

GOD HAS HIS APPOINTED TIMES FOR ALL THINGS

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Eccl. 3:1

Ecclesiastes continues with “a time to be born ...”; ponder this, the miracle of a new life. Biologists agree with the Bible that we are composed of the dust of the ground, for all the elements found in our bodies are also found in the dust of the ground. They also tell us that life begets life, which is another way of saying; the only source of life is life itself. So, it takes life to create life. In that, the Bible is in agreement with the biologists. The Bible starts with what some like to call the first cause, “In the beginning, GOD ...” one moment dust, the next life.

God is the life that begets life; God can create life in an instant, but growth is a work of time. Shouldn't we, therefore, strive to understand His methods of logical order in His stages of growth, appointed times and preordained events?

Let's consider the miracle of conception and birth of a baby. God is in the process of creating a brand new physical life, a completely unique individual, a potential son of God (Jn. 1:12). Could that be comparable to the

miracle of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Is God also in the process of creating a new spiritual child of God? Doesn't the Bible itself describe it as a new birth, being born again, a new creature?

The unborn child, protected and nourished in its mother's womb, goes through a predetermined sequence of development. Aren't we also, admonished to progress from the milk of the word to the full knowledge of God (I Peter 2:2)? Don't we, ourselves, progress from the physical to the spiritual?

Even to His bringing into His kingdom many sons and daughters, we find a correlation to the birth process. We know that God's appointed convocations give us an outline for His plan of salvation and redemption of mankind. Have you ever considered how similar the conception and birth of a baby is to God's annual appointed times?

From day one of the start of a woman's cycle, to the 14th day, the egg is maturing to the point where it can be fertilized.

So on the fourteenth the egg is ready to be fertilized; does the 14th day of the first month ring a bell? There was an appointed time for God's lamb to be sacrificed. That time was to be the 14th day of the first month not sooner, not later. We know it as the Passover.

The egg must be fertilized within 24 hours.

Does that remind you of how the Passover Lamb must be sacrificed between the evenings? Ex. 12:6 [In the evening] Beeyn haa`arbaayim, is literally "between the two evenings," which could be understood to be a 24 hour period.

We are reminded of Jesus' words in John 12:24 "... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." Wasn't Jesus that kernel?

Within two to six days the fertilized egg attaches itself to the wall of the womb and begins to grow.

How odd---isn't the Feast of First Fruits observed from two to six days after Passover (Lev. 23:10-12)? Remember, Passover is an annual event and could occur on most any day of the week. Therefore, the Feast of First Fruits, always being the first day of the week, could happen from two to six days after Passover on any given year.

God's Son, being the second Adam and the First Fruit, having completed His work on earth is welcomed to heaven by the Father (John 20:17). Here He will have a position at the right hand of the Father until His enemies are made His footstool (Ps. 110:1).

The good seed has fallen to the ground and died. The harvest of the First Fruits has begun (James 1:18) with the first of the first fruits having passed from death unto life. There will be much fruit to follow. The harvest will be bountiful.

Fifty days later the embryo has arms, legs, hands, feet, toes, eyes, etc. It is now recognizable as a human fetus, definitely an offspring of the parents.

Fifty days from the day the Wave Sheaf was offered comes Pentecost, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the New Testament Church. This was fulfilled in Acts chapter 2, definitely a recognizable event, and Christians are recognizable as God's own throughout the world.

By the first day of the seventh month the baby's hearing has fully developed. Now the baby can hear and distinguish sounds outside the womb.

And the Lord said, "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'" (Lev. 23:24). On that great day described in Matthew 24:31; I Thes. 4:16; I Cor. 15:51-52; and many other places, He will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet; a sound that will reverberate throughout the universe.

On the tenth day of the seventh month the hemoglobin of the blood changes from that of the mother, to a self-sustaining baby.

What great event occurs ten days into the seventh month? The Day of Atonement is the day when the blood of the sacrifice is taken into the Holy Of Holies for the cleansing of the Temple. Remember brethren, we are the Temple Of God (I Cor. 3:16-17). This is the most serious day of the entire year, and is spent in total fasting and humble prayer (Lev. 23:27-32; Ex. 30:10). This is also the day when Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit where he will remain for a thousand years (Lev. 16; Rev. 20:1-3). With God's temple having been cleansed and our accuser banished, we are now a fully functioning child of God.

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the lungs become fully developed. If born before then the baby would have a hard time breathing.

And the fifteenth day of the seventh month is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering---a coming together for all of God's people. It's a wonderful time of celebration, "and they sang a new song ---" (Rev. 5:9). And in Psalms 149:1-5 we read:

1 "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

2 "Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 “Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

4 “For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

5 “Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.”

Certainly God's First Fruits will be joyously exercising their lungs at this time.

It has been said that every analogy breaks down at some point; apparently we have reached that point. What follows seems to have no connection with the Holy Days of Leviticus 23; however, it is worthy of consideration.

Birth takes place at about the tenth day of the ninth month after conception.

Nine months and ten days after Passover (the 25 day of the month Cisleu) the eight-day festival of Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) starts.

Although Hanukkah is not mentioned in Leviticus 23, it does seem to have relevance to Christ's warning in Matthew 24:15 and that mentioned in Dan. 8:13-14 about the Abomination of Desolation. Could this be the beginning of the Tribulation mentioned in Matthew 24:21?

Antiochus sacrificed a pig on the altar in the Holy of Holies, which led to a rebellion of the Jews. This is the time the Jews celebrate the deliverance from the armies of Antiochus Epiphanes. Are we being told about a future antitype of this event?

Hanukkah is a celebration of deliverance and cleansing of the temple.

Eight days later, at the end of Hanukkah, deliverance and cleansing of the temple is complete.

