

THE HAPPIEST LORD'S DAY
(A New Day! Faith awakening in the Risen Son)
2020 Resurrection Day Series
John 20

The Holy Days of Israel

Prophetic Pictures Fulfilled in Christ's Two Comings

Israel's calendar year from God consisted of three spring holidays, one summer holiday, and three holidays in the fall. Springtime began with *Passover*, *Unleavened Bread*, and *First Fruits* all on the weekend after the first new moon of the month of Nissan (our March/April). Seven weeks later came the feast of *Pentecost* and at harvest time (September/October) came *Rosh Hashanah* (New Year's) (also called *Trumpets*), *Yom Kippur* (*Day of Atonement*) and *Sukkot* (*Tabernacles*).

The seven festivals of Israel are explained in *Leviticus 23*, *Numbers 28 & 29*, and *Deuteronomy 16*. For Israel, observance of these holy days, as well as the weekly Sabbath, was mandatory as an outward sign of their allegiance to Jehovah God. Failure to reverently observe the feasts of Israel or to embellish them with pagan holidays resulted in excommunication or execution (*Deuteronomy 16:21-17:7, 18:9-14, etc.*).

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to earth, He literally and personally fulfills the spiritual picture being conveyed in these holy days of Israel, including the Sabbath (which pictures the *spiritual rest* from *good works* the believer has by resting one's faith in Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 4*). Just like the Sabbath picture, all of the special days of Israel are spiritual pictures of the work of God the Son in the world. These Jewish holidays are not to be legalistically followed by New Testament believers (*Colossians 2:16-23*), but they can provide a greater depth of understanding and appreciation for all Christ has done in the past, is doing now during the Church Age and will do when He comes again:

GOD'S PROPHETIC CALENDAR
(Christ's Past, Present & Future Schedule)

**THE SPRING
HOLIDAYS**

Christ's 1st Coming
(Fulfilled in the Past)

Passover

His crucifixion – His substitutionary death on the cross for believers

Unleavened Bread

His burial – removal of sin

First Fruits

His victory over death, hell, and the grave
 "The Resurrection"

**THE EARLY SUMMER
HOLIDAY**

*Christ's Current
"Church Age" Work*
(Being Fulfilled Now)

Pentecost

His sending of the Holy Spirit to build up and use His body, the Church, to evangelize the world and sanctify Christians

**THE FALL
HOLIDAYS**

Christ's 2nd Coming
(Will Be Fulfilled Imminently)

Trumpets

The *rapture* of all believers from earth prior to the 7-year Tribulation Period.

Atonement

The Day of the Lord
 (Tribulation)

Tabernacles

The Kingdom of God
 (Millennium)

‘Good Mourning Faith’

(Resurrection Day lessons from Mary on knowing Jesus personally)
John 20:11-18

‘Daybreak of Despair’

(Diagnosing ‘shadows of doubt’ / At the Grave with Mary & angels)

“But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, “Woman why are you weeping?” She said to them “Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him.”* **20:11-13**

(*Angels and us / NT = 1 Corinthians 6:3, 11:10; Hebrews 1:13b, 13:2; 1 Peter 1:12; Colossians 2:18)

Mary’s love for Jesus and broken heart over what He went through is touching. But she, like many religious people are emotionally and spiritually stuck with a *previous Jesus* (*pre-cross physical Jesus or Him dead on the cross*). Thus, their faith can’t move on to commitment to a risen, living Savior.

- If you were religious before inviting the living Savior into your life, were you stuck on a *previous pre-cross or crucifix Jesus* that kept you from seeking a risen Savior?
- Discuss how pictures, relics, crucifixes, statues, etc. interfere with a personal relationship to Jesus. Now that we have the completed New Testament and the Holy Spirit, God no longer has angels appear and try to counsel and guide people about Christ and spiritual things. Why is God’s Word & Spirit better?
- If not to appear, counsel, or be admired today, what is the biblical role of angels (see vs. above)?

‘Dawning of Belief’

(Dispelling ‘darkness of disbelief’ / In the Garden with Mary & Jesus)

“Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away tell me where You have laid Him and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni! (which is to say, ‘Teacher').” **20:14-16**

Mary’s commitment to her flawed view of Christ even kept her from listening to Jesus or recognizing Him right there in front of her!

- Looking back on your life, were there times God was trying to speak to your heart, but religious preconceptions and emotions blocked your faith from hearing Him and coming to Him? Like what?
- Notice the *Mary model* of how Christ brings people to *see the Light* and put their trust in a risen Savior: ‘*calls her by name*’ (*Christianity, individual and personal, not joining a group or denomination*); twice the text says *she turned* toward Jesus (*repentance means to turn*) from everything else (*angels, the grave, her wrong beliefs about Him*); what did you have to turn from when He called you to Himself?

‘Sunshine of Faith’

(Discovering ‘the Son rise’ / God’s grace with Mary & Jesus)

“Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.”” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken these things to her.” **20:17-18**

No bad thing would have happened to Mary by *clinging* to Him before He ascended to heaven (*Ephesians 4:8-10*). But Mary needed to get used to not clinging physically to Jesus (*her big problem ‘til now*); she needed to get used to clinging to Him spiritually by faith and through her prayers once Jesus ascended to the Father as our heavenly Intercessor (*Hebrews 7:25*).

- Do you feel particular nearness when you pray and cling to Christ in worship during troubled times? How can this teaching help someone who has to always be touching, rubbing, kissing or clinging to some icon of Jesus or physical object when they pray? Real faith clings by love and grace, not touch.
- If you truly have believed and connected with the risen Savior, His command is for you to go tell others about how you have put faith in Him alone as Savior, also to teach the brethren about what He is doing and what ‘*He has spoken*’ (*the Bible*). How does doing these things (*witnessing, teaching, fellowship with true brethren*) helps you stay on track with your faith in Christ?