

OT and NT Feast Celebration Differences

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Ancient Israel was God's physical nation who remained unconverted. New Testament spiritual Israel is made up only of converted people from the nations of the world. How does the celebration of God's annual holy days change as we go from God's physical nation to God's spiritual nation of Israel?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

DGod the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no

other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no biblical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses

in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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With the benefit of over almost 4 decades of experience as a member of God's Church and years of interested and careful continuing study of the Bible, questions have arisen regarding the celebration of the annual Holy Days as taught in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) in the days when its Pastor General was Mr. Herbert W Armstrong (HWA). It stands to reason and, is unavoidable as growth in knowledge and understanding occurs, that questions will arise about what we were taught which should be addressed and for which answers should be provided using the Scriptures as our criterion of truth; not personal impressions, wishes or desires.

Mr. Armstrong enjoined everyone listening to him to always check out with the Scriptures what he was teaching and if one of his teachings should prove to be wrong or unsupported by the Scriptures, not to go along with it just because he, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) said it. The confusion that occurred after his death and the migration of most of WCG members to the new so-called churches of God that then appeared is a very clear indication that WCG attendees never took to heart HWA's often repeated warning and command to check his teachings against the Bible. Should one or more of HWA's teaching be found to not agree with the Bible, we are NOT TO FOLLOW THEM but to follow our Bible.

The great majority of past members of the WCG are now sitting comfortably in one of the many false churches of God that arose after the death of HWA. They were following the man, Mr. Armstrong because

he was a good speaker and they had confidence in him which is exactly what HWA had told them not to do. When he died they started looking for other human leaders in whom they could place their trust and they followed them relieving themselves of the responsibility of proving things out for themselves with their Bible which is their **only** safeguard from being misled. Salvation to their mind is simply a question of following the right man and being with the right group. They never got into the habit of checking things out for themselves with their Bible and as a result the Bible to them, is still a mysterious and closed book but they are not worried about it as they are part of the right organization headed up by the right man.

Does that describe you?

Mr. Armstrong made errors which he corrected and he said that a sign of the true Church was that it would correct past teachings when found to be in error as a result of a better understanding of the Scriptures. The most notable change was moving the celebration of Pentecost from Monday to Sunday. Making errors is not the biggest problem; not correcting them when the truth finally becomes evident is the bigger mistake. It is inevitable that as growth in knowledge and understanding occurs of the Scriptures that some of the Church's teachings and practices will sometimes need to be revised.

The body of knowledge available to Christians at different times in the history of the true Church has been neither complete nor static. Each and every member of God's Church must be growing in knowledge and understanding of the truth through continuing attentive study of the Bible all through their physical lives to remain live spiritual embryos who can be born at the time of the resurrection of God's saints. God commands Christians to have growth in knowledge and understanding (just spend some quality time in the book of Proverbs and you will see it). He would not have given this command if there would come a time when all possible Biblical truths could be fully known and understood making growth impossible.

Continuing to study on an unending rotating basis the writings and voice recordings of Mr. Armstrong will not, past a certain point, result in increased knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. It is not what God had in mind when He commanded Christians to have growth in their spiritual lives. Of course, it is an absolute certainty that truly converted Christians are to first master the truths restored to God's Church by HWA after having proven them with your Bible. They provide true Christians with the ability to study the Bible on their own and get growth in knowledge and understanding. Christians are to become spir-

itually mature. This topic is fully explained in the following study: ([Are You Spiritually Mature?](#))

It is a given that not every member of God's Church will have the same level of knowledge and understanding as this will greatly vary based on the amount of time spent in studying the Bible and one's personal degree of interest in wanting to do so. Not having gotten into the habit of regular and detailed study of the Bible is one of the reasons why there was so little spiritual fellowship between members of the WCG and why it is next to impossible to now have any quality spiritual fellowship with those who after the end of the WCG say they are holding on to the truth. In most instances, it is IMPOSSIBLE.

They never really understood and proved out for themselves the Church's teachings and consequently, the Bible is still to them a closed and mysterious book whose main story they have yet to know. ([Are Christians Personally Responsible for Proving all Things?](#))

They were given a certain amount of knowledge and understanding at the time of their calling which they have chosen to hide fearing to lose it. They refuse to have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians because they are scared of being deceived. Will Christ be proud of this servant at the time of His Second Coming? Read it for yourself paying close attention to Matt 25:26; 25:30.

Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, **Thou wicked and slothful servant**, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Mat 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Mat 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and

he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There will be weeping by those who regret having lost their salvation because of their spiritual laziness and there will be gnashing of teeth by those who will be angry at God blaming Him for their loss of salvation because He did not do enough to prevent it.

Studying is a personal decision which is wholly left up to the individual Christian; God will not force you to become spiritually mature so as to be able to study the Bible on your own and get the correct understanding of what it says nor will He force you to have spiritual fellowship. Indeed, God will not force you to do anything; you are entirely responsible for motivating yourself to do what you have to do; no one else can do it for you; not the ministry and not even HWA when he was alive. Praying, studying, meditating and living to the best of your ability God's truth is your part in the salvation process. Salvation is not a spectator sport; each Christian stands or falls based on his own works.

Mr. Armstrong observed the annual holy days of the Bible for some 14 years before finally arriving at some understanding of what they meant. This clearly goes to show that their meaning is not all that self-evident especially that in the days of ancient Israel, the holy days memorialized and highlighted significant events in their past and in their everyday lives which are not all that relatable, if at all, to New Testament (NT) Israel who, to a very large extent, does not have a shared historical past with ancient Israel and, who in most cases, are not even their physical descendants.

The focal point of Old Testament (OT), Israel's holy day celebrations, were physical and material not spiritual. Ancient Israel was a totally unconverted nation who never knew the true God and for whom the holy days were solely physical-material celebrations commanded by God. They were simply told how to celebrate the holy days without, in most instances, being given any explanations as to why they had to do so except that it was commanded by God. OT Israel had a ritualistic religion consisting of repetitive physical and symbolic tasks which they came to reluctantly practice and which they quickly neglected or abandoned whenever there was no strong leader among them.

The Book of Malachi, which I highly recommend you read, details their

attitude toward the physical rituals God had given them. They didn't see how they were useful or profitable to them, they were bored with them and were offering their lame animals rather than the best of their herds and flocks as God had commanded them to do. ([Correctly Understanding the Book of Malachi](#))

If we examine the Scriptures bearing on the celebration of the annual Holy Days, it becomes clear there are differences in the manner of celebrating and in the meaning of these days as we go from the Old to the New Testament. The key point to keep in mind is that OT Israel was a carnal-minded nation which was never given access to the holy spirits of the God family: the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Consequently, they could not understand the spiritual truth of God, they never knew the true God, and their physical descendants for the greatest part remain unconverted unto this day.

The time when ancient Israel will be called is during the Millennium when the holy spirit God the Father will call all men to salvation (Joel 2:28), and in the resurrection to flesh-and-blood of the Last Great Day when all those of Israel and their physical descendants who have died over the centuries but were never called as well as the Gentiles who were never called, will be resurrected and given an opportunity for salvation.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

OT Israel was an unconverted nation while NT Israel is a spiritual organism made up of individuals from all over the world, begotten (conceived but yet to be born) by the holy spirit God the Father. Those who follow their calling then have dwelling in them the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is responsible for teaching them all things.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

Joh 14:26 **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

They know that God and the Word are simply not just like the many other gods followed by the unconverted of the world who indeed are not gods but merely the fruit of men's imaginations.

Let's now go through every annual Holy Day and determine what changes in understanding and manner of celebration of these days, may be appropriate for NT Christians. As usual, the author assumes that the reader has grown from being a babe-in-Christ to a spiritually mature Christian ([Are You Spiritually Mature?](#)) who can read the Bible on his own and get growth in knowledge and understanding beyond the foundational truths of God's Church partially restored by HWA.

These fundamental truths were given directly from the mouth of Christ to His disciples who became apostles on the Day of Pentecost and who were the founding members of God's NT Church. These foundational truths were to be transmitted from generation to generation of truly converted Christians unto the time of Christ's Second Coming but because of the 1,260 years of persecution of the true Church by the great false church that arose as a counterfeit of the true Church shortly after the founding of God's church, most of these foundational truths were lost. This is why God in the book of Malachi tells us that God will send Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord to restore to Israel the very foundational truth given to the disciples directly by Christ.

In the book of Malachi which is addressed to the physical nation of Israel, God says:

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you [\[Israel\]](#) Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

And why is Elijah coming to the physical nation of Israel.

Mat 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? [\[to Israel\]](#)

Mat 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.**

The holy days were instituted by God as a means of teaching OT Israel the habit of obedience but NT Israel is composed of only those who have and maintain an attitude of wanting to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities. The purpose of the NT feast celebrations is **not** to teach spiritual Israelites the habit of obedience through the observance of repetitive physical rituals.

The reason for the annual Holy Days as celebrated in NT times is to keep fresh in the minds of true Christians the major steps being followed by God in bringing salvation to mankind. This is spiritual knowledge from God to His New Testament Church which is God's spiritual nation of Israel. It is information which is impossible for the unconverted to understand as they do not have the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in them opening their minds to understand God level spiritual truth.

The manner of celebration, the meaning and focus of the annual Holy Days is not, nor can be, the same for God's spiritual nation of Israel as it was in Old Testament times when God's nation was an unconverted, physical nation.

Let's start our study by looking at the Passover.

