

Deciphering the Special Days

Part 1: Introduction to the Special Days

The birth of Israel is found in **Exodus**. This newly formed nation of firstborn sons occurred along with the birth of a new calendar and its new special days to observe. Indeed, their birth as a nation was dependent upon their obedience to these first special days.

Two months after the people separated from Egypt, this infant nation of Israel was brought to Mount Sinai to enter into a marriage contract with Elohim, (God) ¹. The purpose of this new relationship was to develop them into a set-apart people, a special treasure, & a nation of priests. Their mission was then to bring all the nations into relationship with Elohim, (**Exodus 19** & **1Peter 2** & **Romans 8:19-21**). All creation is still looking forward to a people who will rise to lead them out of bondage, (of which Egypt was a type).

As part of the marriage covenant, Israel was also given additional special days to observe. The progressive observance of these days at the times & manners specified would be a crucial part of their growth into a kingdom of priests ².

The covenant further required Israel to build a Tabernacle plus a priesthood. They both were to be at the heart of the nation. Together they were also an integral part of the observance of the special days. This Tabernacle was to be built according to the heavenly pattern. The pattern was to point to the work of the Messiah. The Tabernacle (with its priesthood), along with the special days, were symbolic of heavenly spiritual truths that would eventually bring restoration to all of mankind upon the earth, (**Exodus 25:9** & **Hebrews 8:5**).

It is with this overview that we will now focus on these special days. We can see now that they hold the keys to understanding the growth of a "firstborn" people to reign as a nation of priests with our Messiah, (our High Priest), to set creation free, (**Revelation 5:10**). These special days can reveal patterns to help us see the "big picture" throughout the Word. They also help us to see what is happening today, and what is to come. Once we lay out the special days accurately according to the Word, then the true patterns emerge. These patterns are very different from what has been traditionally taught & accepted which is why so much proof is provided. (If this study gets too technical, then just skip to the last part where the patterns are explained.)

1. I typically prefer to use "Elohim" instead of "God" in this study. Why? Because "God" ("El" in Hebrew), is generic, a loose translation, and can be used for any pagan deity, whereas "Elohim" is the correct word used in the Hebrew manuscripts to indicate "The Almighty God".

2. More specifics about these special days are given later in **Exodus**, plus in the three books of the Scriptures that follow **Exodus**. These other books are **Leviticus**, **Numbers**, & **Deuteronomy**. Together, these four books (along with **Genesis**), are the "Books of Moses", also called "The Torah", meaning "the teachings".

Part 2: So What are These Special Days?

All of these special days fall within the first seven months of the year of the “Creator’s Calendar”, (sometimes called “the religious year” or “spiritual year”). In fact, the beginning of this very important “Creator’s Calendar” is defined at the same time that these days are first introduced, (Exodus 12). On this everyone seems to agree.

These special days cluster in the first month and the 7th month, with one in-between in the 3rd month. On this everyone also seems to agree. If one were to count them, they would find that there are 22 such days mentioned, (realizing that one of them falls on another one) ³.

First we see that these 22 days are not all given equal weight as special days. Some are more special than others in at least a half-dozen different ways. It is therefore imperative to make these distinctions before jumping to conclusions. It is really fairly simple to distinguish them. Here are a list of the different primary labels used for special days. No one label applies to all of the special days ⁴.

- "memorial days"
- "holy convocation days"
- "solemn assembly days"
- "feast days"
- "Sabbath days"
- "special Sabbath days"
- "appointed-time days"

Let's be careful to recognize that some of the primary definitions of the Hebrew words used for the above may also have a secondary meaning similar to another of the above descriptions when used in certain context. For instance, the Hebrew for "holy convocation" may also imply a festival, but it is still not the primary Hebrew word for "feast". This just means to beware that English translations can be a bit misleading. So our research stays with the Hebrew from which the other translations came.

