

The Biblical New Year

America and countries around the world celebrate the New Year in the winter at midnight on December 31st/January 1st. The Jewish Community Celebrates the New Year in the fall at sundown on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Teruah, The Feast of Trumpets. However, the Jewish Community calls it the New Year although Yom Teruah is the 7th Month on the Jewish Calendar.

- *When does the Creator of the Universe command us to observe the Beginning of Months, or the first month of the year (The New Year), and*
- *How did we get so far off from His Calendar?*

What I'm hoping today is to help people make adjustments, because you're going to see that when it comes down to the Creator's reckoning of time that He doesn't operate by our calendar. He operates by His reckoning of time which we could say is a biblical reckoning of time though he did not necessarily give us a calendar. We go by His calendar which is in the heavens. And so, that's where our focus should be.

Exodus 12:1 makes it very clear when the New Year begins.

- *Exodus 12:1-5 King James Version (KJV), And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, ² This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

He spoke to Aaron, he spoke to Moses, and where were they? They were in the land of Egypt. Now, notice what He says, Exodus 12:2, "*This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*"

Now, those of you who know anything about Egypt and the Egyptian calendar, you'll note that the Egyptian calendar today is pretty much the same as it was in the day that YeHoVaH spoke this. But Israel had a reckoning of time when

YeHoVaH said to Moses and to Aaron, “*This month is going to be the beginning of the year for...* ” who?—for you.

Now He’s speaking to Israel. And right here in Exodus Chapter 12, He says, Egypt’s Goddess, calendars and the nations around have their calendars, but I will give you the calendar that you’re going to follow. And what’s unique about this is that not only does He give them a particular month to follow as the beginning of months, but something significant happens. This is going to be the month that He sets them free from their captivity. And so, by this setting free from their captivity, it actually begins a new life for the Israelites and it starts at a particular month.

By reading a little further we conclude the first month of the Year is the Month of The Abib, also called Nisan. Now it’s important as we look at this because I don’t give a definition of Nisan because Nisan really has no definition other than the first month. Abib, on the other hand, has a definition. It means ear of corn. Abib is not the name of a month, it is the condition of a crop. And it’s important to understand that the condition of the crop is what the children of Israel identified as the beginning of the first month of the year.

He says in verse 3,

- *Exodus 12:3-4 (KJV)* ³ *Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: ⁴ And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

So He’s speaking to Moses and Aaron in Egypt. Now, He’s already established the first month. He says now, “*In the tenth day of the first month, you shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house. And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according the number of the souls...* ”

Now where is this at? Where are they? They're in Egypt. Now it's important because the words that are surrounding this passage refer to an event that is done **one time in Egypt**. Every other Passover after this particular Passover is not done in Egypt. After they leave Egypt, there is no longer a need to put blood on the doorpost of their homes because there is no more death angel, not over the children of Israel. **This is a one-time event.**

Now some people want to take what happened in Egypt and bring it into the new land, and then to America, and then hold people accountable as to what happened in Egypt when **this was a onetime event.**

- *Exodus 12:5-10 (KJV), Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: ⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. ⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. ⁸ And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. ¹⁰ And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.*

So the Passover, Pesach; YeHoVaH said the Pesach could come from what? The sheep or from the goat. Now, most people eat sheep, rarely do you find people having goat on Pesach. But again, this is His command.

Now I have some people who bring me a staff, and say, “*You know, when you eat Passover, you got to eat your Passover with the staff in your hands, with your loins girded and your shoes on your feet, and you eat it in haste.*” Now, the fact that the Passover meal takes some people 3 to 4 hours lets you know that there's not a lot of hasty eating. But there are people, because of this passage, this is what they do.

- *Exodus 12:12-18 (KJV), For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. ¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. ¹⁵ Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. ¹⁷ And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. ¹⁸ In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.*

So now, He's going to pass through the land of Egypt. He says, "*I'm going to kill some people and I'm going to judge some things.*" Once they entered the land, He doesn't pass through the land of Israel, on Passover, to look for the firstborn. There are different instructions given to the children of Israel concerning the firstborn when they enter the land. There was no redemption of the firstborn here. Are you hearing me ladies and gentlemen?

So what is He saying? He's saying, "*Here's your first month, and during the first month, here's what you are to do on the fourteenth day, on the fifteenth day, and on the twenty first day.*" So he's giving specific instructions and on what day it is to be observed, what month it is to be observed, and which is the first month of the year for Israel.

The word "*ABIB,*" *The month of the Exodus deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 13:4) and thus of the Passover festival; a harvest month covering parts of March and April; Abib means, "ears of grain" or "ear of corn".* Now, when we

think of corn, what do we think of? We think of that ear with shuck, but this is not what He's talking about.