The Passover

In OT times, this feast was celebrated by the killing of a lamb, a male and a yearling, roasting it during the evening portion of the 14th of Nisan, eating it during the night; not breaking any of its bones and burning the remains with fire. The lintel and the 2 side posts of the door of the houses of the Israelites were smeared with the blood of the sacrificial lamb and when God's angel of death was sent to kill the firstborn of man and beast, it passed over the houses of the Israelites on seeing the blood on the lintels and side posts of the doors of their houses.

The Passover led to Israel being able to leave Egypt and to ultimately be freed from its bondage under the Egyptians. When ancient Israel celebrated the Passover, it was among other things, a reminder of their firstborns having been spared from death on the night that God's angel of death went over the land of Egypt and caused the death of the firstborn of men and animals everywhere the blood of the lamb was not found on the side posts and lintels of the houses in Egypt.

Christ, until His last Passover kept this feast day in the same way it had always been kept by ancient Israel i.e., with unleavened bread and a roasted lamb.

Exo 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Exo 34:25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.

But on His last Passover, Christ introduced a new way of keeping it. New Testament Christians would from then on keep the Passover with unleavened bread and wine which would be symbols for his body and of His death. There would no longer be a requirement for a lamb to be sacrificed and eaten during the Passover ceremony.

Leaven representing the body of Christ in NT times is a radical departure from its meaning in OT times where it was a reminder to the unconverted nation of Israel of their hasty departure from Egypt where they were slaves.

Deu 16:3 Thou [Israel] shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: [that thou mayest remember](#) the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

Christ during His last Passover clearly stated that unleavened bread would now represent His body.

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, [This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.](#)

Mat 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, [Take, eat; this is my body.](#)

God's Church in NT times, the body of Christ (Col 1:18), is all those who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful wherever they may be in the world by themselves or in small groups, organized or not. ([Was God's Church Ever a Physical Organization?](#))

Col 1:18 And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

In New Testament times, unleavened bread would not be symbolic of a Christian that is without sin in their lives as taught by the Worldwide Church of God. A Christian who is an unleavened lump is someone who has not committed the unpardonable sin of blaspheming against the holy spirit God the Word. They are not knowingly and willfully rejecting what they know to be the truth of God in order to justify themselves of certain ways of thinking and actions they know to be sin and which they refuse to abandon.

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost [spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men.

Mat 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, [against the person of Christ] it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, [spirit] [those things they knew to be the truth that Christ spoke] it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come

Collectively, though scattered and invisible to the world, God's unleavened constitute the body of Christ, His Church.

One point I would like to mention in passing and which has its importance is that Christ kept the Passover with His disciples one day before the Jewish Passover. This is because the Jews had combined Passover with the Days of Unleavened Bread into one feast as during their captivity under the Persians they had adopted the pagan practice of starting the days at midnight rather than at sunset. They had to combine the Passover with the Days of Unleavened Bread to be able to celebrate the Passover on the 14th and the Days of Unleavened Bread on the 15th of Nisan.

This is a bit complicated but here is a brief explanation of the problem posed by starting the days at midnight instead than at sunset when it comes to celebrating the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread on the correct day. God's Passover is to be celebrated on the 14th of Nisan which starts at sunset of the 13th day and the First Day of Unleavened Bread is to be celebrated on the 15th of Nisan which starts at sunset of the 14th day. If the days start at midnight, as is the case for

the Jews, it becomes impossible to have the Passover and the first Day of Unleavened Bread on two separate days because with days starting and ending at midnight, the Jews' 14th day starts at midnight but the Passover is to be celebrated on the evening portion of the 14th day. The only way the Jews could arrive at celebrating Passover on the evening portion of the 14th day and the first day of the Days of Unleavened Bread on the evening of the 15th was to combine the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread into one feast. In this way, on **their** 14th day of Nisan in the evening they celebrated the Passover but in reality at sunset on the 14th, the day changes to the 15th according to God's way of starting and ending days i.e., at sunset. But according to the Jews' way of starting and ending days, it is still the 14th until midnight. Then the following day which starts at midnight which is the 15th of Nisan according to the way they ended and started days, they celebrated the first Day of Unleavened Bread.

The Jews are celebrating the Passover one day late i.e., on God's 15th of Nisan which begins at sunset on the evening of the Jews' 14th of Nisan. Christ as the Lamb of God and perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind was sacrificed on the day portion of the 14th of Nisan while it was still the Passover. The Jews during the day portion of God's Passover when Christ died on the stake were preparing to celebrate their Passover that evening which was the 15th of Nisan as at sunset a new day starts (for the Jews it was still the 14th until 12 midnight).

The essential point to keep in mind is that the NT Passover does not mean the same thing as the OT Passover and is not celebrated in the same way. In hindsight we can see that the OT lamb prefigured Christ as the Lamb of God and perfect sacrifice for sin which was fulfilled with Christ's death on the stake but that's not what it meant to ancient Israel. It was merely a reminder of one of the steps followed by God in freeing their forefathers from slavery in Egypt and, it still is today.

The Passover as celebrated in OT times did not carry over into the NT era of God's Church. As previously stated, Christ Himself changed how it is to be observed and in doing so created a clear break between the OT and the NT way of observing this feast day and changed its meaning for NT Christians. The OT Passover when celebrated by God's spiritual nation becomes a memorial of Christ's suffering and death for the remission of the sins of mankind; the OT Passover celebration had no such meaning.

If we look upon the annual holy days as showing us the steps being followed by God in the administration of His plan of salvation for mankind then the New Testament Passover can be said to be the first essential

step making God's plan of salvation for mankind possible. Without a perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind, there would be no salvation possible. This can only be understood by spiritual Israel, God's Church and this is why the NT celebration of Passover is the one applicable to God's spiritual nation of Israel.

Was the Passover the only feast day which changes in the way it is celebrated by God's spiritual nation and in its meaning for God's Church? And, can we find in NT Scriptures what is the intended meaning of God's annual feast days for His NT spiritual nation of Israel whose minds are enabled by the holy spirits of the God family to understand the annual holy days in their spiritual dimension?

Let's continue our study by examining the meaning and manner of celebration of God's 2nd annual holy day which is called the Days of Unleavened Bread (DUB) in the OT.

The Days of Unleavened Bread or the Days of the Unleavened?

The purpose for this next feast as celebrated in Old Testament times was for the physical and unconverted nation of Israel to always remember the day when they came out of Egypt. It was to keep them in remembrance of an important historical event in the life of their nation. There is no spiritual meaning for this annual holy day as celebrated in OT times by the physical nation of Israel.

The following Scripture makes clear the purpose of the Days of Unleavened Bread as celebrated in OT times.

Deu 16:3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that **thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.**

Israel had to leave Egypt in great haste to take advantage of the short period of time when the Egyptians were still in shock from the loss of their firstborns and were in no mood to take any concerted action to stop Israel from leaving Egypt while they were overcome with grief. Had Israel left Egypt following a decree by Pharaoh, they would not have had to leave in such a big hurry nor would they have been instructed to spend the night up all dressed and ready to travel the next day as the sun came up. Pharaoh never allowed Israel to leave Egypt and this is why he pursued them when he was told they had gone. Remember that Israel lived separately from the Egyptian population in the land of Goshen. The following Scripture confirms that Pharaoh never allowed Israel to leave Egypt and was

not aware of their having left Egypt until he was told that they had left.

Exo 14:5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

Please notice what this verse is saying: “And it was told the king of Egypt.....” The king of Egypt had to be told that Israel had left Egypt; he didn’t know they were gone. This means he never authorized them to leave for had he done so, he would have already known they had left Egypt. Also, please note that Israel fled or ran away from Egypt: “.....that the people fled:.....” they did not leave at a leisurely pace which they would have done had there being a proclamation issued by Pharaoh that they were free to leave. This is also why Pharaoh pursued them after having been informed that they had left Egypt; he had never agreed to let them go.

How can we be sure that Pharaoh never finally decided to let Israel leave Egypt.

Exo 13:14 And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, *By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:*

Deu 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that *the LORD thy God brought thee out* thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

God commanded ancient Israel not to have leaven in their houses nor to eat leaven for the 7 day duration of the feast. They had left in such haste (they fled from Egypt) that they could not leaven the bread dough they took with them as once leavened it has to be baked to prevent it from spoiling. Once they had finally escaped Egypt and Pharaoh’s army had perished in the Red sea, God instituted the Days of Unleavened Bread as a reminder of a significant event in the life of the nation of ancient Israel. As celebrated in OT times, God’s 2nd annual holy day memorializes the day Israel was freed from being slaves in Egypt. This is all the feast meant to ancient Israel; it had no clue as to any potential or possible spiritual meaning of it.

The WCG taught that the message of the Days of Unleavened Bread is as follows:

But Jesus Christ is not only the author, or beginner, He is

also the FINISHER of our salvation (Heb. 12:2). That is what the professing Christian world has forgotten! They have lost the knowledge of the SECOND STEP in God's plan — that we must PUT SIN OUT OF OUR LIVES!

*To help us in the knowledge of the second step, God gave His Church a special festival — the Days of Unleavened Bread. They are to impress upon us the fact that we must NEVER AGAIN RETURN to the sins Christ paid for with His shed blood.
(AC BCC 34 of the 58 lesson course)*

According to the WCG, Christians must strive to remove all sin from their lives and never again return to sin as this is their part in the salvation process. However, the Scriptures are plain and clear that it is impossible for men to do so and that anyone who says that this can be done, is a liar and the truth is not in him.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

God very plainly tells us that sin is unavoidable in a Christian's life. If leaven represents sin then how can a Christian in whose life sin will always be present be an unleavened lump i.e., be without sin so as to be saved?

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as **ye are unleavened**. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

What is the old leaven that the Corinthians and all true Christians are to purge out of their lives?

