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From the Desk of Prophet Samuel Huggins James

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Why Christians Should Study and Observe the Feasts of the Lord

When many Christians hear someone speak of the Feasts of the Lord, they ask: “Why study and/or observe the Feasts?”

They are like many in Israel, who, as Hosea lamented, “I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing” (as something which does not concern him). **Hosea 8:12**

The intricate details of the Mosaic laws and feasts become meaningless unless they are all seen through the Cross in relation to Christ and the Church.

The answer to the question is the same answer which is given as to why we study the Tabernacle of Moses, the Tabernacle of David, the Temple of Solomon, the Priesthood and the Offerings.

The Scriptures given in answer to this question are applicable to any question as to why New Testament believers should study Old Testament revelation along with the New Testament revelation.

The Major scriptural reasons why the Feasts of the Lord should be studied are as follows:

1. They are a part of the Scriptures given by inspiration of the Holy Ghost which are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.

II Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2. They are “a shadow of things to come”. They point to Christ who is the substance.

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Hebrews 10:1-2

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3. They are prophetic types and ensamples, foreshadowing future events. They shadowed forth that which Christ would fulfil in Himself and in the Church, which is His Body.

I Corinthians 10:6,11

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Matthew 5:17-18

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 11:13

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

They were written for our admonition. Parts have been fulfilled, and parts are yet to be fulfilled.

4. They are things written therein for the believers' learning and participation.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5. Christ came to fulfil all that was written of Him in “the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets”.

Luke 24:26-27

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44-45

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

John 5:45-46

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

Acts 3:22-23

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

6. This part of the Law was also a “schoolmaster to bring us to Christ”.

Galatians 3:24

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

7. Jesus said: “Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”. **Hebrews 10:7**

Psalm 40:6-8

6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalm 29:9

9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

All the intricate details point to some aspect of the person, work and glory of the Christ of God.

8. There is knowledge and truth in the external form of the Law. We study the external form to discover the internal knowledge and truth that is hidden therein.

Romans 2:20

20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

9. They set forth “patterns” of heavenly things on earth.

Hebrews 8:5

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Hebrews 9:9, 23-24

9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

10. They set forth the total ministry of Christ relative to the plan of redemption. They set forth in their time element the Dispensation of Grace and Truth, the present Dispensation, from the first coming of Christ (Passover) through the Church Age (Pentecost to the second coming of Christ (Tabernacles).
11. The truths therein are part of “present truth” which the Holy Ghost is quickening to the Church in these “last days”.

11 Peter 1:12

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Matthew 4:4

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

12. There has never been a generation who have experienced all three Feasts, but this end-time generation will experience such, even as did that generation under King Solomon’s glorious reign.

11 Chronicles 8:13

13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

This generation will hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Revelation 2:7

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The things involved in the **Feasts of the Lord** pertain to the material, the natural and the temporal.

It is a principle of God's dealings with His people that it is "First the natural, afterwards that which is spiritual".

1 Corinthians 15:46-47

46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

- It is first the animal – lamb; then the Divine-human Lamb of God.
- First the natural loaves and leaven; then the spiritual loaves and leaven.
- First the earthly Sanctuary; then the heavenly Sanctuary.

Be blessed as we celebrate the Lord's feasts.

Senior Apostle & Prophet



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