

“HOLY DAY SEASON REFLECTIONS”

By *Shelby Faith*



Have you ever thought about how the spring and fall festival seasons reflect each other? There are so many similarities between the holy day seasons it's not coincidentally. God had a plan and He wanted to make sure that it was clear to us what His plan would be.

The spring and fall festivals are both seven days long, the Feast of Unleavened Bread (spring) and the Feast of Tabernacles (fall). They both begin on the 15th day of the month and point to the time God delivered Israel out of slavery from Egypt. (Unleavened Bread-Exodus 12:42) And in the fall The Feast of Tabernacles refers back to the time Israel left Egypt and dwelt in booths. (Leviticus 23:42-43) We also have physical reminders that we practice for the Days of Unleavened Bread (putting out leavening) and we dwell in temporary dwellings at the Feast of Tabernacles.

The spring and fall holy day seasons reflect each other and point to God's plan for mankind.



In the spring on the 10th day of the first month, God told Israel to select a lamb for each family to be used as the Passover sacrifice. The lambs were not to be sacrificed until the beginning of the 14th day. (Exodus 12:3-5) In the fall, Israel was to take two goats on the 10th day of the seventh month and present them to the Lord. Lots were cast for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and another one for the scapegoat. (Leviticus 16:7-9) “The 10th day of the seventh month is called the Day of Atonement.” (Leviticus 23:27) What is interesting and unique is that on both days animals were selected from the flock on the 10th day of the month.



God made it very clear when His new year begins in the spring on the first day of the first month. (Exodus 12:2) This is where God's calendar for us begins. Later God told Israel to blow trumpets on the beginning of the months. (Numbers 10:10) When the trumpets were blown on the first day of the first month it also signified a new year, a new beginning. Now in the seventh month on the first day of the month is the

Day of Trumpets, “a memorial of the blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation”. (Leviticus 23:24) This was not a standard blowing of trumpets on the first day of the month. The Feast of Trumpets represents a new age when the Kingdom of God will be established on the earth. So again, here are the similarities. Trumpets were to be blown on the first day of the first month (and each month of the year) and on the first day of the seventh month, both of these months picture beginnings.



Another spring festival is the Feast of Pentecost. On this day in 31 A.D. the Holy Spirit was poured out abundantly on the disciples and followers of Christ. On this day Peter said, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh”. (Acts 2:17) This is a prophesy pertaining to a time in the future when God will give His Spirit to everyone as pictured by the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day.

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are two separate festivals spanning eight consecutive days. During this time work is forbidden on two Sabbath days, the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day are also two separate festivals spanning eight consecutive days. Work is forbidden on the first day of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. See the similarities!

(Continued on Page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

“Holy Day Season Reflections”	1
PERSONAL NOTE and “Pass It On”	2
“Jewish Observance of Atonement”	3
Fall Holy Day Season Crossword	4
Lessons: The Life of Christ	5-6
Sabbath Lesson Outline	7
Summer Safety Rules	8

Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

It has been a busy time since our last issue. There is so much to do around the house in the spring with cleaning up our homes from being closed up all winter and getting our homes ready for the spring holidays. (That's what we who live in a part of the country that has four seasons look forward to all winter.) Then as soon as the weather gets a little warmer we all want to be outside, planting and enjoying the beautiful sun-filled days of spring. Pretty soon though it's more of a matter of keeping the grass cut and watering our plants and gardens as the summer season gets into full swing.

We have a combined Summer-Fall issue this time so we're trying to think ahead to what people do in the summer time; next it's time to start thinking about the fall holy days. Read the article about "Summer Safety Rules".

Our lead article is about the similarities of the spring and fall holy day seasons and how they all tie together. Our wonderful Creator devised His plan and gave us the holy days to show us what His plan is and how it all leads us toward His Kingdom and becoming a part of His family. Diane Kleeschulte has shared some lesson plans and activities; also read her latest "Pass It On" article. Doyle Carter did some research on how the Jews celebrate Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and contributed a very interesting article about that subject.

We would like to thank all our contributors and we would welcome other contributors to this newsletter. If you would like to share an article, lesson plan, activities, etc. along the lines of helping parents and teachers, please get in touch with me at the address below.

Summer will be here and gone before we know it so it is time to start thinking about the coming holy day season. We want to wish everyone a great and enjoyable spiritual feast wherever you are getting together this year. May God bless each one of you as you keep His Word and work out your own salvation!