Let's continue with our review of this annual feast day

No mention is made in NT Scriptures of unleavened bread except with respect to the Passover nor are any references made to the way this feast was celebrated by New Testament Israel. As well, the only time God's 2nd annual holy day is called the Days of Unleavened Bread in the NT is when the Scriptures talk about the Jewish celebration of this feast day.

Mar 14:1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.

Act 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

The reference to the Days of Unleavened Bread in this verse refers to the Jews' feast of unleavened bread as Christians were persecuted by the Jews and their beliefs were considered to be heresy. The popular and commonly known and accepted feast of unleavened bread in ancient Israel was that of the Jews.

Act 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

Paul and NT converts did not celebrate God's 2nd annual holy day as in the days of the OT and they did not have joint assemblies with the Jews to celebrate any of God's annual holy days.

The Jews rejected Christ as a false prophet who was misleading the people; they thought of themselves as being the only ones who had the truth of God. This is why they kept the Passover the same way their forefathers had kept it and they did the same thing for the Days of Unleavened Bread and all the other annual feast days of God.

Christ and His disciples did not celebrate the Passover by attending the Jewish ceremonies that were held in the Jerusalem temple, and as we will see, the disciples did not partake in any of the OT ceremonies conducted by the Jews in the temple on the day of Pentecost. The Christian version of God's annual feast days was largely unknown to the general public and the religion of state so-to-speak was Jewish. This is why when the days of unleavened bread are mentioned in the NT, it is referring to the Jews' feast of unleavened bread which we have seen included the Passover.

The Passover kept its OT name but as we have seen, it is no longer celebrated the same way in NT times nor does it mean the same thing. And oddly enough, there is no name given in the Bible to the NT Christian version celebration of God's 2nd annual holy day. We cannot and should not just keep on referring to it as the Days of Unleavened Bread simply because that was its name in the OT especially that to do so would be misleading as we will see as we continue exploring this topic.

Does Christ give us the new meaning and manner of celebrating God's 2nd annual holy day for NT Christians? Christ is God's Spokesman to His Church and the Bible is Christ in writing and if we are to find out the meaning and the manner of celebration of God's 2nd annual holy day in NT times, it has to be given us by Christ. The Bible is the Word of God or Christ in writing.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past [in OT times] unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days [the days in which the apostles lived and us today their spiritual descendants] spoken unto us [His Church] by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The focal point of Christians' celebration of God's 2nd annual holy day is not unleavened bread but rather something that Christians are to avoid so as not to lose their salvation and that is being "puffed up."

What does being "puffed up" mean for a member of God's NT spiritual nation, His Church?

Christ told His disciples, and through the Bible, truly converted Christians across the centuries, that all sins can be forgiven except one. Mr. Armstrong wrote a booklet on what is the unpardonable sin and he explained the unpardonable sin occurring when one willfully turns away from one or more of God's truth. That is very true but Mr. Armstrong did not make the connection between being spiritually puffed up, the unpardonable sin and the message of God's 2nd annual holy day for Christians.

What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Christ told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Mat 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Mat 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Luk 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

How bad was their sin of hypocrisy?

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost [spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men.

Mat 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, [spirit] it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees knew who Jesus was and this is made known to us in John 3 where Nicodemus secretly by night went to talk to Jesus.

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, **we know** that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

But they fought against Him, they opposed Him and sought to discredit Him in the eyes of the people by saying among other things that He cast out devils by the power of the devil and that He was devil possessed.

Mat 9:34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

Joh 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Joh 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, **Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?**

Joh 8:49 Jesus answered, **I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**

Joh 8:52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

Joh 10:20 And many of them said, **He hath a devil, and is mad;** why hear ye him?

Did the Pharisees and the Sadducees sin of hypocrisy lead to their losing their salvation?

Mat 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall **condemn** it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall **condemn** it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Luk 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and **condemn** them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Luk 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Luk 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, **and you yourselves thrust out**.

Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The generation that saw Christ and fought against Him all the while knowing full well who He was is guilty of having committed the unpardonable sin of having spoken against or having blasphemed the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who was then among them as Jesus-Christ.

Hypocrisy was their unpardonable sin but hypocrisy is not the only way one can be found guilty of having committed the unpardonable sin. Basically, speaking against the truth given us by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches true converts all things (John 14:26) is refusing to accept what we know to be the truth and making up excuses to justify to ourselves not following it.

All truly converted Christians have been given by the action of the holy spirit God the Father when called, and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman when chosen, the ability to know God's spiritual truth which allows them to correctly know the difference between right and wrong. They understand that they are not to rely on themselves to do so as they did before their conversion but to have God do it for them. The God they now follow is the true God and not the former god they had made for themselves while unconverted which was themselves deciding right and wrong based on their own personally-devised standards.

Whenever a truly converted Christian begins to reason his way around one or more of God's truths to return to certain sinful parts of his past life before his conversion, he is committing the unpardonable sin. He is opposing himself to the truth he has received from the holy spirits of the God family; he is elevating his understanding of right and wrong above that of God and is basically saying to God: "I know better than You the difference between right and wrong."

Whenever this happens, we find ourselves looking at a Christian who is puffed up, spiritually speaking, against God; he is raising himself up; puffing himself up in authority over God by deciding for himself good and evil as he once did in his ignorance of the truth before being called. But now, he knows the truth and God will not ignore his sins as He had done before while they were committed when he did not know the truth.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

God's Church is now being judged by God because it knows the truth; the world's time of judgment is yet future and will occur when they also will be given to know the truth about right and wrong. This will occur when the holy spirit God the Father will call them and if they follow their calling, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman will dwell with them and teach them all things.

The unpardonable sin basically involves the knowing and willful rejection of one or more of God's truth to allow ourselves to go back to one or more sins we committed while unconverted. We are then guilty of the unpardonable sin which is basically rejecting God's revelation and elevating or puffing up our understanding of the truth above that of God. It is going back to ourselves being the god in our lives that we follow after having been given to know the true God.

The NT message of God's 2nd annual holy day is that true Christians must always remain humble before God and accept that His law defines right and wrong for them and that they have to try to follow that law to the best of their abilities no matter how personally inconvenient it may sometimes be for them to do so. They can never allow themselves to rise up in authority over God and again become the god in their lives that they follow by again making themselves the criterion for determining right and wrong as they had been doing before being called and chosen. Their attitude of obedience to God must be in all things and maintained until the end of their lives.

Leaven is not symbolic of a specific sin but of an attitude of mind which

is to knowingly resist God's authority over us once we have come to the knowledge of the truth which results in sinfulness that is unpardonable.

Leaven is symbolic of the unpardonable sin which can be any sin which we no longer resist and of which we are justifying ourselves by all sorts of rationalizations. We are then in willful opposition to God and blaspheming God.

This attitude of mind is the opposite of repentance where upon being called we committed to obeying God in all things, not just the ones that do not go counter to our previous beliefs or that do not prevent us from continuing with some of the things we did before being called and that we now surely know to be sin.

Christian Observance of God's 2nd Annual Holy Day

Did the NT Christians keep God's 2nd annual holy day in the same way as OT Israel i.e., removing all leaven from their homes and properties and not eat any leaven during the days of the feast? Paul gave the following reminder to the Corinthian congregations which is applicable to all true Christians.

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, [let God tell you what is sin; don't go back to yourself being the criterion of what is and is not sin] that ye may be a new lump, [someone who has a changed mind which relies on God for determining what is and is not sin] as ye are unleavened. [your sins have been forgiven and are continuously forgiven as you maintain your *attitude* of obedience to God in all things] For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: [Christ was the Passover sacrifice for His spiritual nation; a sacrifice that forgives all sins which saves it from the 2nd death conditional upon maintaining a sincere *attitude* of obedience to God in all things or in other words, to those who remain a new lump.]

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, [your previous attitude of you being the criterion of right and wrong in your lives] neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* [the word "bread" is in *italics* which means it is not part of the original text; it was added in by the translators] of sincerity and truth. [The "unleavened" is their new attitude of mind of fully trusting God to establish for them right and wrong and their continuing commitment to conduct their lives accordingly to the best of their abilities.]

Why was Paul telling the Corinthians to purge out the old leaven?

The Corinthians were tolerating among their fellowship someone who was a known fornicator (1Co 5:1) in defiance of Paul's instructions not to company with fornicators (1Co 5:9) in their assemblies. In doing so, Paul said they were puffed up (1Co 5:2); they were using their own criterion of right and wrong rather than God's which had been given them by Paul, thinking theirs was better than God's. This is why Paul tells them to purge out the old leaven i.e., to cease determining right and wrong based on their own criteria as they used to do before their conversion and to apply God's criteria of right and wrong as taught them by Paul, an apostle of God taught by Christ Himself.

They, themselves, their minds, the way they think following their conversion is the new lump Paul was mentioning. Paul tells them that they should keep the feast with the unleavened of sincerity and truth which in this case required them to put the sinning person out of their assembly as Paul had told them to do so as not to be found knowingly and wilfully resisting God's truth given them by Paul, committing the unpardonable sin and no longer being an unleavened lump.

The requirement for NT Christians to correctly keep the feast was NOT to physically deleaven their houses and abstain from eating leavened products but to keep the feast by continuing to maintain their commitment to obey God in all things and to rely on God's law to define sin for them.