It's later that the month was called Nisan. Throughout the Torah, the word "*Nisan*" is never mentioned. The reason why it's called Nisan in the Book of Esther, is because the children of Israel are now in captivity. The word Nisan is a Babylonian name. When they went into Babylon, they begin to cease using the name Abib or Abib and adopted the name Nisan because they were in where?—Babylon. Nisan means nothing.

Now, once you adopt a calendar with Nisan 14, then all you have now is the date of a particular month, not Abib. You're no longer looking for an ear of grain; you're no longer looking for an ear of corn or corn in the ear. You're simply following a set of dates for the day of a particular month or in the first month, and the fourteenth day of the month which have absolutely no meaning whatsoever.

The moment you remove Abib and go by Nisan, you've just changed everything. And most people look at the fourteenth of Nisan as Passover. When you do that and you begin to calculate, you can calculate the fourteenth of Nisan 20 years from now. You don't have to look for anything. All you have is a calendar that is generated through some printer or some publisher put it in your hand. And fourteen years from now you can know when the fourteenth day of Nisan is. But 14 years from now, you can't know the fourteenth day of the Abib because it requires looking for a particular harvest.

In the NIV Compact Dictionary of the Bible the word "*Abib*" is an ear of corn. In the Holman's Bible, it is "ears of grain". So you have ears of grain in one Bible dictionary, and in another Bible dictionary you have ears of corn. And pretty much whatever dictionary you use is going to have ears of corn or ears of grain,

and some won't have any of this because they may not even have Abib or Abib in it. They'll have Nisan. It's after the exile that it is called Nisan.

And so, the biblical references to the month Abib are found in

- *Exodus 13:4, "This day came ye out in the month Abib." Exodus 23:15, "Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)"*
- *Exodus 34:18, "The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt."*

Every time this word is used, it's in association with two things: when you came out of the land and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And here's where it gets interesting,

- *Deuteronomy 16:1, "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto YeHoVaH thy Elohim: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night."*

Now what's really interesting is this particular word "*observe*" because it's the same word that we get "keep", as it relates to "*keep the Sabbath holy.*" Now, the interesting thing about this is the word suggests that we, as a people, are supposed to guard, keep, observe. And here's the word "*Shamar*" or "*shaw-mar*" as some would say; to hedge about, to guard; generally to protect, to keep, to mark...

By not keeping the Abib, the month of Abib, you are missing the mark. I just thought I'd throw that in.

... look narrowly, observe, preserve, reserve, save, wait for, watch. All of these words are in association with the month of Abib. And you know what, most of us don't guard, don't observe the month, we focus on a day in a month. Now what's interesting about this is that the Almighty is saying, "*You need to know*

when the Abib is and you need to guard it, and you need to keep it and don't let anybody talk you out of it."

So what is He saying? *"This is the New Year for you!"* That's what He's saying. How many of us have celebrated the Biblical New Year? Instead, many people are celebrating Jewish New Years and American New Years, claiming to be people of the Book.

With all these instructions concerning the month of the Abib, why is the New Year, Rosh Hashanah, kept in Judaism in the 7th month and by Christians at the end of the 10th month? Now you say, *"Wait a minute, not the 10th month, it's the 12th month."* "Really?" It is the 12th month now, but it was not always the 12th month. Let me show you a little later.

Rosh Hashanah is kept by those in Judaism in the 7th month. And here's why, at least this is what is alluded to.

- *Exodus 23:14-15, (KJV) Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. ¹⁵ Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)*

Now notice what it says here, it says, *"Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread, in the time appointed of the month Abib"* which is the first year. Exodus 23:16, *"And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou has sown in the fields: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the **end of the year...**"* Now concerning the Feast of Ingathering, one thing you see and something you don't see here. You don't see Tabernacles, what you see is Ingathering. Now this is important because in Exodus 23:14, *"Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year."* What are the three Feasts that we keep?—Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

Those are the three, right? But here, when the Almighty has given these instructions, He's associating each of these Feasts with a particular harvest.

- *Exodus 23:14-16 (KJV), Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. ¹⁵ Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) ¹⁶ And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*

Abib is a harvest. It relates to a harvest because of the corn in the ear or the grain in the ear, it is harvest time. "...for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty."

The next one, the Feast of Harvest, we know it as the Yiddish Shavuot. It's not Shavuot. Shavuot is a word that is used, but YeHoVaH announces it as the Feast of Harvest. People say Pentecost.