3. There is a correlation to the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, (another pattern yet to be fully explored). But for now it is interesting to just note that the Hebrew alphabet begins with the letter aleph (which means "strong leader /first") and ends with the letter tav (which means "sign/mark/covenant"...also spelled "tav" & "tau"). These are the beginning & the ending letters. Every Hebrew letter has a meaning for something. The combination of aleph-tav is inserted frequently throughout Hebrew manuscripts, always found in passages that seem to reference the Messiah either directly or symbolically. English translations typically bypass these insertions that are found throughout the Torah; however it is clear from Revelation 1:8, 21:6, & 22:13 that "aleph-tav" means "The Messiah". This correlation between the special days & alphabet points to the special days being symbolic of the work of the Messiah. The English translations read it from the Greek as "the alpha & the omega" rather than the original Hebrew/Aramaic that the Messiah spoke it in. (For more on these aleph-tav insertion, see the book, "Names" by Todd Bennett, page 124, endnote 42.)

4. This distinguishing of the special days among themselves becomes a maze, but is easy to see once laid out in a spreadsheet. We've already done this for reference. It can be seen as Study No. 09 under "Studies by Eric" at our website, (<https://www.bibleconcepts.com>). For those who desire to print the spreadsheet, it is best read when printed at 2' x 3'. The pdf file can be downloaded and taken to a print shop for printing.

Part 3: Following the Spreadsheet of the Special Days

So let's now take a quick overall view of the spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is a summary of our research on all of the special days from the Torah. There is a different column for each of the 7-attributes of the various special days (listed in Part 2), with the other columns providing helpful supportive info. The spreadsheet was done in order to assist in the construction of an accurate visual graphic chart ⁵. The patterns tend to stand out on the chart. (The patterns to be seen there are explained in the last Part of this study.)

The spreadsheet & the chart are reviewed & tied together in this study before presenting the patterns. We have found that all three of these studies are necessary for the questioning skeptic & "truth-seeker"; for the conclusions drawn here are notably different than what has been traditional taught by Christianity, Judaism, and even the "Messianic/Hebrew Roots" movement. Their teachings pointed out some important truths in their day, so we are thankful that they pressed ahead with the light available at the time. We also expect that the true "truth-seekers" among those teachers will excitedly embrace the non-traditional but scripturally-solid truths presented here, (or say where I've missed it).

For instance, we first presented a chart of the special days in Lesson No. 04, which we are now (in part), updating here. Although the original chart is basically on-track, the new chart is technically more correct and with more insight. We are living in the time where many hidden things are being rapidly revealed; and so we can continue to learn much by Word & Spirit from one another as the truth flows.

First we see on the spreadsheet that the 22 special days are listed in the second column, with the first column identifying the month in which each special day occurs. The header row provides the Hebrew word with its primary meaning used in each column. The corresponding Strong's number for each Hebrew word is also given ⁶.

5. The chart is found as Study No. 10 under "Studies by Eric" at <https://www.bibleconcepts.com>. The fundamental parts of it are duplicated later in this study for ease of reference.

6. For those who are unfamiliar with Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and how to research the Hebrew, here's a quick outline. Start with the King James Version of the Scriptures. The beauty of the KJV is that *every word* in it has been put into an alphabetical list in Strong's *every time* that English word is used. So, look it up alphabetically in Strong's. Next note that part of each passage is listed for each time that word is used in the KJV, (along with the chapter & verse reference for each passage. After the passage is a number. Now find that number in the Hebrew dictionary at the back of Strong's. That will list the Hebrew word (in Hebrew), from which it was translated, along with the Hebrew meaning of the word in English. We can even go deeper without knowing Hebrew! To find out *every* instance of where *that Hebrew word* is found and how it was translated each time, go to Wigram's, "The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament". The Hebrew words here are also keyed to the Strong's numbers, so now we just look up the Strong's number and find a list of *every* place where that Hebrew word is in the Old Covenant *and how it was translated!* This is very handy, especially to be assured that we have not missed other places where the word was used. We also see that the same Hebrew word is often translated in a variety of ways.

The meanings of these Hebrew words can be further verified by looking at a more expansive original root definition of the Hebrew word ⁷.