NT Christians have never been in bondage and there is no need or reason for them to be reminded yearly of ancient Israel's hasty departure from slavery in Egypt. Moreover, ancient Israel's time of slavery in Egypt was not punishment from God because it had sinned. It was the result of a new Pharaoh coming along and fearing that Israel would grow greater in population than Egypt and come to rule over it. In order to make sure that would not happen, he made slaves out of them. There is no spiritual message applicable to NT Christians of this historical event in the life of ancient Israel. The spiritual meaning of God's 2nd annual holy day for true Christians i.e., God's spiritual nation of Israel is given us by Christ Himself in the New Testament scriptures of Matthew, Luke and John we have just reviewed.

God's 2nd annual holy day in NT times reminds truly converted Christians that they continue to be sinners; of how their sins are always forgiven, of the condition for their sins to be always forgiven and of their continuing state of being sinless in God's eyes i.e., of being an unleavened lump though continuing to have sin in their lives as long as they let God's law determine right and wrong for them and they maintain their attitude of trying to obey God in all things. Though truly converted Christians will be

sinner all through their lives (1John 1: 8-10), God does not impute sin (Ps 32:2) to them as long as they are sincerely making an effort to obey Him in all things (1John 1:7) and in this way remain an unleavened lump or sinless (Ps 103: 10-14), and constitute the temple in which God and Christ dwell (2Co 6:16; John 14:23).

NT Christians are to be an unleavened lump. If leaven is sin then that would mean that Christians have to come to a time in their lives when they have no sin but God very clearly tells us that this is impossible (1John1: 8-10). Leaven is not symbolic of sin but of a willful attitude of opposition to God by a truly converted person which has for effect of cutting that person off from having their sinfulness forgiven by Christ's perfect sacrifice. They are then no longer an unleavened lump and have lost their salvation.

The leaven NT Christians must avoid is not physical leaven but spiritual leaven which is refusing to submit to God with respect to certain parts of His law because they have decided not to do so for a multitude of reasons they have made up to justify to themselves not doing so.

Being in opposition to the truth of God after having been given to know the truth is the unpardonable sin which can be any sin resulting from any part of God's law we decide to no longer follow. All sins will be forgiven except those against the holy spirits of the God family i.e., willfully disobeying God after having come to the knowledge of the truth. This is why the Pharisees and Sadducees lost their salvation for they knew who Jesus was and opposed themselves to Him.

Mat 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Joh 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

Joh 9:40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

Joh 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.
[Their sins were not forgiven because they knew who Jesus was and opposed Him; they lost their salvation.]

There is no indication whatsoever in the NT that God's 2nd annual holy day was kept in the same way OT Israel observed it i.e., that they did the

physical things of de-leavening their houses and spent 7 days eating unleavened bread. These physical, ritualistic, repetitive ordinances were for the carnal-minded (did not have and never had the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in them) physical nation of Israel. Since the day of Pentecost, God's people, Israel is no longer a physical nation in which one is born but a spirit-begotten nation whose members are from all over the world. This Spirit-begotten nation of Israel which is totally different from the ancient nation of Israel is to worship God not through the observance of physical rituals but in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

A point to note here is that God says the **true** worshipers are to worship Him in spirit and in truth. All other manners of worship is not really the worship of God. NT Christians' worship has to be spiritual which is to say, it is from the mind of God to the true Christian's mind and back to God. It is a continuing silent conversation going on between God and true Christians. The process is invisible to others as it goes on between the mind of the converted and God's mind and it is as varied as they are different types of individuals who have been called and chosen. God wants to have a spiritual relationship and conversation with individuals. He doesn't want to be worshipped with prayers written by others and which are repeated over and over.

Man is made in the image and according to the likeness of God. Christians have to speak to God as though they were speaking to a trusted friend with whom they share their hopes, joy, sorrow, fears, etc. God wants to be a part of true Christians' lives as a good and trusted friend. God is an intelligent being and always repeating the same prayers is not more interesting to Him than if when we met our friends, we just kept saying the same things over and over to them.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

In NT times, for God's Spirit-begotten spiritual nation of Israel i.e., for true Christians, the feast is a reminder that they have to be sure they are not knowingly and willfully resisting God in one or more aspects of their lives. Resisting God after having come to the knowledge of the truth is the unpardonable sin which results in loss of salvation. The offender no longer is an unleavened lump i.e., he no longer is maintaining his commitment to

obey God in all things and is knowingly opposing himself to parts of God's truth he has freely chosen not to follow. As a result, his sins are no longer forgiven.

The state of a true Christian in God's eyes is one of being sinless. No sin is ever imputed to him as long as his attitude is to try to obey God in all things (according to the truth given him by God not according to "how he sees it") to the best of his abilities. As long as He is not willfully resisting God and trying to obey Him to the best of his abilities, he remains an unleavened lump. Salvation is not a question of having sin or no sin in one's life; we all do and we will all have sin throughout our lives. What matters is refusing to submit to God and fighting against the truth we have because it goes counter to something we want to do which after our conversion we know is contrary to God's law.

The OT is physical and material for a physical nation of Israel and the NT is spiritual for a spiritual nation of Israel. God dealt differently with OT Israel than He does with NT Christians because ancient Israel could not understand spiritual truth. OT Israel, a physical nation was given physical things to do. These things were physical and repetitive to attempt to instill in them the habit of obedience. The process failed as is plainly revealed in the last book of the OT, the book of Malachi.

Israel kept on reluctantly going through the motions of the physical ceremonies, ritual washings, animal sacrifices and temple ceremonies they had been given to do but the people in their everyday lives forgot about God's law. They were even saying that it did not do them any good to obey God as they were not getting any physical rewards out of it. It was just drudgery to them which they grew to dislike and kept on doing half-heartedly (Mal 1:13) without any desire to obey God in their personal lives. God in the book of Malachi tells them he does not accept their offerings (Mal 1:10) and they would do just as well to shut the doors of the temple and stop their offerings (Mal 1:10, first part of verse).

However, spiritual Israel is made up of only those who have freely and self-willingly chosen to obey God upon their being called. They do not have to be given repetitive physical tasks to do in an effort to have them learn the habit of obedience. NT Christians are not reluctantly obeying God. God has shown them the cost of following Him and they have accepted to follow Him knowingly, freely and willingly.

As a result, their past sins have been forgiven and any sins they commit after their conversion are always covered by the grace that resulted from Christ's perfect sacrifice for sin as long as their continuing attitude is to try to obey God to the best of their abilities in all things. A Christian in God's eyes remains without sin though being a sinner because God does

not impute sin to those who are sincerely trying to obey Him. That is how and why Christians are an unleavened lump; they are not resisting God's authority in any aspects of their lives.

They are, and continue to be, an unleavened lump from the beginning of their conversion until the moment they cease to maintain their attitude of trying to resist all sin in their lives. There is no in-between condition where one is partially leavened or partially unleavened; one is, or is not, leavened as a bit of leaven leavens the whole lump and, as we have seen, this leaven is not sin in itself which can be forgiven but being in opposition to one or more parts of God's law and truth. Starting to reason around God's law to give ourselves permission to sin without feeling guilty about it is the first step in fully departing from the truth. The same way of thinking by which we exempted ourselves from certain parts of God's truth, we will in time apply to more and more aspects of God's law we personally find inconvenient and lose our salvation for the penalty for sin, any unforgiven sin, is the second death.

In NT times, leaven is spiritual; not physical. It is not something that we can physically remove from our homes and properties; it is something that resides and lives in our minds; an attitude of opposition to God after having come to the knowledge of the truth in order to justify to ourselves those things we want to do which we know to be sin.

The OT Feast Days of Unleavened Bread as celebrated by ancient Israel were ordained forever i.e., for as long as there would exist a physical nation of Israel requiring physical ordinances to try to give them the habit of obedience. Ancient Israel ceased to exist as a nation after having gone into captivity among the Gentiles with 10 tribes having become lost in history and 3 tribes continuing under the name of "the Jews."

And, it is of the greatest importance to realize, that God no longer has a flesh-and-blood nation where one becomes a member of it by being born into it but a spiritual nation of spiritually-begotten individuals by the holy spirit God the Father and they are from the nations of the world.

During the Millennium and the Last Great Day, God's spiritual nation will grow to include converts from the Gentile nations of the world and of the Jewish nation that will then exist. All truly converted will constitute spiritual Israel which will not be a specific physical nation living in a particular geographical location but a spiritual nation made up of individuals from all nations and scattered all over the world whom God will have called, who will have followed their calling and who are remaining faithful.

During the Millennium, there will also continue to exist the physical nation of Israel which God will prosper as at the first i.e., as in the days of Solo-

mon because of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. They become the richest and most powerful nation in the world because of these past promises made by God; not because they are obeying God.

Eze 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I do not this for your sakes**, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

Jer 33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, **as at the first**.

It's like what occurred with Ephraim and Manasseh in the end-time who became great nations because of the promises made to Abraham and not because of their obedience.

The physical nation of Israel that will exist during the Millennium will be the remnant of the modern-day nations constituting end-time Israel and the remnant of the Jews now living in the Middle East. This physical nation of Israel will be made up of all of those of the nation of Israel who did not enter into the New Covenant at the time of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry (Daniel 9:27) to Israel following His 2nd Coming. They will have lost their salvation as there are not 2 callings nor 2 sacrifices for sin.

Within this physical nation of Israel there will be truly converted members of God's New Covenant Church which will be initially made up of the remnant of the nations making up Israel in the end-time, of the physical descendants of ancient Israel and of the Jews that enter into the New Covenant. Israel will be redeemed but not all will choose to enter into the New Covenant after Christ's 2nd Coming or during the Millennium and the Last Great Day. As the years go by, Gentile converts will be added to the Church as God pours out of His Spirit over all flesh but there will be no massive conversion of the Gentile nations of the world nor of the physical nation of Israel. And, Gentile converts will continue living among the nations in which they were called. Jerusalem during the Millennium will not become the centre of true religion in the world to which all truly converted will travel and become residents.