Until next time,

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"Pass It On" "Better Late Than Never"

By Diane Kleeschulte

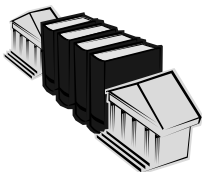
People who know me will readily acknowledge the fact that I am a stickler for punctuality. I would rather be thirty minutes early than five minutes late. I am a product of my environment. My parents regard punctuality as a virtue so I had no choice. However I did not become a follower of Jesus Christ until my thirties. Realizing that I had a lot of catching up to do, I immersed myself in learning bible basics: the books of the bible, bible map, bible dictionary and concordance. Then I proceeded to learn the Word. It almost overwhelmed me on occasion but I knew people that had learned the bible as a child and I was far from that. But, better late than never. This became my motto the first year, as I fought Satan's lie and discouragement that I had waited too long to know Jesus Christ. But through prayer and faith that lie was slain. He is indeed an awesome God!

But, I wonder how many people have believed Satan's lie. His job is to keep people of all ages away from God the Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ. That job keeps him very busy. And his tenacity has been successful. We are familiar with some of his other lies: you aren't smart, you're fat, and you don't deserve _____ (fill in the blank). Do any of these lies sound familiar? But the most dangerous lie is the one that tells us that we can't know God because we are too old or we have waited too long. And what does that mean exactly? What is too old? How long is too long? Against what timetable is that measured? At what age do we suddenly stop understanding what we hear and read? It is not a logical argument against reading and learning about God's ways. If a seed is planted and watered, it will grow. God is the Master Gardener. (I Corinthians 3:6 NIV) Everything will grow under His loving Hand. The Word tells us the promise, Jesus Christ, is for all who clothe themselves with Christ. Scripture says "all". There are no requirements of age, position, or heritage. (Galatians 3:26-29 NIV)

This became very personal when I heard my mother utter that discouraging phrase: "I waited too long and feel like I have wasted fifty years of my life." Her underlying message was that she was too old. I told her there was no age limit on learning about God. I reminded her that she was doing a wonderful job of learning and understanding God's Word in the time she had been studying. I continued to encourage her and she finally admitted "better late than never". I have never known my mother to be late, but if she was ever going to be late at something at least there was

(Continued on Page 7)

("Holy Day Season Reflections" - Continued from Page 1)



Passover begins the festival season and is a separate day by itself, coming right before the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. The Last Great Day is a separate festival by itself but comes at the end of the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles. Look at this like bookends; Passover precedes the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Last Great Day follows the Feast of Tabernacles. Both days act like bookends at the beginning and the end of the yearly festivals of God. Passover makes it possible for mankind to have salvation because of Christ's sacrifice. When the Last Great Day is fulfilled, all mankind will have had an opportunity to be saved.

Pentecost is known by 3 different names. It's also called Feast of Firstfruits (Exodus 23:16) and Feast of Weeks. (Exodus 34:22) The Feast of tabernacles is also called by 2 other names, the Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22) and the Feast of Booths. (Nehemiah 8:14-17)

There are seven annual Sabbaths during which work is forbidden:

1. ***First Day of Unleavened Bread***
2. ***Last Day of Unleavened Bread***
3. ***Pentecost***
4. ***Trumpets***
5. ***Atonement***
6. ***Tabernacles***
7. ***Last Great Day***

There are seven appointed festivals that we keep:

1. ***Passover***
2. ***Feast of Unleavened Bread***
3. ***Pentecost***
4. ***Trumpets***
5. ***Atonement***
6. ***Tabernacles***
7. ***Last Great Day***

Seven seems to be the number of completion. At the end of these seven appointed festivals we will have completed the festival seasons which spell out the plan of God. God with His great infinite mind gave these spring and fall festivals to us as a reminder each year what His plan is and what our destiny is—to be in His family and be in His kingdom.

These days are very important to God. We should keep them and teach our children to keep them. Explain to your children that by keeping those holy days we can know the plan of God and what the future holds for all of mankind.

(Most information in this article was taken from an article in the March/April issue of the United News titled "The Symmetry of the Festivals" published by the United Church of God, AIA.)



**"Day of Atonement"
As Observed By the Jews**
By Doyle Carter

How do the Jews observe the Day of Atonement? This question was presented to me by a friend and it raised my curiosity on the matter since I never really considered it. As I studied this topic, I did find it quite interesting. I decided to share with you some basic facts on this topic of how the Jews observe this Holy Day.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is considered one of the holiest days of the year for the Jewish people, for even non-religious Jews observe this day. It is referred to as the Jewish day of repentance. The main theme is atonement and reconciliation.