The first row beneath the header row describes the weekly Sabbath day, which we've not described as one of the 22 special days since it goes by a different calendar. It occurs every seventh day of each week, and this seventh day consecutively repeats through all of the lunar months and solar years without synchronizing to either one or to any numbered day of either one. This Sabbath week is designed as a set apart pattern to emphasize it repeatedly as the model for many other scriptural patterns & truths, all fulfilled in Yeshua ⁸ (Jesus), the Messiah.

There is even some scriptural, historical, & astronomical evidence that this weekly pattern has continued unbroken since the creation week so that the Sabbath day is truly observed on the correct day of the week ⁹.

Now to move on for the fun part in our concluding section!

7. "A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language for Readers of English", by Ernest Klein. To find the Hebrew word in this reference work, one must know what the Hebrew word looks like in the Hebrew Dictionary in Strong's, and then also know the sequence of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order to look up the Hebrew word. The Etymological Dictionary is arranged alphabetically according to the Hebrew, but the definitions are given in English. The beauty of The Etymological Dictionary is that the original intent and use of the Hebrew word is displayed along with in-depth definitions and nuances of meanings.

8. I typically prefer to use the name "Yeshua" since I've recently found that to be the English spelling of the sound of His real Hebrew name that Mary named Him in their language as directed by the messenger of Elohim, (**Matthew 1:21,25**). Proper names should always be transliterated, not translated into a different name. This certainly is a paradigm shift for me, but old dogs can learn new tricks! (**Philippians 4:13**). It is also acceptable for "Yeshua" to be spelled as "Yashua", and "Y'shua", since they all sound nearly identical. For more info, obtain a copy of "The Naming of Jesus in Hebrew Matthew" by Nehemiah Gordon.

9. "The Sabbath", Appendix B, by Todd Bennett

Part 4: The Patterns of the Spreadsheet

At first glance there doesn't seem to be any obvious pattern on the spreadsheet. These distinguishing descriptions seem to be scattered all over the place. There is however a key there that unlocks the whole message.

The key is found by understanding the big picture shown in Part 1, where we learned that the special days are a timeline to map out an ever deepening love relationship with our Creator. *IT IS THE PATHWAY TO OUR MATURITY INTO THE FULL STATURE OF MESSIAH, (Ephesians 4:13-16).*

It is the path of the righteous, (**Proverbs 4:18**).

It is the path that no fowl knoweth, (**Job 28:7**).

It is the unseen path through the sea of humanity, (**Isaiah 43:16**).

It is the path of life, (**Psalms 16:11**).

The assembly of the firstborn keeps moving onward & upward by Word & Spirit along this path of these special days.

Seeing that context helps us to find the key...the key that points out the column in which the main pattern is hidden. The key is found in the Hebrew definition of the words from which we get the English translation of "holy convocation". The Hebrew meaning of these words (in the eighth column), is "*THE SET-APART TIMES FOR THE CALLED-OUT ONES TO ASSEMBLE*"! Who are "called-out ones"? They are the ones who are leaving behind those who are content at the stage they are at, in order to press on to gather with others who are moving on to obtain a more excellent reward, the prize of the high-calling in Elohim, our Messiah, (**Philippians 3:8-14**). These are the assemblies that we are not to forsake. These are the assembly & church (congregation), of the firstborn! (**Hebrews 12:23**)

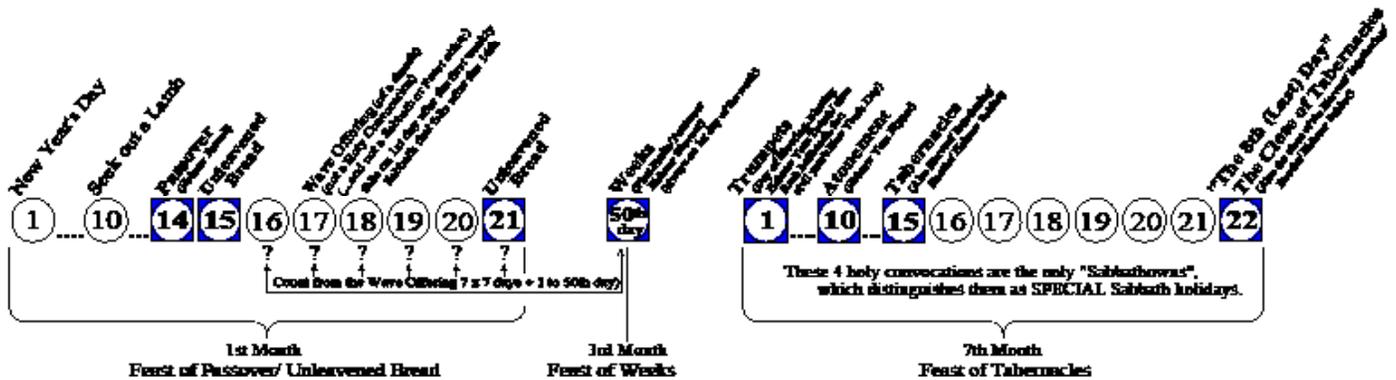
And the prize is Him! He is our inheritance if by grace through faith we continue individually and together as a nation of firstborn sons, (**Revelation 21:7**).