For a full explanation of why not all will convert during the Millennium, please go through the following study where this is explained in detail. ([Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#))

All of end-time Israel will be called at the time of the confirmation of the New Covenant and will have chosen their fate knowingly, freely and self-willingly in accordance with God's plan of salvation for mankind and those that will not have entered into the New Covenant will have lost their

salvation. Please see the following studies for a detailed explanation of what happens after Christ's 2nd Coming: [Administration of God's Plan of Salvation During the Millennium](#); [When and Why will God Again Choose Israel?](#)

As God's plan of salvation progressed from the physical to the spiritual, physical and ceremonial rituals ceased to be required in the same way that after Christ's perfect sacrifice for sin, animal sacrifices ceased to be a requirement as a reminder that sin requires the death of the sinner unless there is a sacrifice that forgives the sin of the sinner.

The celebration of God's 2nd annual holy day continues to be a requirement for true Christians but OT physical rituals do not as they are pointless in terms of furthering God's plan of salvation for mankind and nor are they an explanation of one of the steps being followed by God in the administration of His plan of salvation for mankind. None of these physical rituals ever resulted in Israel having the righteousness of God imputed to them. It remained fully an unconverted nation regardless of how faithfully they may have at times fulfilled the physical requirements of the law.

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection [the forgiveness of sin] were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

In NT times the salvation of mankind is through the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman opening the minds of the truly converted to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible. It is not through the keeping of physical ordinances and symbolic rituals and ceremonies to give men the habit of obedience and which, of themselves, do nothing to teach God's spiritual truth to men.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. [Not through any physical rituals]

But as it concerns spiritual Israel or God's Church, the spiritual message of importance of God's 2nd annual holy day is that following their having been called and chosen, their sins have been forgiven by Christ's sacrifice being applied to them. The condition for them and all true Christians to remain under grace or for their sins to be continually covered by Christ's

sacrifice, is that they have to be steadfast in their resolve and attitude of not resisting God and in doing their best to obey Him. When they do this, they are an unleavened lump (are not willfully resisting God in any way and their sins are always forgiven) which makes their salvation possible.

This is their part in the salvation process and they are reminded yearly during the time of the feast that to be saved they must remain an unleavened lump by maintaining their attitude of obedience to God in all things (not willfully resisting His authority in their lives) until the end of their lives.

God's Holy Days are Purposeful

One last point of importance which we need to realize is that God's annual Holy Days are not an end unto themselves; they are a means to an end. God instituted them in order to achieve specific objectives. This means that once those objectives have been achieved or when the people for whom they were instituted no longer exist there is no longer any need to continue celebrating them as they did in OT times. God has a new spiritual nation of Israel for whom the annual holy days manner of celebration and meaning are different from those of ancient Israel. We need to understand the distinction that is to be made between the purpose for keeping the Holy days in OT times and in NT times and why many of the OT practices for the physical congregation of Israel do not carry over into NT times.

For God's congregation in the wilderness or ancient Israel the purpose of the Holy Days was to teach them the habit of obedience or as the Scriptures states it: ".....that they may learn to fear me....." :

Deu 4:10 Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they **may learn to fear me** all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

Deu 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that **thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.**

Deu 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he **may learn to fear the LORD his God,** to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Deu 31:12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they **may**

hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

Deu 31:13 And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and [learn to fear the LORD your God](#), as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

In NT times, God's nation is a spiritual nation made up only of those individuals from the nations of the world that have been called and who are remaining faithful in following their calling. They have freely and self-willingly chosen to obey God; **they are obeying God because they want to not because of anything or anyone forcing them to do so**. The physical rituals and ceremonies of the OT whose goal was to teach the carnal-minded and unconverted nation of Israel the habit of obedience are not applicable nor necessary for NT Christians for whom the condition for being part of God's Church is their continuing, unconditional attitude of obedience to God in all things. They accept God's authority without exception, in their lives.

However, the annual holy days in their NT meaning continue to be a requirement for NT Christians but the manner in which they are kept is different from the way they were kept in OT times. The purpose of the NT annual holy days is to teach Christians and keep them in remembrance of the steps being followed by God in bringing salvation to mankind; not to teach them the habit of obedience.

Christ gave us the new manner of celebration and the new meaning of the Passover that is to be observed by NT Christians and now we should be able to understand how God's 2nd annual holy day is to be kept in NT times.

This feast time is a yearly reminder to NT Christians that their part in the salvation process is to remain an unleavened lump by maintaining an attitude of obedience to God in all things according to the truth revealed to them, which is the reason why God does not impute sin to them. For a detailed explanation of what is "imputation" I refer you to the following study: [Salvation by Imputation](#) True Christians are then the holy temple in which God and the glorified Christ dwell. The condition for salvation is not being without sin; it is never ceasing to try to obey God to the best of our abilities in all things and in this way be an unleavened lump i.e., our sins are then always forgiven because we are not knowingly and willfully resisting God which is the unpardonable sin. It is impossible for Christians not to have sin in their lives.

One last thing which I think should be mentioned is that since the Christian version of God's 2nd annual holy day is not called or referred to as the Days of Unleavened Bread anywhere in the NT, perhaps a different and

more precise name should be used in referring to it to help in preventing the perpetuation of the confusion in people's minds that the OT mode and manner of celebration of this 2nd annual feast continues without change for NT Christians.

The Feast of the Unleavened

Paul in 1Co 5:8 talks about the unleavened of sincerity and truth.

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. [The word "bread" is in italic which means it was not part of the original text but was added in by the translator.]

Would it make things clearer to refer to God's 2nd annual holy day as the Feast of the Unleavened i.e., the feast of true Christians whose prevailing attitude of mind is to obey God in all things and thus be an unleavened lump i.e., a member of God's Church in which God and the Word dwell. Passover teaches us how and why true Christian's sins are forgiven. The Days of the Unleavened teaches us what individual Christians must do for their sins to be forgiven or to come and remain under grace. They have to maintain their conversion commitment and attitude of mind of wanting to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities.

It would be much clearer to refer to God's 2nd annual holy day as the Feast of the Unleavened i.e., of all those who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful by not knowingly and wilfully resisting any aspects of God's law. Continuing to refer to God's 2nd annual holy day as the Feast of Unleavened Bread leads to the erroneous belief that unleavened bread and the OT practices associated with it, continue to be binding on NT Christians.

The meaning of unleavened bread in NT times is given us by Christ Himself. When Christ celebrated His last Passover with His disciples He said the following:

Mat 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.**

Mar 14:22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body.**

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body which is given for**

you: this do in remembrance of me.

1Co 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

The bread used during the Passover ceremony is unleavened bread.

Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

Deu 16:2 Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

Deu 16:3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

Unleavened bread in OT times was a reminder to Israel of the time when they came out of Egypt but in NT times, it represents the body of Christ as we have just seen. It is no longer a reminder of the ancient physical nation of Israel's hasty departure from Egypt when God freed them from their slavery under Pharaoh.

And what is the body of Christ in NT times?

Col 1:18 And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

So, unleavened bread now represents God's Church: those called, chosen and faithful who are God's spiritual nation of Israel which started on the day of Pentecost. God doesn't have a physical nation as His people anymore; it is a spiritual nation made up of people from the nations of the world which can and will include physical Israelites if they follow their calling and remain faithful when God calls them.

All this and more has been covered in detail in the following study available to you by clicking on the following hyperlink:

[The Days of the Unleavened](#)

Now let's see what is the meaning of Pentecost in NT times for truly converted Christians.

Pentecost — the Foundation of God's Spirit-Begotten Church

The WCG taught that:

Pentecost, or Firstfruits pictures to us the first part of the spiritual harvest, the calling out of God's True Church — a FEW PEOPLE and a SMALL FIRST HARVEST. (AC BCC 35 of the 58 lesson course)

The Feast of Weeks or the day of Pentecost occurs fifty days after the first Sunday that occurred during the OT Days of Unleavened Bread where the priest waved a sheaf of grain before the Lord before the spring harvest could begin.

Lev 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath [Sunday] the priest shall wave it.

Lev 23:15 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:

Lev 23:16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath {Sunday} shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

Then on the 50th day, a Sunday, is the Feast of Pentecost which in OT times included the wave loaf offering.

Lev 23:17 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.

Lev 23:20 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.

In NT times, there is no wave loaf offering as this was a function of the Levitical priesthood for a physical nation and both ceased to exist after the destruction of Jerusalem and of the second temple by the Romans after the rebellion of the Jews against the Roman government following the passage of Christ. And, God's nation is now spiritual Israel and no longer the physical nation of Israel and its physical descendants.

In NT times, the feast of firstfruits is not celebrated anymore as there is no longer in existence a physical nation of Israel living in a specific land sowing crops which were harvested in the spring. Rather what we find in NT

Scriptures is a very detailed description of the events surrounding the first Pentecost occurring following the ascension of Christ. Christ told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father which is that they would be baptized with the holy spirit not many days from the time that they saw Christ ascend to His Father. In other word, the Spirit of truth that was **with** them, Christ, after His glorification (John 7:39) would be **in** them.

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to be first glorified before what the translators called the “holy ghost” could be given BECAUSE the glorified Christ is the holy spirit, the Spirit of Truth who dwelt with the disciples and who would be in them on the day of Pentecost and subsequently in all those the holy spirit God the Father would call.

Christ just before ascending to His Father instructed His disciples to do the following:

Act 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost **[spirit]** not many days hence.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost **[spirit]** is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Act 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

The disciples stayed in Jerusalem as instructed by Christ and on the first Day of Pentecost after Christ’s ascension they were all assembled in one place. There then occurred great miracles signaling that something very different and of great importance was happening.