Eight days after birth the clotting ability of the blood of the baby is at its highest point.

Eight days after birth an Israelite male baby is circumcised, a sign of the eternal covenant between Abraham and God. But we are circumcised with the circumcision that was made without hands by the circumcision of Christ. Buried with Him in baptism, the symbol of death, burial, and resurrection (Col. 2:11-12).

Could anyone have understood the human gestation sequence 3,500 years ago? The correlation of God's appointed times, with the birth of a child is astounding to say the least. How can one deny the truth of intelligent design in the face of such evidence? How can one not believe in the first cause? "In the beginning GOD ---!"

The continuity of God's appointed times did not stop at the cross as some would have us believe; otherwise, why did Pentecost occur at the precise time appointed? Pentecost came 50 days after the Wave Sheaf offering. The Passover was fulfilled in the year of His choosing. Christ is at the right hand of the Father. Yet the Apostles were still observing Pentecost. And the Holy Spirit came right on cue.

Therefore, let no one, regardless of credentials, pass judgment on us for honoring God's shadows of things that have come and are yet to come as He has determined.


Read again Col. 2:16-17; "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: *Is Paul saying not to observe these days or not to let anyone judge you for observing these days?*

17 "Which is a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ. (*Note, if you are using the NIV you will find that they have taken the liberty to insert the words "that were" in front of "to come", thus changing the meaning to indicate they're all past. Consider God's judgment reserved for those who would add to or take from His word (Pro. 30:6; Rev. 22:19).*)

God has revealed to us the process He uses to obtain the growth and results He desires. Let us honor His gifts of knowledge He has given us. Remember that a good understanding have all they that do His commandments, for His commandments make us wiser than our enemies, or even our teachers (Psalms 111:10; 119:98).

Review Acts 2:1, “and when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place.” And we all know what happened next. One wonders, what if they had not been there observing Pentecost? God has set appointments in His times and He has shone them to us, will we listen?

Doing the right thing, at the right place, at the right time could never be more important than when God has set a time. Brethren, God created time, events in His time is not coincidental. Let us keep the Feasts of the Lord, so that we may be found to be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing.

There is a new world coming and is right now going through the birth process. Could there be a danger that some, because of the cares and distractions of this world, might become stillborn? 

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For further study on the Holy Days see these study guides:
GOD'S INTRIGUING CYCLES OF SEVENS - IF A MAN
DIE - THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN – THE PASSOVER &
YOU – PENTECOST – THE 7 DAYS OF UNLEAVENED
BREAD

END NOTES

Paul, the Apostles, and the early New Testament Church all observed God's appointed times, but in the light and understanding of the fulfillment of Christ's sacrifice (Passover) on the cross. Also, that the fall festivals are a shadow of things to come, (Col. 2:16-17) but will be according to God's own timetable.

LEVITICUS 23

God's Appointed Times Revealed To Man

1 "And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,
2 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. (*Notice, they are not Israel's, they are not man's, they belong to God and they are holy, but all of God's chosen ones are commanded to observe them.*).

The Weekly Sabbath Day

3 "Six days shall work be done: but the *seventh* day is the Sabbath of rest, a *holy* convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. (*It is God's Sabbath, not Israel's, not the Jews, but was made for man's benefit [Mk. 2:27] as a*

holy gathering and time of communing with God in all areas under man's control. It identifies the true God and His people Ex. 31:13).

God's Annual Appointed Times

4 “These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. *(A holy convocation is a commanded assembly.)*

The LORD'S Passover

5 “In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover. *(This marks the day Jesus was to be crucified, fulfilled in 31 AD).*

The First And Second Annual Holy Day:

6 “And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7 “In the first day ye shall have a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile (ordinary) work therein. *(This is the Sabbath referred to in Mk. 15:42; Lk. 23:54&56; Jn. 19:31).*

8 “But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

The Wave Sheaf Offering:

(Symbolizes Christ, the first fruit of the harvest of the earth, also those of the first resurrection Rev, 20;4).

9 “And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

10 “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

11 “And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 “And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf a he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

13 “And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savor: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14 “And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

The Count Toward Pentecost

(Fulfilled in Acts cp. 2)

15 “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; *seven* Sabbaths shall be complete:

16 “Even unto the morrow after the *seventh* Sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17 “Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the *firstfruits* unto the LORD.

18 “And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savor unto the LORD.

19 “Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20 “And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the *firstfruits* for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 “And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be a *holy convocation* (Pentecost) unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 “And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shall not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shall thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shall leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

The Feast of Trumpets

(The second coming of Christ).

23 “And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

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.

The Day of Atonement:

(Satan to be bound for 1000 years Lev. 16; Rev. 20:1-3).

26 “And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

27 “Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 “And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a Day of Atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 “For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30 “And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31 “Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 “It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

The Feast Of Tabernacles

(Represents 1000 years of Christ's rule and restoration of the earth).

33 “And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

34 “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

35 “On the first day shall be a holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36 “Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD:

The Last Great Day (John 7:37-38)

(Represents the physical resurrection of the rest of the dead [Rev. 20:5] those never before called or given an opportunity to accept Christ, [Ezk. 37] Tyre and Sidon [Lk. 10:14] and all those who never heard the name by which they may be saved, babies etc.)

On the *eighth* day shall be a holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

37 “These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

38 “Beside the Sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

39 “Also in the *fifteenth* day of the *seventh* month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD *seven* days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the *eighth* day shall be a Sabbath.

40 “And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

41 “And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD *seven* days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the *seventh* month.

42 “Ye shall dwell in booths *seven* days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: (*Christians are spiritual Israelites, Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:7, 27-29; Gal. 4:28*).

43 “That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

44 “And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.”

“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deut. 32:4).