

Truth and Spirit Ministries

Jewish Feast Days

By Denise Bostic

Fact or Fiction? I heard someone say that as Christians we must observe the Jewish Feast Days of Leviticus 23 because God commanded them to be observed forever. Are these days to be observed by Christians today?

Fiction: The Old Covenant that God made with Israel is no longer in effect since the New Covenant has been established. (*Hebrews 8:6-13*). These days were only to be observed by Israel throughout **their** generations (literally under the age of the Old Covenant) until their Messiah would usher in the New Covenant. (*Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:6-13*) The Hebrew Festivals were given to the Nation of Israel as prophetic types and shadows of what was to become reality in the New Covenant. These days contained within them a spiritual meaning that was only revealed and fulfilled by Christ in the New Covenant.

The Old Testament Law was only a temporary system until Christ, the Messiah, would come. (*Galatians 4:19-25*) The Feast Days of *Leviticus 23* were included in the entire system of the Law of Moses and were exclusively Jewish. (*John 2:13, 6:4, 7:1-2, 11:55*) Gentiles were not given these days to observe, (*Acts 15*) nor was the New Testament Church commanded to observe them by Christ or the Apostles. The reason? Because what these days represented prophetically for Israel had now been fulfilled in the coming of Christ, the Messiah.

When an Israelite came to faith in Christ, they were no longer under the law. (*Romans 7:1-6, Galatians 3:18-25*) What does the New Covenant teach us about the Jewish Festivals? In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians, he warns believers about the dangers of reversion to Judaism (Law of Moses). Paul defines the Hebrew festivals as being under the Old Testament Law for he corrects believers there who were reverting back to Judaism by saying, "**You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts for on you.**" (*Galatians 4:10-11 NIV Translation*) Paul had brought the Galatians the true Gospel. Now that the Galatians had come to the knowledge of God, he did not want them to throw away their freedom in Christ in exchange for bondage to a useless religion.

When believers revert to law keeping, they miss the real meaning of the true gospel of Christ and are in danger of receiving another gospel. A study in the Greek teaches us that Paul, in verse 10, is referring to the Hebrew Feasts of *Leviticus 23*, Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Atonement, Trumpets, Tabernacles and The Last Great Day. As long as they were observing in the way of the Law, they could not receive the spiritual reality that is in Christ. (*Colossians 2:16-17*) Now that Jesus has come, there is no longer a need to observe these days because He has fulfilled the meaning of them.