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a [like] rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,[spirit] and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pentecost as celebrated by the disciples did not include any of the rituals performed in ancient Israel's celebration of this day. There was no Levitical priest in attendance making a wave loaf offering and animal sacrifices (Lev 23:15-20). The Levitical priesthood was still in existence at the time of the first NT Christian Pentecost but themselves and the rituals they performed were not part of it. There is also no mention whatsoever of a celebration of firstfruits in the NT. If OT rituals and ceremonies were to be maintained in NT times, they would have been included in NT Scriptures and information would have been given on how those days were to be celebrated by NT Christians. As is the case for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, OT rituals are not mentioned in any way in the NT. This indicates a clear break from the OT manner of celebrating them and Pentecost.

Pentecost celebrates the foundation of God's Spirit-begotten Church or spiritual nation of Israel. God's nation is no longer a specific physical nation into which one must be born to become a member. Circumcision would be of the heart and ears and no longer be in the flesh. God's Zion would be spiritual Israel, His Spirit-begotten Church which is to exist until the very end of mankind. Christ is the first of the firstfruits; He is the first flesh-and-blood human being to have been born again by a resurrection from the dead to glorified, immortal, spirit life. NT Christians are a **kind** of firstfruits who will become **actual** firstfruits at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming when they too will then be born again.

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a **kind** of firstfruits of his creatures. [of God's spiritual creation]

Pentecost is not celebrating the harvesting of God's firstfruits which is something that will only occur at Christ's 2nd Coming and in the Great White Throne Judgment. If the holy days rehearse the steps being followed by God in bringing salvation to mankind then what is of importance on the Day of Pentecost is the foundation of His Church which is to exist until the time of the end of the Last Great Day.

As long as there would be human beings alive on the earth God's church would exist and this includes the period of the Millennium and of the Last Great Day.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

However, it is also important for us to realize that God's Church as stated by Christ would be the "little flock." It would be small and persecuted by the world whenever it came to its attention. True Christians today and historically, are not organized into large congregations with pastors, etc. but God's Church goes on without interruption through the truly converted wherever they may be in the world and whether by themselves or in small groups of believers.

However, it needs to be mentioned that in the days of the apostles, there existed little congregations of true Christians which were pastored by the apostles and by the men they ordained as preachers and teachers. The men ordained by the apostles were taught the very same truth Christ had given the apostles. They could then teach with authority those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. But, persecutions started as soon as God's Church came into being, mainly from the Jews who held on to the OT rituals, ceremonies, etc. they had received from their forefathers. Then came the Jews' rebellion against the Roman government and this led to the destruction of Israel, Jerusalem and the second temple. A new great false Christian church arose which persecuted all religions and the members of God's Church had to flee into the wilderness to escape being put to death.

The result was that much of the truth given the first century apostolic church became lost as those taught by the apostles and those they ordained as ministers, died out. Today some 1900 years and more since the scattering and death of those who had been given the truth taught the apostles, it can be safely said that there are no man who can claim to have these same truths. Their teachings can only be their personal interpretation of the Bible. They don't have absolute truth which all are to unquestioningly follow. God in the latter days is speaking to His Church not by men (prophets) but by His Son the holy spirit God the Word and Spoikesman.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he
made the worlds;

The holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen one are taught all things
by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they study the word of
God, Christ in writing, God's Holy Bible.

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot
receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye
know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom
the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things,
and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have
said unto you.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and
ye in me, and I in you.

For more information on what is God's Church, I would refer you to the
following study: [What is God's Church?](#)

The WCG taught that the reason for the existence of God's church was for
it to be a training ground for teachers that are to be used during the Mil-
lennium and the Last Great Day in bringing salvation to the nations which
would supposedly massively convert as God pours out His Spirit upon all
flesh i.e., as the holy spirit God the Father calls all men. Please see the
following study for a lot more detail on this topic: [Mass Conversion of the
Nations during the Millennium?](#) It would simply take up too much space
to repeat all that information in this study.

Suffice it to say that Christ plainly tells us if we will believe Him that many
are called and few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and of those chosen, few re-
main faithful (Mat 7:13). If this be true, and it is, how can we come to the
conclusion that all but a few hardheaded individuals will become convert-
ed during the Millennium. Our own recent experience of what occurred
in the WCG in the days of HWA and following his death should help us un-
derstand the significance of Jesus' words regarding how many follow their
calling and how many remain faithful. Again, I refer you to the above-men-
tioned study for a complete explanation of what will happen during the
Millennium.

If this were to occur, then it would mean that Christ after His Second Com-
ing would remain on the earth for 1,000 years and during the 100 year
period of the Last Great Day.

Here, I want to focus on the notion that Christ would remain on the earth during the Millennium. Unfortunately, it will make this study longer than I would like it to be.

Let's get started.

Christ to Remain on the Earth After His Second Coming?

A question which needs to be asked and answered is "Will Christ remain on the earth ruling its nations in a manner visible to flesh-and-blood human beings and this, until the end of the Last Great Day?" After all, this is what is assumed when it is said that Christ will rule over the nations of the world as King of kings and LORD of lords. It is also what was taught by the Worldwide Church of God.

What was the purpose for Christ's First Coming and what is the purpose for His Second Coming?

Christ came the first time to Israel (not to the world) for, among many other things, to teach specially chosen men a number of spiritual truths which would constitute the foundational truth of God's Church (1 Cor 3:10). These truths were to be passed on from one generation of believers to another but this transmission of God's truth was interrupted by persecution from a great, false church who wore down the saints.

Dan 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and [shall wear out the saints of the most High](#), and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

As a result, no one today know for sure what were the truths taught the early church of God except for the requirement to keep the Sabbath and the 10 commandments. Mr. Armstrong restored some of the foundational truths but how many more we are missing, is not known.

After Christ had completed His first ministry to Israel which lasted 3 1/2 years He returned to His Father and was to remain there until the time of restitution of all things.

Act 3:20 And he [\[God the Father\]](#) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:[\[the physical nation of Israel\]](#)

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive [who is to remain in heaven] until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Christ at His Second Coming is returning to the physical nation of Israel to restore all things to it. It will be the time of the redeeming of Israel spoken of in the 11th chapter of the Book of Romans. What is the “all things” that Christ is to restore to Israel and how does this happen?

In Dan 9:27 we learn that Christ’s ministry to Israel was cut short lasting only 3 1/2 years when it was to last 7 years. So there is still another 3 1/2 years to go in Christ’s ministry to Israel.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

When Christ returns to this earth, here is the sequence of events that will occur.

Christ is coming back a 2nd time but not to the world (Mat 15:22-24); He is coming back to Israel as He did the first time. The Scriptures say that on the day of His 2nd Coming Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zec 14:4); He will gather Israel from all the nations where He had scattered them (Jer 29:14); He will build them as at the first (Jer 33:7); He will set them in their own land (Is 14:1-2); and He will confirm the covenant with them for 3 1/2 years (Dan 9:27) and those that enter into the New Covenant become God’s Holy nation and kingdom of priest (Ex 19:6) in embryo or God’s Church.

Christ at the end of His second 3 1/2 year ministry to Israel will have then completed His ministry to Israel which was to be 7 years in duration and He will then return to His Father as He did the last time when He completed the first part of His ministry with Israel. At His First Coming, Christ founded God’s Church and returned to His Father. On His Second Coming to Israel (as we have detailed above) Christ will spend 3 1/2 years confirming the New Covenant with Israel returned from its end-time captivity and those that convert will become part of God’s Church.

The WCG taught that Christ is coming back in power and glory as King of kings and Lord of lords with the resurrected saints to take over rulership of the nations of the world. It would be a time when just about everyone would become converted and where there would be worldwide peace, safety, security and prosperity.

But, the Scriptures are clear that many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and of the few that are chosen it is the few who remain faithful (Mat 7: 13-14). These words were spoken by Christ Himself and make clear that there will be no time in the history of mankind when there will be a quasi-universal and lasting conversion of the populations of the world.

The Bible also makes it clear that in the latter days, God the Father is teaching His called and chosen ones by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman; not by men.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us [\[those called and chosen, God's Church\]](#) by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God's Church in New Testament times is not an organization of men ruling over the converted of the world. God's church exists in every truly converted Christians whether they be by themselves or in little groups and wherever they may be in the world. Individually and collectively they ARE God's one and only true Church.

Their worship of God is in spirit and in truth not through repetitive rituals instituted by men who have self-appointed themselves as ministers of God or who have been appointed by other men who appointed themselves as pastor generals, evangelists, apostles, etc. See the following study for a full explanation of this topic: [Who Can Feed the Flock?](#)

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him [must](#) worship him in spirit and in truth..

Also, the Bible tells us that Christians are saved by grace through faith.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

And faith is the substance of things [unseen](#).

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

If during the Millennium and the Last Great Day, Christ and the First Resurrection saints become visible to men worldwide, how is faith then involved in the salvation process? It would effectively mean that Christians from Pentecost to the Millennium are saved by grace through faith and those of the Millennium and the Last Great Day will be saved by the efforts of a visible government of God ruling over the nations requiring no faith. In other words they will be saved by sight; not by faith but God says that without faith it is impossible to please Him.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And here another difficulty arises, God's truth is spiritual i.e., it is of another level not comprehensible by flesh-and-blood human beings. It requires the addition of the holy spirits of the God family to men's mind. Having spirit beings becoming visible and administering the governments of this world is not how God's calling occurs.

