jews, to exalt the traditions and commandments of men." *Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 238*

On a secular talk radio program recently we heard that "Christmas" is a vital part of the U.S. economy. If this beast day is part of the American economy, it is dishonest to say that the Creator's appointed times (feast days) were not a vital part of the "Jewish" economy. In light of this, re-examine the above quotes.

No doubt you already comprehend the Commandments; if so, then what's left? The word law means *Torah*. Please note this letter from Polycrates, a 65 year old elder in his assembly, to Victor, Bishop of Rome, quoted in Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*...

"*Therefore we keep the day undeviatingly, neither adding nor taking away, for in Asia [Minor] great luminaries sleep, and they will rise on the day of the coming of the Lord, when he shall come with glory from heaven and seek out all the saints. Such were* ***Philip*** *. . . and his two daughters. . . . There is also* ***John****, who lay on the Lord's breast. . . . And there is also Polycarp at Smyrna, both bishop and martyr, and Thraseas, both bishop and martyr, from Eumenaea. . . . [Also] Sagaris, . . . Papirius, . . . and Melito. . . . All these kept the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the gospel, never swerving, but following according to the rule of faith. And I also, Polycrates, the least of you all, love according to the tradition of my kinsmen, and some of them have I followed. For seven of my family were bishops and I am the eighth, and my kinsmen ever kept the day when the people put away the leaven. Therefore, brethren, I who have lived sixty-five years in the Lord and conversed with brethren from every country, and have studied all holy Scripture, am not afraid of threats, for they have said, who were greater than I, "It is better to obey God rather than men." . . .*

About 160 years after the crucifixion, Polycrates was summoned to appear before the Bishop of Rome to explain why he refused to teach the observance of Easter.

In his letter, Polycrates is very emphatic about the practices of the early Messianic assembly. The early assembly unswervingly observed Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, (which, history says, it did for **300 years** after Calvary). Unfortunately, as the early leaders died off, paganism began to creep into the assembly. With the influx of half converted Gentiles, Easter entirely replaced Passover, only Israelites remained faithful to the holy days ordained by the Almighty. As the "Jews" were more and more hated and reviled, persecution increased. "Chr-stianity" further distanced itself from the faith of Israel by adopting so called "Chr-stian festivals," completely forsaking the Divinely ordained festivals, including the Sabbath. Satan very cleverly used time and bigotry (anti-Semitism) to his advantage. It is time for truth seekers to awake! The festivals that Chr-stianity adopted were not "Chr-stian" they were and are pagan, just given religious sounding titles.

There are others, but do New Years, Valentines, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas sound familiar? **Beast days** vs. **Feast Days**, indeed! "In the time of the end **every** divine institution is to be restored." *Prophets and Kings, p. 678.* We believe it is well past time for believers to return to the original holy days as appointed by YHVH. If you are serious about returning the original holidays [YHVH's holy days] please study **Leviticus 23**.

Be a Berean!