

The Biblical Feasts coincided with the agricultural cycle of Israel and in that cycle, there were rains that came in the Spring, a dry season in the Summer, followed by the rains that fell again in the Fall. This is an amazingly prophetic picture to us. The Spring rains came when our Messiah fulfilled the Spring Feasts in His earth walk and when The Holy Spirit was poured out on the first century believers.

After this powerful period of signs, wonders and miracles came the dry season when tradition and ritual began to creep in. Our heavenly Father allowed this to happen to remind us that what He has given us so far in the Spring Feasts is not His complete. We have experienced Passover and Pentecost, but Yah has more for us to experience in the Fall Feasts. Much of the body today has stopped at the Salvation experience and some have moved on to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But, we must be willing to move on when the cloud moves in order to know the fullness of His plan for us. Leaven works quietly, but quickly. It only requires luke warm water for the air-borne spores to activate in about 18 minutes. How quickly the Church lost her Hebraic roots, lost her power, and compromised with paganism and became luke warm. There is a total of 5 kinds of leaven that we are warned of in the New Testament. 1. The leaven of the Pharisees--Pseudo-Spirituality(Matt.16:6)

They were very devout, but their hearts were far from Elohim. If we only teach people the outward actions of our faith, but do not teach them to commune with the living Elohim, we have created a new generation of Pharisees. 2.The leaven of the Saducees--Modernism and Liberalism(Matt.16:6)

The Saducees did not believe in miracles, angels or demons, the supernatural realm or the resurrection from the dead. There are many so called Theologians today who deny the power of our Lord. We all need to be careful who we fellowship with and what teaching we receive and earnestly desire to know Him and the power of His resurrection, like the Bereans, who "searched the Scriptures daily to see if the things Sha'ul was saying were true." (Acts 17:11) 3. The leaven of Herod--Compromise and Religious Politics(Mark 8:15)

Herod was a man pleaser who used manipulative means to get what he wanted. Control through politics, manipulation and compromise is not the way in which our Lord wants His Kingdom to be run. His Kingdom simply doesn't run on such principles. Unfortunately, much of the Christian world today does. The Ecclesia is not to be a Hierarchy such as the Catholic Church, nor is it to be totalitarian where one person controls everything. And it's not a democracy either, run by the majority vote.

It is only to be governed by The Ruach, The Holy Spirit speaking to those who truly humble themselves before Him, seeking His will, His plans, His purposes and also humbly recognizing the gifts and callings He has upon one another. Only by the 5-fold ministry pouring themselves into each member, to see them equipped and functioning as they were meant to in the Body, can we be purged of the leaven of Herod. 4.The leaven of Corinth--Licentiousness (1 Cor. 5:1,2,6-8)

I've heard the term "Charismatic Chaos" used in reference to the ecclesia at Corinth. Sha'ul said of them that they "came behind in no gift"(1 Cor. 1:7). They had the manifestations of the gifts, but they were out of order. They celebrated The Lord's Supper, but many were getting drunk and over eating. And when the man was sleeping with his step mother, everyone knew about it, but did nothing about it. If we don't deal with sin in the camp, Yah will use an outside means to expose it and judge us. Our walls are broken down and we allow the enemy to come in to kill, steal and destroy. True repentance from the

heart of everyone and a commitment to live as a holy nation is the only way to purge this leaven from our midst. 5.The leaven of Galatia-- Legalism (Gal. 5:1,4,9)

This group had swung to the other end of the pendulum. Corinth thought that freedom meant they could do anything they pleased. Galatia was legalistic. Both licentiousness and legalism are based on a misunderstanding of grace and law. Licentiousness misinterprets "grace" as "license", with no fear of our Lord's wrath to come. Legalism emphasizes fear, but not the true fear of the Lord, emphasizing works as a means to salvation (which never has been nor ever will be what our salvation is based upon.) Legalism is man's attempt to approach The Creator through human goodness. But, just as Abraham trusted and it was accounted to him as righteousness, it is ONLY by our trusting in what the Father has provided through the Son that we too are justified. Works follow our trusting and not the other way around. (More on this at a later time.) A little side note to consider: Some might say that restoring the Feasts is a return to legalism based on what Sha'ul says in Gal. 4

"...how is it that you turn back again to those weak and miserable elemental spirits? Do you want to enslave yourself to them once more? You observe special days, months, seasons and years!" (Gal. 4:9-10)

The background of the Galatians was that they were gentile pagans. The days, months, seasons and years that he was talking about were those that they had kept as pagans in accord with demonic forces, not the Biblical Feasts given to the Hebrew nation. Those pagan festivals included such ones as the Feast of Ishtar (known as Easter today) and the birth of Nimrod, the sun god (known as Christmas today).

The dry season is coming to an end. The latter rains that the prophet Joel spoke of are beginning to fall. Part 4 will finish this topic of the overview with a brief look at the Fall Feasts soon to be fulfilled in this generation.

Shalom

Kalev