The calling out process is individual and personal and God the Father is the one who initiates the process; not Christ. Once the person chooses to follow their calling and commit to obeying God, they then become chosen and it is Christ who then takes over to teach them spiritual truth (John 14:17;14:26; 17:8;17:12; 18:9).

Indeed, God will pour His spirit upon all flesh during the Millennium but being given access to the holy spirit God the Father is only the first step to conversion. Upon being called the holy spirit God the Father is only with the individual, it is not in him. If following a period of being taught spiritual truth a person decides to obey God to the best of his abilities, he then becomes chosen and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman with the holy spirit God the Father enters him making him a spirit-begotten son of God, a member of God's Church and of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo.

During the calling out process men are still quite carnal minded and quite able to reject the truth and many are those who do (Mat 22:14). The truly converted have to keep their carnal mind under control and it is the many who do not (Mat 7:13). This means that it is the many during the Millennium who will not follow the lead of the holy spirit God the Father, or if they do, remain converted. Being unconverted, they are unteachable even if Christ and spirit beings were to visibly appear to them and try to teach them.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Would God's plan of salvation for mankind be different during the Millennium and the Last Great Day?

But God says He changes not.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Salvation has been by faith through grace since the day of Pentecost, would it be by sight during the Millennium and the Last Great Day by seeing Christ and First Resurrection saints at work administering the governments of the nations of the world and running vast reeducation programs in the true value of life as an intermediary step to bringing about the conversion of the nations. If this were to occur then no faith would be required for salvation.

This would have for effect of having the Bible contradict itself and if it does, then it is not true.

Will Christ remain on the earth after completing His second 3 1/2 year ministry with Israel, the confirmation of the covenant?

The first time Christ came to Israel He returned to His Father after having completed His mission. After having completed the second part of His ministry to Israel, there is no longer any need for Him to remain on the earth. God the Father will continue to work out His plan of salvation by calling men to salvation and by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaching them.

It is not wanted by God for Christ to visibly and forcefully rule over the nations of this world to bring them to conversion. All those coming to conversion have to be left completely free to follow their calling and to choose to obey God. All of God's plan turns on the requirement for "character" to exist in those that are to inherit salvation. Any conversion by force of any kind does not result in "character." Character is the unforced commitment to obey God in all things after having been given to know the truth.

The salvation process is by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman working in the minds of those being called. Men remain free to accept or reject their calling and even to return into the world after having accepted their calling and it is the many that do so.

During the Millennium there will be no possibility or need for conducting vast campaigns of reeducation of the masses in the true values of life as it will be the few of the many that will become and stay converted. The unconverted majority will be unteachable; it will be impossible to teach

them any of God's spiritual truth because having refused their calling or having accepted it and then later on rejected it, they have become spiritually blind again and their attitude toward God's law is stated in Rom 8:7.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The next time Christ will be back is at the end of the Last Great Day when the Great White Throne Judgment occurs bringing to a close God's plan of salvation for mankind. God's Church is the means chosen by God to teach new converts whenever congregations become large enough for God to raise teachers in them and the conversion process is by God's Spirit working on an individual and personal basis in the minds of those being called. Conversion is not a group process.

God's plan is that salvation is by faith through grace and that faith is the perfect faith of Christ imputed to the truly converted conditional upon their maintaining their attitude of obedience to God in all things.

Please see the following study which deals precisely and in detail with Christ's rule during the Millennium [The Millennium God's Kingdom on Earth?](#)

Conclusion

Pentecost is not a celebration of the firstfruits of God's plan of salvation. The only current and actual firstfruit of God's plan of salvation is Christ.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Christ is the firstfruits of them that slept i.e., of Christians who have died. They are dead and buried and awaiting their resurrection from the grave. But, there are other firstfruits to come and their appearance will be at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; [afterward](#) they that are Christ's at his coming.

The actual firstfruits of God's plan of salvation i.e., those who will be resurrected from the dead to glorified, immortal spirit life will only occur at Christ's 2nd Coming. Christians now lying in their graves are only a type or "kind" of God's firstfruits.

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a [kind](#) of firstfruits of his creatures.

The NT Christian feast of Pentecost celebrates the foundation of God's spirit-begotten church. The focal point of God's Church is not the unconverted of the world but those coming to conversion as they are the only ones that can be taught any of God's spiritual truth.

God's Church is not the means used by God to bring salvation to men. The holy spirit God the Father is the only one who can call men to salvation and the holy spirit God the Word teaches them all things. They are the means by which men can become converted and can be taught God's spiritual truth; not men.

Let's now move on to God's 4th annual holy day and examine the Scriptures together to see what is the meaning of this feast day for NT Christians.

Feast of Trumpets — the Foundation of God's Millennial and Last Great Day Church

In OT times, ancient Israel kept this feast by blowing trumpets and having a celebration. There were the silver trumpets which were used to call the people to meetings, etc. and the ram's horn which was only blown when war was imminent. The priests blew the trumpets and the nation had a celebration but without knowing why it was there was to be a blowing of the trumpets as this was never revealed to them but they were happy to have a celebration nonetheless.

In NT times, trumpets are not blown as there is no priesthood to blow them and trumpets are no longer used as a means of communications or of signaling impending war to a physical nation inhabiting a specific land i.e., the physical nation of Israel. Also, God's nation in NT times is spiritual and not physical; it is made up of converted men from the many nations of the world and they are scattered all over the world; there is no central church and no single group in a given geographical location that constitutes "the" Church. It is first and foremost a spiritual organism which is sometimes a visible organization but which for most of its existence has not been a visible, organized corporate body. This is presently the state of existence of God's Church. And, it is important to realize there is no historical continuity between ancient Israel and God's NT spiritual nation of Israel who are from the nations of the world. They, for the very greatest part, have no historical connection to ancient Israel which is one of the main reason why, the celebration of God's annual holy days as conducted in ancient Israel and which commemorates events of historical importance to that nation, do not apply to God's NT spiritual nation.

Trumpets looks forward to Christ's 2nd Coming **to His people Israel** NOT to the world, to restore to them all things.

Act 3:20 And he [God the Father] shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [Israel]

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren [Christ was a Jew and a descendant of the House of David and therefore an Israelite], like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. [See Exo 20:18-19 and Deu 18:15-19 below]

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. [Will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel.]

Israel was gathered at the base of Mount Sinai where God was to speak to them but the people got very scared as stated in the following verses.

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

The people wanted Moses to tell them what God required of them and they would do it. They were afraid that they would die if God were to speak to them directly from the Mount. So, Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy tells them the following:

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee [Israel] a Prophet from the midst of thee, [from among you] of thy brethren, like unto me; [that prophet will be unto them like Moses] unto him ye shall hearken; [they will listen to him]

Deu 18:16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. [Exo 20:19]

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said unto me, [Moses] They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

Deu 18:18 I [God] will raise them up [Israel] a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, [Moses] and will put my words in his mouth; and he [that prophet] shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. [Those Israelites who refuse to follow the words of the prophet God will send to Israel, will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church; they will lose their salvation.]

These verses of Deu 18 are talking about Christ's 2nd Coming and to whom Christ will come (Israel, His people, not to the world). He is the prophet that God will raise up unto the physical nation of Israel (in the end-time) and this Israel shall hear Him in all things i.e., they will be given access to the holy spirits of the God family and they will be able to understand Christ's teaching to them in its spiritual dimension while for their forefathers, when Christ first came among them, it was impossible for them to do so.

They will be taught ".....all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" and any of them that will not hear (believe and obey) that prophet (Christ completing His ministry with Israel (Dan 9:27)) will be destroyed from among the people i.e., they will lose their salvation and not be part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or Church.

This did not occur at the time of Christ's First Coming to Israel.

The people and especially the religious elite of the day, opposed Christ and ultimately put Him to death. So these verses (Acts 3:20-23) are talking about what will happen to Israel (the Israelites scattered among the nations and the Jews in Palestine) at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming. It will be the time of Israel's calling (Rom 11); their opportunity for salvation (for those entering into the New Covenant); and it will also be the time where all those of the end-time remnant of physical Israel that choose to not to enter into the New Covenant lose their salvation. All those of end-time Israel (Rom 11) who enter the New Covenant become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo. They are then only begotten or conceived and yet to be born.

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Christ did not come to the world the first time nor is He coming to the world the second time. At His First Coming, He only came for Israel and will again come only for them; the Scriptures are very clear on that. The whole Bible has as its focus the nation of Israel and other nations are only mentioned as they come into contact with it. At His 2nd Coming, Christ will gather the remnant of end-time Israel which will have been scattered in captivity all over the world and resettle them in the Promised Land. He will then spend 3 ½ years confirming the covenant with them (Dan 9:27) and at the end of this 3 ½ year period, all those who make the New Covenant (not all of them will) become part of God's Church.

At Christ's 2nd Coming, the descendants of ancient Israel will be called and given their chance to be saved but they constitute only a part of the totality of Israel. During the Millennium, physical Israelites will all be called along with all the Gentile nations and in the Last Great Day, all of mankind that was never called and had died over the centuries, including physical descendants of ancient Israel, will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence and be given their opportunity for salvation. The redeeming of ancient Israel and of the Gentile nations of the world will then be complete at the end of the Last Great Day and the Great White Throne Judgment will then occur.