Well let me tell you something ladies and gentlemen, here is the first Pentecost; not what happened in Acts Chapter 2. Acts Chapter 2 is the Greek word that is associated to the Feast of Harvest. And by changing its name, people can say, "*Yeah I celebrate Pentecost,*" but you can't find Pentecost in the Hebrew. So therefore, Pentecost doesn't exist in the Hebrew. So Christians will say, "*On the first Pentecost.*" No, it's not the first Pentecost. Here is the first Pentecost if you look at it from that rationale.

He says, "*And the feast of ingathering.*" So there's the three. The month of Abib/Passover, Feast of Harvest/Pentecost, and Ingathering/Tabernacles. But He says, "...which is in the end of the year."

So now, what happens here is that individuals say, "*Okay, well if the end of the year is Tabernacles, and the Feast of Tabernacles is in the seventh month, then it only makes sense that if this is the end of the year, it's also the beginning of a*

new year.” So some “brilliant people” came together and decided, “*You know what, if the seventh month is the end of the year, then we’ll celebrate the end of the year as the beginning of the year, or the New Year.*”

Now we know we don’t have a seven-month year, this is the end of the **harvest season**, the **next harvest season** is in the month Abib.

Now what’s interesting is that in Judaism, the New Year is celebrated the **first** of the month not the **end** of the month, after the Feast of Tabernacles. So if Judaism was truly going to hold itself to any semblance of truth, its New Year would begin in the 8th month after the Feast of Tabernacles in the 7th month; not at the beginning of the 7th month.

There are folks who celebrate Rosh Hashanah on the 1st of the 7th month like it’s the New Year. Who came up with that? And there are people who want to argue with me, “*Oh man, you just got a problem with the Jews.*” No I don’t. I have a problem with Judaism. Now let’s get that clear. I don’t have a problem with Jews; I have a problem with Judaism which is the religion of the Jews, just like I have a problem with Islam which is the religion of the Muslims. “*So how can you put Islam and Judaism in the same category?*” “*Because to me there is no difference.*” “*Ouch brother!*” “*Really?*”

Well, let me tell you something folks: Islam is a lot closer to Judaism than Christianity. Yeah. Islamics don’t eat swine. And guess when its Sabbath is? Friday evening at sundown. And guess what, they claim their identity from Abraham. So now you hear on the History Channel, the three major religions that came out of the land of Israel are Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Christianity did not come out of the land of Israel. Christianity went into the land of Israel; it didn’t come from Israel. Messianics, Hebrew Roots, came out of Israel not Christ. Christ was never in Israel! Americans took him there. Well, let me say the Westerners

took him there; the Greeks, the Greek orthodox, the Romans and all of those individuals.

Yeah I know it hurts; it hurt me too. Because all this time, you know, it is like “Wow,” I want to go to the Holy Land because the roots of Christianity came from there.

Messiah was never called Christ, Yeshua was never called Jesus. It’s a name Westerners gave him. It’s not Hebrew. It’s Latin, Greek and English.

Rosh Hashanah: *Personal name meaning, “head”*. Rosh Hashanah actually literally means “*head of the year.*” So, people are right when they say it’s the Jewish New Year. It’s just not YeHoVaH’s New Year. You say, “*Well what’s the difference?*” I’m glad you asked, because the Jewish do a whole lot of stuff YeHoVaH told them not to do. Do you hear me? A whole bunch of stuff that he said, “**Don’t do.**”

And in the past, when they did that, guess what, they were cast out of the land. And people want to argue with me. Well, I’m not here to argue. If you want facts, then the truth sometimes hurts. But, you know, folks are enamored and anytime you say anything that is against Judaism, people think you are attacking Jews.

I know how to make the distinction between Jews and Judaism. Are you with me ladies and gentlemen? So let’s get that straight. Because I know I’ll get some emails today, “*Oh you have a problem with the Jews.*” No I don’t, I might be Jewish”. “*No, how can you say that you’re black and you’re not Ethiopian?*”

I’ll tell you: folks got all these ideas in their head and we just challenge them.

So, Rosh Hashanah means “*Head of the year.*” So why is Rosh Hashanah in the 7th month when the seventh month is not the 1st month? There is a good

example of what Judaism does. Judaism changes YeHoVaH's commands, and then you got Messianic Judaism that follows Judaism which is not following the commands of YeHoVaH. They have changed the commands of YeHoVaH and anyone who adds to or takes away from the commands of YeHoVaH, their portion will be removed from the Book of Life.

So those of you who are following Messianic Judaism and doing what the rabbis teach you to do, just know that you might be in for a rude awakening. Those who celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the 7th month as the New Year are not following YeHoVaH, they're following Judaism. That's a fact, Jack.