On this day, there are five prohibitions which must be followed from sunset to sunset which are:

1. No eating or drinking
2. No bathing
3. No use of creams or oils in any way
4. No wearing of leather shoes
5. No sexual relations

However, some individuals are allowed to eat and drink as needed due to certain conditions such as young children, women who are pregnant or nursing, or any one who is sick. Plus, if fasting may be harmful to your health in such cases as medication or so forth, this person would be allowed to eat or drink as needed.

It is a day of reconciliation with their fellow man as well as with God. It is the custom for them to terminate all feuds and disputes during the ten days between Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets) and Yom Kippur or at least by the evening of the fast. I know many individuals in our churches that keep this same custom.

In fact, during the ten days before this day, it is the custom of many Jews to reflect on their lives and take this time for spiritual renewal and general repentance between God and man. These days are commonly called the "Days of Awe."

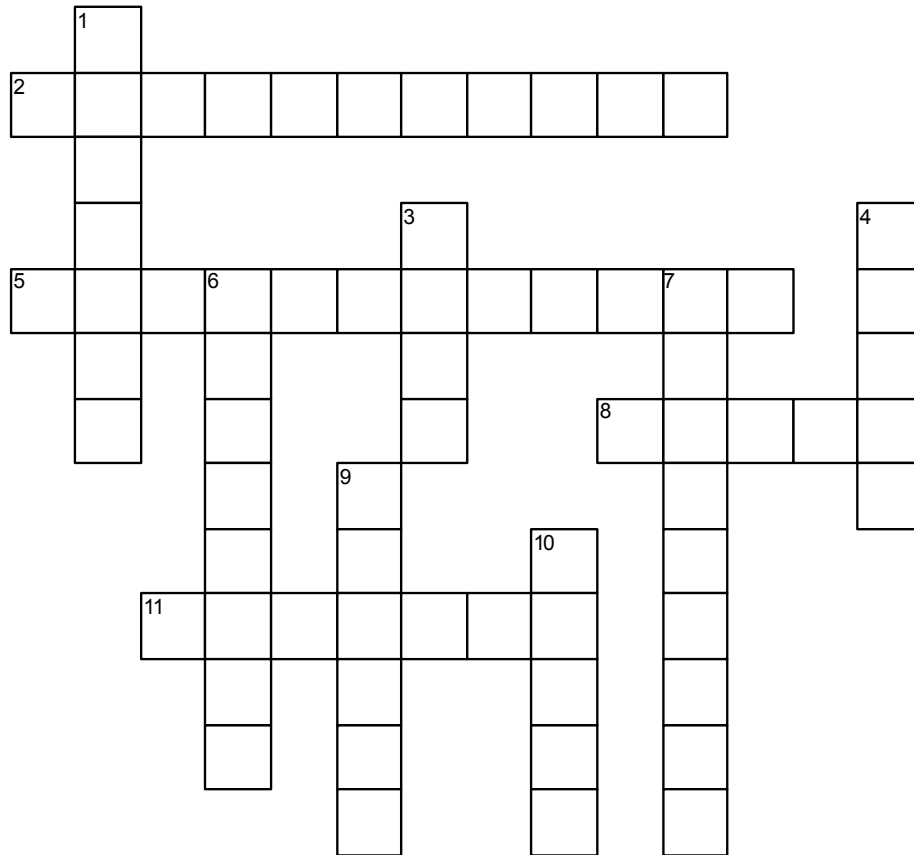
It was interesting to learn that they include the souls of the dead as the community of those people that are pardoned on the Yom Kippur-Day of Atonement.

Unlike the Churches of God traditions which has most of us fasting for a 24 hour period and attending a service for a couple of hours usually in the afternoon as we reflect on our lives the entire day with prayer and study, the Jewish observance is more complex.

They observe a twenty-five hour fast from thirty minutes before sunset of this day to 30 minutes after sunset at the end

(Continued on Page 7)

Fall Holy Day Season Crossword



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ACROSS

- 2** A seven day festival in the fall
5 Last Holy Day of the fall
8 Animals used on the Day of Atonement
11 What God commands that we are to do at the Feast of Tabernacles

DOWN

- 1** Holy day of rest
3 Not working
4 A festival
6 The first feast day in the fall
7 The second feast day in the fall
9 Another name for the Feast of Tabernacles
10 Temporary dwellings

WORD BANK: Atonement, booths, feast, goats, lastgreatday, rejoice, rest, sabbath, tabernacles, tents, trumpets.