This is why it says three times that one is cut off if they do not complete the path of the righteous as laid out in these special days, (**Exodus 23:17 & 34:23 & Deuteronomy 16:16**).

Cut off from what? Cut off from being part of the first resurrection of the firstfruit people. These resurrected firstborn sons are the ones who rise up as a nation of priests to minister the Word & Spirit & Life of our Messiah. They are the ones who walk uncompromisingly in the Messiah's Life and very nature. They are the ones through whom our Messiah will work to set all creation free. This stone kingdom of a set-apart people have completed the 8-milestones of the path of the "holy convocation days".

These "holy convocation" days are the ones in bold squares on the chart of the previous study, the basics of which are duplicated here ¹⁰. The holy convocation days are our focus.

Note that there are a total of eight of them.



Four "holy convocation days" are in the spring planting months, and four are in the fall harvest month.

So the first four holy convocation days represent the "early rains".

The last four represent the "latter rains".

The early rains are to soften the ground and to water the seed once it is planted.

The later rains are to mature the fruit for harvest. It is the time of coming into maturity.

The first four holy convocation days represent the first work of Yeshua, our Passover Lamb, (1Corinthians 5:7). The Passover represents the atoning work of Yeshua which prepares our hearts to receive the seed of His Spirit within. Before we can receive His Seed, we must respond to the Passover by then immediately embarking on a 7-step journey beyond that to separating from the leaven of the Adam nature. This journey plows & softens hard hearts to receive His Seed. The Feast of Weeks (Hebrew "Shavuot") is when the Seed of His Spirit is planted within us. This is called "Pentecost" in most English translations. The purpose of the atoning work was to send the Spirit of His nature to begin a transforming work within. This the the first work of Messiah the Head.

The second four holy convocations represents the second work of Yeshua, which is the maturing of His nature within His Body ¹¹.

10. To see this in a larger format and in its fullness, go to our Study No. 10 at <https://www.bibleconcepts.com> to see the full chart. You'll find the study there under "Studies by Eric". This chart is a graphic summary of the 8th column of the spreadsheet of Study No. 09.

11. For more info on the 2-works, see our Lesson No. 10 at our website, <https://www.bibleconcepts.com> under "Bible Lessons".

The two works of Yeshua are also prophetically seen in the sacrifice of the two goats on the Day of Atonement, (Hebrew "Yom Kippur") ¹². The first goat is sacrificed as an atoning work so that the second goat can successfully have his/her faith exercised when tested by the devil and gain experience to become an overcomer, (**Proverbs 24:16**). The first work protects us from the *penalty* of sin. The second work protects us from the *power* of sin. Those who have walked to the end of the path of the special days have come into full maturity. They have endured to the end of the race, and are called, "the Overcomers", (**Revelation 2 & 3**).

The first four holy convocation days conclude the age of the Passover Lamb on the outside and begin the age of the Passover Lamb on the inside.

Now note that the last four holy convocation days are the only ones labeled as "special Sabbath days". In other words, the focus of the journey is on this second work, the harvest of fruitfulness. The goal of any race is not on the beginning point, but on the finish line. Preparing & planting the seed lack meaning if the seed does not grow to bear fruit. The harvest takes emphasis over the planting. It is the reason for the planting. The harvest is now!

