

Overview of Fall Holy Day Season

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Billions of people down through history have lived, going about their mundane activities blind to and ignorant of the real purpose of their existence. And then they died. Human philosophical and religious ideas have failed utterly to fill the void, and so if they think about it at all, people are left simply to wonder, what is the purpose of human existence.

The festivals that God's Word commands to be kept all have deep spiritual significance. And their significance from the standpoint of time is not only historical, but also contemporary and prophetic. Today I want to present an overview of the prophetic significance of the fall Holy Days. In understanding the meaning of God's festivals lies the key to understanding what few people have been privileged to know, and that is, not only why we exist, but how the purpose of our existence is being and will be fulfilled.

Colossians 2:16-17 — Holy Days are a shadow (*skia* — form, sketch, outline) of things to come. The fact that Paul says the Feasts outline things to come shows that there is a chronological significance to their meaning and that it relates to events God has planned and predicted in advance.

When we put the outline of prophetic events depicted by the Holy Days together with detailed prophecies of the Bible we get a very clear picture of the flow of God's plan and how he is going to bring it to fruition in a step by step process.

Not only do the individual fall Holy days themselves have significance, but also the time intervals between them add to that significance. From a prophetic standpoint what we will see is that the primary events pictured by the Feast of Trumpets are the Day of Christ's return and the events immediately preceding it. It pictures God's judgment on this world and also the first resurrection. All of these — Christ's return, judgment and the first resurrection occur in conjunction with each other. Ten days after the Feast of Trumpets occurs the Feast of Atonement. Ten is a number associated in the Bible with judgment. And the ten days pictures a period of judgment on the world immediately following Christ's return, and self-judging and repentance for Israel, in particular. Five days following Atonement is the Feast of Tabernacles. Five is a number associated in Scripture with grace. It reflects the divine grace and forgiveness poured out on Israel following repentance, and that mercy will in time be extended to all the nations of the earth during the millennium. The Feast of Tabernacles lasts seven days. Seven is used in Scripture in association with spiritual completeness and fulfillment. The feast pictures the fulfilling of the promise of God's Kingdom, and all the blessings pertaining to it. Following immediately is the Feast of the Last Great Day — picturing the second resurrection and the offering up of the Kingdom of God to the Father.

Leviticus 23:24-36. Joel 2:1, Trumpet signals Day of Yahweh, the Day of the Lord, vs. 12-17, repentance for Israel, vs 28-29, 32, God afterward pours out his Spirit and Israel receives salvation. Joel 3:1, captives brought back, vs. 2, 11-17, judgment on nations, Joel 3:18, afterward blessing. Revelation 11:15-18, Christ reigns and judges. Isaiah 66:15-16, comes to judge all flesh. Revelation 19:11-21, Christ makes war. Zechariah 14:1-3, 12-14, battle. Matthew 24:30-31, coming of Christ, gathering of the elect. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, First

resurrection.

Trumpet signals return of captives, Isaiah 27:13. Israel brought back repentant, Ezekiel 20:33-37, 41-43. Zech. 12:10-12, the people mourn, 13:1-2, idols, demons put out. Revelation 18:2; 20:1-6, Satan banished, resurrected saints rule.

Isaiah 25:6-9, Feast for all. Isaiah 66:22-23, all flesh worships God. Zechariah 14:8-9, 16, Christ establishes his government over all the earth, nations worship. Isaiah 65:17-25 blessings of God's Kingdom. Revelation 20:11- 14, White Throne judgment. Revelation 21:1-3, God the Father places his throne on the earth. 1 Corinthians 15:22-28, the Kingdom is delivered to the Father, death is destroyed, God is all and in all.

So we see that following the blowing of Trumpets ushers in a period of judgment, as well as repentance and atonement. Satan is banished, his works destroyed, and mankind is reconciled to God. Then is established the government of God, ruling the earth during a millennial feast. Then comes a general resurrection, following which God the Father comes to tabernacle with his family on into eternity. The various steps in this great plan are highlighted and featured by the various feast days God commanded to be kept at this time of year.

I hope that we can appreciate the tremendous value of the knowledge God has given us in the understanding of his festivals. And I hope that understanding will spur us to greater effort to do our part in achieving the marvelous destiny for which each of us were created.