Rosh Hashanah occurs on the first and second days of Tishri. Now this comes from Jewish facts, and you can find it on www.Jewfaq.org . All you have to do is click it on www.jewfaq.org. This information is straight from Judaism. I didn't make this stuff up; this is what they have on their website.

Those who celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the 7th month as the New Year, it says Rosh Hashanah occurs on the first and second days of Tishri (the 7th month). In Hebrew, Rosh Hashanah means, literally, "head of the year." No it doesn't. It does in Israeli Hebrew, which, ladies and gentlemen is different from Rabbinic Hebrew, which is different from Biblical Hebrew. There's a whole bunch of Hebrews out there. And so, folks who want to learn Hebrew you better know what Hebrew you're learning.

Because just as you could get the Bible translated in Swahili, you could get the Bible translated in Israeli-Hebrew, just like you could get it translated in English. So,

- *in Hebrew, Rosh Hashanah means literally, "head of the year" or "first of the year." Rosh Hashanah is commonly known as the Jewish New Year. This name is somewhat deceptive.*

Now I didn't write this. They say, "Yeah, this is 'deceptive'"

- ... because there is little similarity between Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days of the year, and the American midnight drinking bash and daytime football game.

So now what is the information they are pitching? They are saying it's deceptive because of the Jews and the Americans and their New Year. What they should've said was it's deceptive because of the Jews and how they celebrated it in the Bible.

But what they're saying is that this whole New Year idea came from Americans ...one of the holiest days of the year, and the American midnight drinking bash and daytime football game. Now, this is how Jewfaq sees the American New Year.

- There is, however, one important similarity between the Jewish New Year and the American one: Many Americans use the New Year as a time to plan a better life and making "resolutions." Likewise, the Jewish New Year is a time to begin introspection, looking back at the mistakes of the past year and planning the changes to make in the New Year. More on this concept at Days of Awe (which is a link).

And now, I hear people, who are Bible people, speaking Jewish terms that I know they got from Judaism, as if Judaism is Biblical. I even had somebody say, "Well you know, the religion of the Bible is Judaism." That's a lie! Judaism is not the religion of the Bible. Judaism is the religion of the Jews. So you can turn east and pray all you want. The Bible specifically addresses that issue. Go to my website "Facing East to Pray."

- The name "Rosh Hashanah" is not used in the Bible to discuss this holiday. The Bible refers to the holiday as Yom Ha-Zikaron (the day of remembrance) or Yom Teruah.

Now this is what Jewfaq says. Now that's what it says in the Bible, Yom Teruah or Day of Trumpets (*the day of the sounding of the shofar*). *The holiday is instituted in Leviticus 23:24-25*. And if you'll look at that you'll see that it has absolutely nothing to do with Rosh Hashanah, it's Yom Teruah.

- *Leviticus 23:24-25(KJV), ²⁴ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. ²⁵ Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.*

So, celebrating Rosh Hashanah in the 7th month is following Judaism not the Bible. The word in Leviticus 23:24 is the word “*Teruah*”, “*Truw’ah*”, “*ter-oo-aw*” means to *clamor, joy or battle-cry; especially clangor of trumpets, as an alarum: alarm, blowing of the trumpets, joy, jubilee, loud noise, rejoicing, shouting, high, joyful, sounding.*

So those of you who do not have a shofar to blow, shout! Halleluiah! Shout unto YeHoVaH with the voice of triumph. That's the stuff they taught us in the church. We don't have a clue as to what it's about, but hey, “*We're going to do it.*”

The New Year in the 1st Month of the Gregorian calendar... So let's talk about some Christian New Years. *Christians celebrate New Year at the end of the 10th month.* Now, I say this because of what you're about to see. OCTOBER or Octobre is from Old English, Anglo-French, and from Latin. October means eight, it is the eighth month of the early Roman calendar. First use was in the 12th century.

DECEMBER or Decembre as it is pronounced, is also from the Latin and it's the tenth month. So what you're going to find here ladies and gentlemen is there has been a whole lot of **tinkering**. And why is there a lot of tinkering with the calendars?—to get people where they are today on a calendar system that has

absolutely nothing to do with Genesis 1 and 2, or Exodus 12, or Leviticus 23, or Deuteronomy 16 or any of the other Feasts in the Bible.

Because as Christians they don't care, and I'm ashamed to say that I didn't care either. Lost as a jack rabbit...well...let me find another saying. Forget all those clichés, but lost—you know what I'm saying—without a compass, up a creek without a paddle, and a boat with a hole in it.