Note that five of the holy convocation days are also labeled as "Feast Days". Why only five? Which ones are not & why not?

Well, the 1st Day of the 7th month (Day of Trumpets/Blasting), is the beginning of the month, which is also the beginning of the New Moon. Trumpets were blown on every New Moon to announce the beginning of the month, (**Numbers 10:10**), but were not designated as "Feast Days". This 7th trumpet however is set apart as more important than the first 6-trumpets as indicated by it being the only "holy convocation". This is because it is the announcement to the called-out ones to pay attention that this trumpet sound announces the last lap of the race to maturity. It is "the last trump". It is not the time to feast, but to be alert that it is the time to prepare for what lies ahead. This trumpet sound also marks the beginning of the civil calendar year.

The 10th Day of the 7th month is not a "Feast Day" either. That is because it is the time to humble ourselves, afflict our souls, and repent. Typically one will fast on this day. It is a time for us to search our souls for any hidden sins or unforgiveness and come clean from them in order to go on.

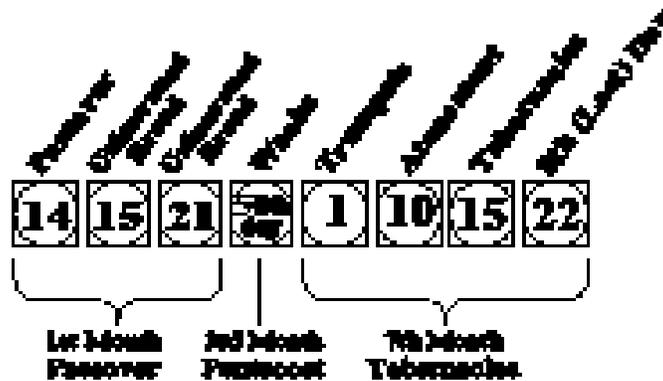
The 22nd Day of the 7th month is also not a "Feast Day". Why not? That is because feasting is done during the harvest to celebrate the harvest, but on this "Great 8th Day" the harvest is all over. The wheat is all in the barn. The tares are all dealt with. This "8th Day" is the closing day of the Sukkot where one dwelt in booths for the previous 7-days. On the "8th Day" however we are not in a booth, but in "The House". This day marks the beginning of a new age. This 22nd day is also the 22nd special day, concluding the journey just as the 22nd letter of the Hebrew alphabet (the sign of the covenant with Messiah), concludes the alphabet.

12. This is clearly laid out in our Bible Lesson No. 09 at our website, <https://www.bibleconcepts.com> under "Bible Lessons".

The first seven holy convocation days are also labeled as "appointed times", but this 8th day is distinguished from the first seven also as not being one of the "appointed times". Why is that? Because this day is the conclusion, the reward, the end of the journey, and a new beginning for something different. This day is the natural result of the completion of the previous seven. The race is over. Our temporary dwelling places are discarded because we are now all in our permanent immortal resurrected bodies, fully in the image & likeness of Yeshua!...and when He fully walks & lives & dwells in us.

So we see that careful examination of the Word from the Hebrew demonstrates that there are eight days more special than the others, *NOT SEVEN* as is traditionally taught. Also we see that what is often called "the Wave Offering" is clearly not one of them. It is never mentioned as a holy convocation, feast day, solemn assembly, or Sabbath.¹³

Here is the summary of the 8 holy convocation days.



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Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis
 PO Box 400
 Easton, ME 04740
 ericandmaryellis@gmail.com
 https://www.bibleconcepts.com

13. We found one Hebrew scholar (Todd Bennett), who agrees with us on this point. In fact it is a day "to put the sickle to the corn", a work day. The Wave Offering is however very significant in that it marks the beginning of the 50-day count to the holy convocation of "Weeks". It also has great prophetic meaning as a type of the resurrection/ascension of Messiah as the very first wave offering of fruit. It is a promise of the beginning toward a greater harvest. Even Yeshua said the purpose for Him leaving his disciples was so that He could return as Spirit to guide & comfort & change them (& us), from within as told in **John 14:25-30**.