

What is God wanting to say to us through His festival days?



1And YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, 2“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of YHWH, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. Leviticus 23:1-2

An Overview of the Spring Festivals

Though I didn't grow up observing the biblical festivals, I have been walking in these special days for well over half my life now. I believe there is great benefit

for all Believers to be aware of (and even observe!) these special days that YHWH states are His appointed days (Leviticus 23:2). These days all have Yeshua at their foundation, and we learn more about Him as we observe these times. The spring festivals have to do with His first-coming while the fall festivals deal with His return. Here's a quick listing and summary of the coming festival days:

Spring Festivals (Yeshua's First-Coming)

1. **The New Year** [Nissan 1 (started Friday April 1st at sundown) – *New Beginnings* [Rosh Chodesh (the new month)] **Yeshua is our New Beginning**

The new year is about new beginnings in Yeshua. Where we have messed up, we repent to Him, receive His forgiveness, to the best of our abilities make it right with others we have sinned against, then hit delete, chart a new course with Him, and then confidently start anew.

2. **Pesach (Passover)** [Nissan 14 (Friday night April 15th starting at sundown)] - *Justification* [No Convocation] **Yeshua is our Savior/Deliverer**

As we gather around the tables in the homes with family and friends, we receive anew the mark of Yah (see Exodus 13:9) and by faith place the blood of the Lamb of God on the doorposts of our hearts. By doing so, we invite Him to come and dwell with us. Because of this covenant connection we don't fear the wrath of God which will be poured out on the unrepentant wicked. With this covenant marking we also re-ratify our marriage covenant with Yeshua as our Bridegroom and commit to stay connected to Him until He returns for us as His bride. This festival represents Yeshua as the only One who can forgive our sins and provide the means for this covenant through His shed blood.

3. **Unleavened Bread** [Nissan 15-21 -7 days (Friday night April 15th starting at sundown til Friday night April 22nd at sundown)] - *Sanctification* (Unleavened Bread) [1st Day Convocation & 7th Day Solemn Assembly Convocation] **Yeshua is our Sanctifier**

After the Passover meal, we remove leavened items from our homes and then throughout the seven days of this festival Yah instructs us to eat unleavened bread which point to the sinless Yeshua. This seven day period reminds us of our need to "feast on" Yeshua as our helper and provider during our earthly

sojourn. Only as we stay connected to Him will we make it in this challenging life. Yeshua promises us greater challenges in following Him but provides for us everything we need on this journey. He promises us that He will return to reward the faithful and to punish the wicked. During our sojourn we want to share with as many wicked (that's where we started too!) that they don't have to continue in their rebellion but can turn to Yeshua for forgiveness and a new start. We have special corporate meeting times on the first and seventh days of this festival.

4. **Firstfruits** [Sunday after Passover (Saturday April 16th starting at sundown through April 17th at sundown)]- *Resurrection* [No Convocation] **Yeshua is our Resurrector**

This is a mini-festival in the midst of the week of Unleavened Bread where we are conscious of Yeshua's resurrection from the dead. This gives us confidence that He is who He says He is and that His words are true. This also assures us that when we die that we will be resurrected with new bodies and will be with Yeshua forever (see 1 Corinthians 15). This is great news and without this reality Paul states that our faith is worthless (1 Corinthians 15:14). During this special day we celebrate the fact that He is victorious over the grave!

5. **Counting the Omer** [50 days from Firstfruits to Shavuot (Sunday April 17 to Sunday June 5th)] - *Persevering Anticipation* (Counting of the Omer) **Yeshua is our Sustainer**

This is the special fifty day period of time that bridges the days between first fruits and Shavuot. We expectantly count these fifty days in anticipation of what Yah wants to do in us during this time and on the final spring festival day of Shavuot.

6. **Shavuot (Pentecost)** (Sunday June 5th) - *Empowerment & Instruction for God's Mission* [Convocation] **Yeshua is our Provider**

This celebrates the fact that Yah empowers us by the Holy Spirit to walk with Him as we should and to be bold witnesses of His reality and story to those around us. We have a glorious message to declare, and He's given us everything we need to declare it to those in need around us.

This in a nutshell is where we are heading in the coming two months. I hope you're excited about what Yah wants to do in and through us! I encourage each of us to jump in and to do more than we did the year before.