So *December comes from the Latin word for 'tenth.'* And for a long period in history, it was referred to as the tenth month of the year but now it's considered to be the 12th month of the year. JANUARY is the 1st month of the ancient Roman year not the Hebrew year.

So when Israel was in Egypt, there was an Egyptian calendar. YeHoVaH brought them out of Egypt, gave them their calendar. And now the world is on a Roman calendar, Gregorian calendar, which is a modification of the Julian calendar, which is a modification of Romulus calendar. Now I know there are some Romulus in Star trek, I'm not talking about those Romulus. I'm talking about the founder of Rome.

Julius Caesar in 46th BC moved the beginning of the Year to January, which literally means it's from the word "*Janus*" which is the two-headed Roman god; one looking back and one looking forward. This is what it really is. And this was already established. And so now, he's stuck with a calendar with 12 months and instead of December—as some would say—being the tenth month, added some months to move December up to the 12-month position, so that January would be the first month.

And if you do your history, you're going to see that there were a whole lot of issues and things going on. You'll find that in the Eastern Orthodox churches, their year doesn't begin on January 1st. You'll find that there are other religions on the

planet today that their New Year doesn't start on January 1st either. You have the Chinese New Year, you have all kinds of New Years out there that are competing in their respective countries that are now competing with the Biblical New Year. And guess who led the charge on the Biblical New Year as people know it today?—Judaism. So now you got Messianics and people coming out Christendom wanting to become like the Jewish people celebrating Rosh Hashanah in the 7th month, it's illogical as Spock would say.

When Yeshua was born, Rome was already the major player when Yeshua came on the scene. When he was born, Caesar was Emperor, or Caesar was referred to as Emperor. It was in this period the phrase **render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's** came to be. And we find that in Matthew 22:17, *"Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?"* He's being challenged. Folks are trying to trap him to pit him against the government.

Notice something ladies and gentlemen: our Messiah never addressed the government; He always addressed the religious leaders. The only time He addressed the government is when He was brought before the government by the religious leaders, because the religious leaders want to tie your allegiance to the government. So now you have religious Democrats, and you have religious Republicans. And then you have believers who are fighting against each other in politics, *"How can you vote for that Republican?" "How can you vote for that Democrat? You should be standing for what the Bible says."* And the Republicans are praying to the same God that the Democrats are praying to. They're both looking at you and saying, *"You know what, we got you, we got you!"*

Democrats have always embraced liberalism and homosexuality. Now the Republicans are trying to figure out how to embrace it because they need those gay

votes. **It's not about faith, it's about votes.** And you watch, they're going to start catering to the abomination that they called themselves standing against all this time. But people don't want to accept the fact that, Dick Cheney's daughter was a lesbian, who influenced the Republicans along with a whole bunch of other Republicans. Because there are gay Republicans who don't want to leave the Republican Party, they just want to transform the Republican Party to be inclusive to gays and lesbians, and trans-genders, and bisexuals. Yeah, that's what's being shoved down our throats, or those people's throats, in the name of religion.

You better get off the boat of religion because religion is already shipwrecked. It's got blind conductors leading blind passengers.

- Matthew 22:18-20 (KJV), But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? ¹⁹ Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. ²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

And I would dare say, look at some of your money and see who it belongs to. If Washington's head, Franklin's head, Jefferson's head is on your money and Grant's; then guess what? That which you call yours, belongs to them and they're dead.

But is the play, Matthew 22:21, *"They say unto him, Caesars. Then saith he unto them, Then give Caesar what is Caesar's; and give YeHoVaH what is his."* This is simple. There is no confusion here.

Those who celebrate January 1st as the New Year are following that which was established by Caesar, not that which was established by YeHoVaH. So those who are following Rosh Hashanah are following that which was established by Judaism and the Rabbis. And those who are following January 1st are following that which was established by Caesar. So the question is: **which one do we follow?**

Let me tell you something folks: the further down this road you go, the narrower it is going to get. It doesn't get broader, it get's narrower and narrower. Which means that your audience, your friends, your relationships are going to get less, and less and less. Because here's what YeHoVaH is saying, "*You folks need to know who your folks are, you need to know who your peoples are.*" You see, my people are not the African-Americans, my people are not the black community. My people are the people that serve my father; my people are the people who receive my Savior. Because if you don't receive my Savior, I don't care who you are, you may have been blood of my family, my earthly natural carnal family, but my family are the people in my Father's house. That's who my family is. That's just the way it is. I guess you could say I'm anti-black now. You can call me anti-Jew and anti-everything else. Call me anti-black. Halleluiah! I'm "anti", yes I am. I'm anti-Jesus, I'm anti-Christ, I'm anti-Christianity, I'm anti-Judaism, I'm anti-Islam, I'm anti-Buddhism, I'm anti-Taoism. I've got a whole lot of anti-baggage. And I don't plan on getting rid of it, anytime soon. So, you know, just know who you're hanging out with.