The Life of Christ

Lesson: Sermon on the Mount

"The "be" attitudes"

Ages 11-13 (Juniors or Middle School)



Lesson scripture- Matthew 5:1-12

Before the lesson ask: What does it mean to be "blessed"? Give students time to share their responses. Then discuss the biblical meaning. (Sometimes their definition will include the word "lucky".)

To be "blessed" means: _____

Now that we have the meaning of "blessed", write about a time you felt blessed: _____

What does the word "attitude" mean? (Share and discuss responses)

Attitude means: _____

What kind of attitude(s) have you had lately, even today? _____

Jesus Christ spoke to a multitude of people in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 5. It is usually called the Sermon on the Mount, because He was indeed on the top of a mountain, surrounded by a great many people including His disciples. (Can you name them? Matthew 4:18-22)

Read Matthew 5:1-4.

What Jesus taught in His sermon is called the "beatitudes." He explained what kind of reward would be ours if we have a certain attitude or behavior while we live our Christian life. For example, if we are poor in spirit, showing humility or being humble, then the kingdom of heaven will be ours. (Matthew 5:3)

What does Jesus teach in verse 4?

Jesus taught that if we mourn, or are tenderhearted to others, then we will be _____

_____. (Fill in the blank)

Read the rest of the Sermon on the Mount and find out what other "be" attitudes we should have and what will result if we have them during our walk with Jesus.

Remember, Jesus is describing a way of behaving toward others. When we live our lives according to the Word of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, others will learn by our example, especially doubters or unbelievers. People will usually remember your "attitude(s)" before they remember your "words".

What did Jesus say the promise of each of these attitudes would be? (Write the promise in the space below)

Poor in spirit- _____

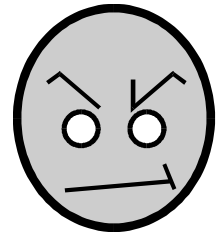
Mourn- _____

Continued on Page 6

Meek- _____
 Hunger and thirst for righteousness- _____
 Merciful- _____
 Pure in heart- _____
 Peacemakers- _____
 Persecuted for righteousness' sake- _____

Can you think of someone you know that has one or more of the above attitudes?

Sometimes we have what is called a "bad" attitude. How do we develop a bad attitude? How would you describe your attitude today? What do you think the results of your will be? Share and discuss responses.



Notice that the results of our bad attitude do not match up with any of the "be" attitudes that Jesus described. And the results of your bad attitude won't match up either. Jesus wants us to "be" His in words, thoughts, or actions. A bad attitude can be fixed when we look at what He wants us to "be".

Ask for questions and comments before continuing to the review.

Let's review the Sermon on the Mount:

Review activity: Have two sets of cards. (8 in each set; 16 total) On one set write the beatitudes and on the other the promise given in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Turn the cards over and have them play the memory or match game. The objective is for them to match the correct beatitude with the correct promise.

Memory Verse- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NKJV)

Lesson Activities:

Materials: bible, pencil, color pencils, graph paper. Using the list of beatitudes, student will create a word search. Color pencils can be used to add a border. Give to another student to solve.



Materials: bible, bible map, pencil, color tools, white paper. Jesus gave this sermon on a hillside near Capernaum. Where in the world is Capernaum? Students will use a bible map to locate Capernaum and then draw a map using listed materials.



Materials: bible, concordance, pencil, lined paper, list of the beatitudes. Give each student a list of the beatitudes. Student will use the concordance and bible to search for other scriptures that are similar to the beatitudes.

Materials: dry erase board and markers. Write the memory verse on the dry erase board and then erase a few words. Challenge the students to give you the missing word. Continue this activity until they have it memorized.

Materials: bible, 8x11 light bulb outline, markers, scissors, single hole punch, and yarn or string. To remind themselves to be a light before others, have students write on the light bulb outline some ways they can be a light. Have them cut the out the light bulb, punch a hole on the top and thread it with yarn or string. Hang on door knob or pin on bulletin board.



(This lesson was prepared by Diane Kleeschulte)

SABBATH LESSON OUTLINE

By Diane Kleeschulte

If you would like to use the outline below for your Sabbath Class, please copy this and make enough copies to give out each week to your class. Make sure you have enough copies for each student. The children will be able to know what to expect for the next class if teachers have this outline filled in and given to them a week ahead. This should help children come to class prepared.

