



Preparing for the Fall Festivals

8/21/21

I. FALL FESTIVALS OVERVIEW

A. Elul

1. A time of preparation
2. Cleansing our hearts through repentance

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:10-12)

3. Prepare our hearts for the coming King

B. Yom Teruah (Trumpets): Yeshua as returning King. (Lev. 23:4-5; Num. 29:1-6)

1. Reflects God's desire to summon His people to repentance so He can vindicate them on the Day of Judgment.
2. An alert that the Heavenly Trial is beginning.
3. God is a merciful God who wants us to come to His Son to escape the judgment we deserve.

C. Yom Kippur: Yeshua as Judge and Redeemer. (Ex. 30:10; Lev. 16; Lev. 23:26-32; Num. 29:7-11)

1. We are purified!
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
2. Underscores the seriousness of sin by showing need for confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

D. Sukkot: Yeshua as Bridegroom/Protector. Lev. 23:33-36, 39-43; Num. 29:12-39; Deut. 16:13-15; 31:9-13).

1. He will place his tent with ours.
2. The closest possible relationship
3. Celebration of the blessings of the Messianic Age, i.e., the return of Yeshua.
4. Rejoicing at the redemption offered by Yeshua

E. Shemini Atzeret (the Eighth Day):

1. Represents the Age to Come

II. THE FALL FESTIVALS: NOT A CHECK-OFF

A. A call to repent, cleanse our hearts

1. Yeshua is returning for His bride
2. Our job is to prepare to receive Him
 - a. Parable of 10 virgins
 - b. Oil is a metaphor for being firm in faith, having tenacity in endurance, and righteousness in living
3. Being watchful
 - a. Watchmen on the walls had two jobs
 - 1) Anticipating the attacks of the enemy, and
 - 2) Watching for the arrival of visiting dignitaries
 - b. Keep our souls as pure as possible by being aware of Satan's schemes
 - c. Be on the look-out for ministry opportunities
 - d. John 5:19
4. Be repentant
 - a. Of committed sins
 - b. Of missed opportunities to bless

5. Seek God's will
 - a. Watch and pray

B. Remember the themes!

1. There is no way around it!
 - a. Yeshua **is** returning as King.
 - b. He **is** coming back as judge
 - 1) We were engaged at Passover; now he's coming to collect his bride
 - c. Some **will** be brought into eternity with him
 - d. Some **will** be cast away
2. We know these things; every year at this time we are reminded
3. How to be ready?
 - a. Increase time with him, seek his face, desire to please him? Are those things enough?
 - b. What are we buying when we go buy oil
4. The wise virgins
 - a. Not possible to be on constant alert; all have lives and distractions
 - b. Is possible to already be prepared
 - c. The struggle is intended to keep us clinging to him/focused on his will
 - d. Maturity in the Lord is not based on age but on obedience
 - e. No one can rely on someone else's preparation
 - f. There is such a thing as 'too late'
5. Being prepared/buying oil (see the next parable—the Talents)
 - a. Must produce results which the Master can see and improve
 - b. Put to good use the gifts each has been given
 - c. The Master allocates the scale of responsibility
 - d. The disciple faithfully discharges his responsibility
 - e. Circumstances and personalities differ, so the Master's assigned responsibilities differ
 - 1) Not everyone is an apostle, prophet, evangelist, teacher, or pastor; but everyone has something to offer
6. Buying oil is not getting something new but faithful use of what we already have
 - a. The servant who didn't do anything with his gift was rebuked
 - b. The ones who used their gifts were blessed

C. The most basic theme!

1. Yeshua is returning to a totally broken world
 - a. The joy in anticipating his return is meant to stabilize and center us in the face of difficulty
 - b. Just before his return the days will be so dark—all will be affected
 - c. We will have to depend on what we already have
2. Can't depend on others to make us ready
3. Seek intimacy with Him

III. REFERENCES

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