Exodus 23:16, "*And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou has sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year...*" Now I brought this up to show us something, because when we looked at those words or we're going to look the word **ingathering** here. The word is "*aw-seef*"; it actually means a gathering in of crops. That's what Tabernacles is about, it's a gathering in of crops but it's also a remembrance when YeHoVaH made the children of Israel dwell in booths.

But the word is what I want to show you here.

- *The language or words used here in this next Hebrew word define and describe the ingathering. The word aw-saf'; a primitive root; to gather for any purpose; hence to receive...*

Now, as a Christian, when you hear “*leave behind*” what do you think? When you were a Christian, I know some you all forgot a lot of that stuff.

- ... or to take away, to be put up, to be caught up.

There is a whole *Left Behind* Series. And individuals are trying to interpret scripture using words to support a doctrine that has absolutely nothing to do with the doctrine that it is trying to push on people. So now you got the majority of the Christian community looking for a rapture where they’ll be caught up, where some will be left behind.

- ... to assemble, bring, consume, destroy, fetch, gather (in, together, *up again*) generally, get (him), lose, put all together, receive, recover (another from leprosy), (be) rereward, surely, *take (away, into, up)*.

Individuals with a rapture theory, will associate the ingathering, the Feast of Tabernacles, with a rapture doctrine. It is from this word that the rapture is derived. And then they take what Paul says in Paul’s writings, and talked about in Thessalonians, you know, those who are dead in Messiah will rise first, those who are alive will be caught up in the air. And then, where do they go? Well, the Bible stops with “*They’ll be caught up in the air.*” It doesn’t say they’ll go to heaven, does it? So where are they are going? In purgatory, like the Catholics would say. No they don’t!

I mean everybody’s got a doctrine for you. And if you hear it over and over, and over again, you will start believing it and you’ll start preaching it, and now you’ll get angry when somebody says that’s not true. “*You don’t believe in the rapture?!*” “No!”

- *Israel’s agricultural calendar began in the fall and dominated the nation’s civil calendar. Both calendars (civil and religious) supposedly existed.*

Notice “*supposedly*”, because you’re going to find when you start researching some of these, you’re going to find that they’re going to use words that lead you into a conclusion and you have to be able to read between the lines, otherwise you’ll be led into a belief system that is not supported by scripture.

And then you have people who just like you have denominations who write their Bibles, and put their commentaries and use their words, and take out words they don’t like and put words in there that they do like. Because you got people, “*How come you use God? How come you say Jesus?*” Probably because I’m not reading from your Bible.

Now, you know, we are intelligent people, we know how to research for ourselves, but it’s amazing how a person could go from, “*There’s just something about that name,*” to “*How can you say that name?*” It’s like, “You know what, you are schizophrenic. That’s what you are.”

Here is what Wikipedia has to say.

- *The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring.) The Beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planning new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.*

It means absolutely nothing. You say, “*Well wait a minute, it’s named after a god.*” Idols are nothing. Idols are absolutely nothing. You have people who say, “*Well you shouldn’t mention the names of an idol.*” YeHoVaH says you should not do that in My presence, you don’t worship idols. Idols are absolutely nothing.

You have individuals who want to call YeHoVaH an idol, they want to make a golden calf and worship him as if it is YeHoVaH. Listen, an idol is absolutely nothing. You shouldn’t be afraid of them. You shouldn’t be afraid of voodoo. You

shouldn't be afraid of superstition. So what the black cat crossed your path? So what the mirror broke? So what you walked underneath a ladder? So what some child opened up the umbrella in the house? So what?

But you have people who are so superstitiously religious. How can you be superstitiously religious? Just like you could be religious in any other religion, you could be a devout religious superstitious person.

The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison. Now the stuff they did in Babylon compared to what's going to happen in New York, I'm going to tell you something. You talk about debauchery, idolatry, immorality. You're going to have everybody...many people, not everybody because I won't be there and I won't be watching the ball drop. I mean, just imagine this ball coming down this pole. Where did that concept come from? Phallic symbols That's what it look like, a penis and a V-jay-jay symbolizing immorality, idolatry, sexual immorality. I'm telling you. What are people going to be doing? They're going to be kissing all in the streets, they're going to be doing all kinds of debaucherous stuff right out in the streets and the police are going to turn their heads and just let them do whatever they want to do.