SABBATH LESSON OUTLINE

Sabbath date _____

Lesson topic _____

Lesson Scripture(s) _____

Lesson Activity _____

Home study _____

Bible Truth for the week _____

Study the scripture verse below for the next class meeting on _____

Memory Verse _____

...they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily...

Acts 17:11 (New King James Version)

For the next class, bring your Bible, notebook, pencil/pen, and _____

“...they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily...”

Acts 17:11

(“Day of Atonement”- Continued from page 3)

of the Day of Atonement.

At the last meal before the holy day, they drink plenty of water and eat foods such as rice. Some Jews even eat fish as a custom. They also bathe and brush their teeth since it is forbidden for the next 25 hours.

As an interesting note, some Jews cut back on caffeine products such as coffee and soda to avoid headaches during that day. This is done by many Church of God members as well and is good advice.

As the custom of other holy days, two holiday candles are blessed and lit. They are to burn though out the day until the end of the festival.

They attend prayer services that evening and the entire next day with a break ever so often. They read the Torah from the Book of Leviticus 16 and 18 and the Book of Jonah.

When the fast is over, families return home and eat a light meal of bagels and lox, or noodles kugel. For drinks, they have juices, coffee and water.

I hope that you now have a better understanding on how the Jews observe this Holy Day. If you are interested in this topic, there is much more information on it and worth your time to study it. You may want to study about how the Jewish people keep other holy days and what traditions do they have on these days too. You can get a lot of information from the internet, go to a local library, or talk to Jewish people and ask them about their observance on these days.



(Pass It On—Continued from Page 2)

going to be a positive result. She may be older than she would like to be in learning about God, but in His eyes she is still His precious child. And we all know how Jesus, His Son, feels about children, too. (Matthew 19:14)

Recently my mother was preparing to attend her first ever women’s bible study. She was anxious as this was new territory. I told her she was going to be fine and not to worry. The women, I assured her, would be helpful, kind, and gentle. But the most important encouragement I believe I could have given her was this: they aren’t going to check your birth certificate or driver’s license at the door! This advice may be helpful to someone you know, perhaps even a loved one. So be a good steward of the word and pass it on.



SUMMER RULES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

By Shelby Faith

With summer here, parents should make their children aware of these things:

1. With older children go over rules about whose homes they may visit when you're not there and who may come into your home. Do not leave small children unattended anywhere.
2. Make sure they know their full name, address and telephone number.
3. Teach them to keep doors locked at all times and do not answer the door for anyone.
4. Tell them to run away if a stranger approaches them even if that stranger says he/she needs help. Teach them to not even talk to strangers but to go find an adult that they know. Make it known who they may or may not accept a ride with.
5. Teach children to stay away from pools, ponds, creeks or other bodies of water when they are not supervised.
6. If you allow older children to play outside after dark make sure they have reflective clothing, as well as stay close to home. Let them know if you have set a curfew and teach them to be in at that time.
7. If you have a caregiver, make sure you know everything there is to know about them. Ask for references and check them out.
8. Teach children about bike riding, safety issues and the "buddy system".
9. If your children are going to camp, make sure you do a complete check on the camp.
10. Make sure to check on children often even when they are playing in their own backyard. Never leave small children outside by themselves.
11. If cooking outside, make sure you watch that the children do not get too close to the grill or fire. And as always, teach children to never play with matches, guns, knives or any dangerous objects.
12. Teach children that not all animals are people-friendly. Tell them to never try to touch some animals such as strange dogs and cats, raccoons, skunks, snakes, etc.
13. Listen to your children and let them know they can come to you anytime with any problem, no matter what.

FEAST REMINDER!!!

We would like to ask any one who will be teaching Feast Classes this year to take pictures and share with us what lessons were taught, what activities were done with the class and any thing else your classes did at the feast.



What were the themes for the classes this year? If you can send pictures and an article describing the classes we will print them after the feast in the next issue of this Newsletter. If you can email them as an attachment and use Word or Microsoft Publisher for the text, it would be appreciated. If you don't have access to a computer you can always send them through the mail.

Be sure you send them as soon after the feast as possible and include names of the people in the pictures and your name, where the feast was, etc.

You can send your information to the addresses on page 2. Regular mail and email addresses are listed there in the "Personal Note" column.

Happy Feast 2007

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 and YOU!*

*"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the
 glory of children are their fathers" Proverbs 17:6*