

The upcoming fall festivals highlight three distinct roles that Yeshua will carry out in the days to come.



*<sup>16</sup>Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- <sup>17</sup>things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Messiah.* Colossians 2:16-17

## **Bridegroom, King, & Judge**

I had an interesting talk this past week with a new-found friend about the fall festivals. We had about half an hour in the car as I drove him to the airport for a flight. He had a fairly basic understanding of these times but had not personally observed them in his own life. He understood that the fall festivals were primarily about the return of Yeshua to earth, but it was new to him that each of these festivals emphasized a different function of Yeshua.

The whole end-goal of all the festivals is that the God of the universe wants to dwell with us His people. The spring festivals, through Yeshua's atoning sacrifice, procured the means through which we as His people could be forgiven...and thus be with Him the holy God. The fall festivals emphasize three different unique roles that Yeshua has.

A week from this evening at sundown on Friday September 15th, the festival of

Trumpets begins. This heralds the future coming of Yeshua as the conquering King. He will not be voted in, but will come in great power and authority on the clouds of heaven to rule and reign from Jerusalem. He will vanquish the unrepentant wicked and reward the righteous for their faithfulness in waiting for Him in the midst of great trial and difficulty.

Ten days later starting on Sunday September 24 at sundown, the most somber day of the year on God's calendar begins. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, looks forward to Yeshua as the great Judge of the living and the dead. He is the one who all humanity will appear before. The righteous will appear before Yeshua for a review of their lives and for the sake of rewards or loss as Believers (2 Cor 5:9-11). The unrepentant wicked will be judged and those whose names are not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Yeshua as the Great Judge is a sobering reality which is emphasized on this day.

Five days after Yom Kippur starting on Friday September 29th at sundown comes the festival of Sukkot. This 7 day festival looks forward to the day when Yeshua as our Bridegroom will be with us forever. He will wipe away every tear and make all things new (Rev 21:1-4). This festival is one where we are commanded to rejoice and is the culmination of what God wanted all along--to be with us.

As I finished up my conversation with my friend and dropped him off at the airport, it was encouraging to me as I could clearly see an excitement welling up in him. He was clearly moved by a greater understanding of the season we are in and what God wants to communicate with us on His special days during this time.

In closing, I hope that there is an excitement growing in each of you as well: for the seasoned "festival veterans" that this year would be one of fresh insight and revelation. And for those who this might all be new to--that He would stir your heart to want to take part (even if in only a rudimentary way) in rejoicing that our Bridegroom, King and Judge is coming!