Listen, I know sometimes I get graphic, but listen folks, don't look at me like that, and some of you all cuss worse than a sailor. You say stuff, and watch stuff and act and then you want come up in here all "holier than thou." I know you, I do. You want to beat your wife, cuss out your children, get drunk and then come up in here all holy, and say, "*You shouldn't use those words.*" "You use words worst than that, at least I'm using them in context to try and teach you something."

And for those of you who want to support homosexuality, imagine a man putting his private part in somebody else's rectum. That's sick! It's sick no matter

how you look at it. It's sick, it's nasty, and you want to embrace that? People would rather embrace that immoral sick stuff, and then talking about, "*We are not under the law.*" "Yeah, I see you're not under the law." And if you're not under the law of YeHoVaH, then what are you under? That's the question. "*We're under grace.*" "Yeah, grace perversion." Because all the perversion that is going on in this grace, sin-sick world; it's sad and it's not going to get any better. As a matter of fact, this thing is getting so sick to where you got people trying stuff they wouldn't normally try because after all it's the mark, it's the fad.

Oh yeah, being gay is in season right now. That's why they're all coming out the closet on TV, getting their five minutes of fame. "*Oh yeah, I'm gay, I'm gay, I'm lesbian, I'm lesbian, I'm lesbian.*" "Oh yeah?" And the media just runs and just put them all over the news. And now you got copycat crimes. You got people who are copying because they see, "*Hey, that's one way to get on TV, come out the closet. Well I've never been in the closet, but hey, if it's going to get me 5 minutes of fame then I'll say it.*" It's like, "**really?**"

That's the sickness of the society we live in ladies and gentlemen and all of that surrounds what we call New Year. You got the Christians, you got the Messianics, you got the Jews, you got pretty much every person in America, almost, celebrating this debaucherous celebration and rejecting that which YeHoVaH says to observe, to guard, to keep, to mark. What's wrong with us?

- *The Romans continue to observe the New Year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the New Year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar.*

The calendar was then modified by Pope Gregory, which is where we get the Gregorian calendar we have today. The World Book Encyclopedia 1984, volume 14, page 237 states:

- *“The Roman ruler Julius Caesar established January 1 as the New Year’s Day in 46 BC. The Romans dedicated this day to Janus, the god of gates, doors, and beginnings. The month of January was named after Janus, who had two faces – one looking forward and the other looking backward. **This suggests that New Year’s celebration are founded on pagan traditions.** Most countries in Western Europe officially adopted January 1 as New Year’s Day somewhat before they adopted the Gregorian calendar. In England, the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, was the first day of the new year until the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752. The March 25 date was known as Annunciation Style; the January 1 date was known as Circumcision style, because this was the date of the Feast of the Circumcision, being the eighth day counting from December 25 when Christ was believed to be born.”*

Now they have associated the circumcision of Yeshua to this paganism. The church came over here into America and brought all of that tradition with them. And you have people who are sitting up these churches who don’t have a clue where this stuff is coming from, celebrating it as if it’s holy.

- *(Everybody knows that Christ (Messiah) was not born on December 25th. So how could He be circumcised on January 1st? ANOTHER LIE) This day was christened as the beginning of the New Year by Pope Gregory as he designed the Liturgical Calendar. Israel is the only country that uses the Gregorian calendar but does not formally celebrate the New Year’s holiday – mainly due to objections by religious parties on the holiday’s non-Jewish origins. However, there are Israeli Jews who partake in some sort of celebration. The date of the Jewish New Year is celebrated on Rosh Hashanah no matter where the location. The date of the Islamic New Year moves from year to year because the Islamic calendar is lunar. Therefore, what should be the response of the followers of the true Messiah to the festivities of the Pagan New Year Celebrations?*

Here’s what Daniels says, and I’ll close with this.

- *The Prophet Daniel received the interpretation of a dream he had in Daniel 7:1-28 and shared that interpretation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) that these times would come upon us. We know that Daniel was dreaming about the Man of Lawless the Anti-Christ (Messiah). Daniel revealed the following statement about the Anti-Messiah in verse 25, when he said “7:25*

And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High....”

This exactly what is happening because saints have gotten lazy, they don't want to watch the stars, they don't want to establish when the New Moon is sighted. *“Get me a calendar, you tell me when it is.”* Every year, supposedly believers want me to tell them, *“When is the New Year? When is the New Year? When is Passover?”* “You got a Bible, why do I have to tell you that?” *“Well you're the leader bro.”* “Yeah, so are you.”

And the folks who want to call me their leader don't want to follow me. They just want to give me a leader status. *“Yeah, well you're the leader.”* “Oh yeah, well, let's talk about some issues in your life.” *“Well no, now wait a minute, wait a minute. Now wait a minute...”*

See, I ain't no fool, I wasn't born yesterday, didn't fall off a truck, and didn't bump my head. You know, this is why Yeshua said He wouldn't give His self to men because He knows what's in them. “I know you. I love you, but I know you.”

Yeshua knows you, YeHoVaH knows you. He know we can be some stiff-necked, hard hearted, rebellious people. The biggest problems YeHoVaH had with the world was with His own people that He saved. And they ain't changed that much.

We haven't changed. Now, I'm working on me, I really am. Every single day because I know I'm still a mess. Ask my wife, she'll tell you. She'll probably tell you how I'm a mess, right honey? Right, good. I still need to be saved in some areas; I'll be the first one to admit it. Are you with me?

But I do know this: when the Father gets my attention on an issue, then it's time for change, it's time for change. It is one thing to be a mess, it is another thing

to stay a mess. Because if you stay a mess, your situation will always be a mess, it won't get better.

And I'll tell you something, ladies and gentlemen: in order for Father to fix some of our messes, that means He's got to fix us. He can't fix my mess if He can't fix me, because I'm the one who started this mess. We are wanting Him to fix the mess, but leave us out of it.

"Now don't fix me, fix her." That's what the brothers are saying. I'm telling you, every time I'm in a counseling session, *"I got my problems pastor; I ain't in here trying to paint no rosy picture. I know I got my problems, but I'm not the problem here."* Sister comes in, *"Now you know what, I'm not trying to throw my husband under the bus."* Yes, you are. You threw him under the bus already. *"I know, I got my issues and I'd be the first one to admit I got them, but I'm not the problem here."*

So you got two people, neither one of them are the problem in the midst of a problem that I'm supposed to fix. And it's like, "What? How am I going to fix this mess? I can't fix it. Now I can give you counsel but the counsel is going to come from Him. And if you're not willing to take the counsel, then it ain't no point in you sitting in front of me. It really isn't. Because if you expect me to fix your mess, then I have to take responsibility for your mess, and I'm not taking responsibility for your mess because I'm still trying to handle my own mess."

I have to go to YeHoVaH who's capable of fixing messes, not only to fix my mess but to try to help you fix yours, but you have to take responsibility for your mess. And the Almighty, in order to fix your mess, He's got to work on you. But we don't want Him working on us, we want Him working on everybody around us.

Be honest. *"You know your wife doesn't have a problem, you're the problem."*

"You know your husband doesn't have a problem, you're the problem."

Now imagine two problems getting together, what have you got? You have problems. I don't have to be a Rhodes Scholar to figure that one out.

- *By following YeHoVaH's reckoning of time we do not fall prey to Judaism or Christianity's reckoning of time and will be better prepared for the return of Messiah.*

Now I did say I was going to close but here's actually the closing scripture, I repent.

- Matthew 24:14-15, (KJV) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. ¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

See Daniel exposed the Anti-Messiah and his tactics. The average believer today doesn't know the reckoning of time, and won't even invest in a calendar that will help them to discern the time, at least come close to it. They aren't interested in looking to see when the New Moons are, and you know, every month there's a New Moon. And the reason why every month there's a New Moon so we can count 1st moon, 2nd moon, 3rd moon, 4th moon, 5th moon...

Because you have to understand, you can't celebrate Passover until you identify when the month starts. The month has to have a first day in order for you to celebrate the 14th day at evening. You don't know when the 15th day is, if you don't know when the 1st day began. You can't celebrate the 10th day of the 7th month if you don't know when the 1st day of the 7th month began. And how do we know when the 1st day of the 7th month begins?—by the moon.

So we have to follow YeHoVaH's reckoning of time in order to be at the right place when His time is appointed. The appointed times are the times that He

has appointed to meet with us, we don't want to be late, we don't want to be left behind.

- *Matthew 24:17-22, (KJV) ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

The only thing that should cause a person to go back in a house, that's burning, is to save a life not to save your piggy bank or any other piece of material thing, because you can lose your life in the process. It's one thing to sacrifice your life for another life. Folks, don't sacrifice your life for stuff.

And this is the verse that troubles me, it does, it troubles me. Which is why it is so important that we really begin to get people into truth not traditions, not religion, not denominationalism. We have to know the times that we live in. You have to know the time. And you can't be dependent on somebody to tell you what time it is, you have to know for yourself. **Matthew 24:22, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."**