The WCG taught the following regarding the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets:

"The Feast of Trumpets portrays a pivotal event in God's plan. This festival not only pictures the coming of Christ to resurrect and change the firstfruits, it also pictures the terrible time of world war just ahead and the intervention of Jesus Christ to save humanity from total annihilation, as well as to establish the Kingdom of God on earth." (AC BCC 23 of the 32 lesson course)

But, the kingdom of God cannot exist over flesh-and-blood human beings (John 3; 1Cor 15:50). It is made up of spirit beings and only, of spirit beings. This is why Christ told Nicodemus that one must be born again by a resurrection from the dead as a glorified spirit being to see the Kingdom of God (John 3). God will only rule over those who voluntarily submit to Him; the holy spirits of the God family only ever lead, they never force anyone to follow them (Rom 8:14). Many are called; few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and few of the chosen remain faithful (Mat 7:13). Consequently, It would not be possible for the unconverted masses to be taught the

true values of life through a massive re-education campaign conducted by spirit teachers as the unconverted are not teachable (Rom 8:7). This is covered extensively in the following study: [Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#)

Christ at His Second Coming will not establish the Kingdom of God on earth. [Will Christ's Second Coming Change the Current World Order?](#)

Trumpets in NT times anticipate Christ's 2nd Coming; the gathering and resettlement of end-time Israel into the original Promised Land, Christ's 3 ½ year ministry to Israel, the making of the New Covenant and the converts of the nation of Israel becoming part of God's Church. For a whole lot more information on this topic, please see the following study: [Administration of God's Plan of Salvation During the Millennium](#)

Trumpets celebrates the foundation of God's Millennial Church which is another critical step in the administration of God's plan of salvation. God's Church will exist during the Millennium and the Last Great Day as it was never to die out. God has been bringing salvation to mankind since the day of Pentecost when the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman entered the disciples and they became the founding members of God's NT spirit-begotten Church. During the Millennium and the Last Great Day, all men will be called and given an opportunity for salvation.

God's Church would always exist but most of the time it would be small and invisible to the world without teachers, pastors, elders, etc. Recall that God's Church are those who are called, chosen and faithful whether by themselves or in little groups of believers. The concept of God's Church as being a large, well-financed organization with a full ministry owning beautifully landscaped properties with impressive, expensive buildings, travelling the world in private jets owned by the Church and being highly visible in the world is not the mode of existence of God's Church according to your Bible. I would refer you to the following study which explores at length what is God's Church: [What is God's Church?](#) [Who Can Feed God's Flock?](#)

Some will say: "But God's church was never to die out or cease to exist; how can it be necessary to have it re-established at the time of Christ's Second Coming?"

There are 2 main reasons.

Firstly, at the time of Christ's Second Coming, God's Church in existence at that time, becomes the Bride of Christ. They are no longer flesh-and-blood; they become glorified spirit beings who become part of God's Kingdom. There are then no truly converted Christians left on the earth.

Secondly, God chose Israel to be His holy nation and kingdom of priests. OT Israel never was able to fulfill its mission because the Old Covenant did not include Israel being given access to the holy spirits of the God family which, but for the OT prophets for whom God made an exception, could not be given until Christ was glorified (John 7:39). God separated Himself from ancient Israel because it could not obey Him but He said He would not remain angry with them and would choose them again (Jer 30:11; 46:28; Zech 2:12; Jer 32:37). God chose, rejected and will choose again Israel. All of this is covered in detail in the following study: [When and Why will God Again Choose Israel?](#)

The end-time nations constituting modern Israel will be scattered in captivity across the nations of the world and the remnant of Israel will be gathered by Christ at His Second Coming (Jer 32:37), resettled in the original Promised Land and a New Covenant (Jer 31:31; Heb 8:8) made with those who following Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry to them (Dan 9:27), will commit themselves to obeying God. They then become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo and members of God's Church. They will be the founding members of God's Millennial and Last Great Day Church and the continuation of God's Church founded on the Day of Pentecost.

This is how the gates of hell do not prevail against God's Church according to your Bible (Matt 16:18). And, this is what the Feast of Trumpets represents in NT times for truly converted Christians.

Atonement — Human Beings Become God as God is God

In OT times, the Day of Atonement was the only time when the high priest could enter the holy of holies where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The high priest who represented the whole nation of Israel then came into the presence of God. This was followed by the symbolic banishment of Satan when the Azazel goat (symbolically represented Satan) was taken into the wilderness by the hand of a strong man.

In NT times, there is no such ceremony as the Levitical priesthood no longer exists and God's nation is no longer ancient Israel but a spiritual nation with no historical connection to ancient Israel and which is made up of converts from the many nations of the world. The only remaining requirement is to fast on that day.

The WCG taught that:

[The fifth annual Sabbath, the Day of Atonement, pictures the fifth step in God's Master Plan—deposing Satan from his position as world ruler,](#)

and his removal to a place completely away from mankind. Satan will be "bound" for 1,000 years, no longer able to deceive the nations or influence mankind to sin (Rev. 20:1-3).

(AC BCC 29 of 32 lesson course)

This is based on the OT ceremonies performed by the high priest on the day of Atonement and it is indeed true that at Christ's 2nd Coming Satan will be replaced on the throne of the earth by Christ and a seal placed on him so he can no longer deceive the nations. However, this will not result in there being at-one-ment between God and men; this is not the means by which God and man can and will become one.

The Day of Atonement in NT times looks forward to the day when not only Satan will have been banished forever but to the time when the wicked will have been burnt up in the Lake of Fire and God's children will have been born in the Third Resurrection completing the formation of God's Kingdom. God's saints from Adam and Eve to the time of the Third Resurrection will then all have become glorified spirit beings in God's Kingdom. Please see the following study for a detailed explanation of what happens at the time of the 3rd Resurrection: [When are God's Millennial Saints Resurrected and Will They Appear to the Unconverted?](#) As glorified spirit beings, men will be one with God; they will be one with God and Christ in the very same way that Christ and God are one.

Joh 17:21 That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made **perfect in one**; and that the world may know that **thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.** 0

In the Bible we are given an example of what it means to be one with God.

First, we have God and Christ as the Head of the body and the body of Christ is the church.

Col 1:18 And he **[Christ]** is the head of the body, **the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church**,

Eph 1:23 Which is **his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

God the Father has put all things under the feet of Christ. He is the head of the church which is His body.

Then we read in 1Co 12 of how the body of Christ, the church, is made of many members which constitute one body as also is Christ. Sounds a bit confusing? Let's read through 1Co 12:12.

1Co 12:12 For as the body **[the human body]** is one, and hath many members, **[has many different parts to it]** and all the members **[different parts of the body]** of that one body, **[a human body]** being many, **[having many parts]** are one body:**[a single human body]** **so also is Christ.**

There is a huge amount of information in 1Co 12:12 which is directly related to the Day of Atonement. What this verse is effectively saying is that in the same way that a human body though made up of many different parts constitute a single body **so also is Christ** whose body is also made up of many members. In the resurrection, there will be many separate and distinct individuals with independent mind power and their own personality who will constitute the body of Christ. They will be in complete and total harmony with each other and Christ, the head of the body in the same way that the many and varied parts of a human body performing various functions in the human body all work in perfect harmony with each other and constitute a single, not many bodies.

An extended and detailed comparison is going to be made in the verses of 1Co 12 (we'll examine it shortly) between the body of Christ and how its many different parts or members all work together as one in the same way that a human body which has many different parts with their own functions collectively all work harmoniously together as one and constitute one body.

This is also stated in Eph 4:16.

Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body **[God's Church and future kingdom]** fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, **[by that which every members or parts of the body provides]** according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **[according to the role/function given each part in the body]** maketh increase **[makes the body grow]** of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. **[Each of the many different members of the body of Christ contribute to the**

growth of the body and this because they all fulfill their individual roles out of the love they have for each other and the head of the body, Christ.]

With this information in mind, let's now read through 1Co 12 where an extended comparison is made between the different parts of the human body, the members of the body of Christ, the Church, and the Kingdom of God which will be God's Church in the resurrection from the dead to glorified spirit life. All parts in the human body are necessary and all contribute in their own way to the well being of the body in the same way that all the members of the body of Christ, all have a necessary and vital role to play.

The body of Christ, the Church, in the resurrection, becomes the Kingdom of God and every member of Christ's body in the resurrection in God's Kingdom will all have a necessary and essential role to play in God's Kingdom. And, in the same way that the many and different parts of the human body constitute a single body, the many members of the body of Christ, the saints of God's Church, in the resurrection will constitute one body. God will determine the role of each member of the body of Christ in the resurrection and in His Kingdom. They will all, in full harmony and co-operation with each other and Christ, the Head of the body, fulfill the roles they have been given to play in the body of Christ which is the Church who in the resurrection becomes the Kingdom of God with God the Father as the supreme authority.

All members of God's Kingdom will function as parts of one body as is the case for the individual parts of our human bodies who are not many bodies but one body. This will be possible because each and every members of God's Kingdom will always be fully and willingly under the authority of God. God's authority in God's Kingdom, with each and every members of God's Kingdom fully in submission to God's authority is how, God's Kingdom, like our human bodies which are made up of many different parts, will function as one body or one being. God's Kingdom will be made up of many parts who are God's glorified saints but be one body as all parts or members of God's Kingdom will be fully under God's authority.

This is the same kind of relationship which existed forever between God and the Word and Christ and His Father. Though fully in submission to His Father, Christ had His own mind and thoughts; He was not simply an extension of the mind of God the Father unable to think His own thoughts. He was a separate and distinct being from God the Father though fully in submission to Him and it will be the same way in God's Kingdom where each member of the Kingdom will be fully in submission to God but retain their ability for independent thought, their personality and their individuality.

This is fully in agreement with God's objective of reproducing Himself through man which are beings He created that can be elevated in the resurrection to the God plane level of existence and be members of God's Kingdom in the same way as are God and the Word. They will be fully in subjection to God like Christ and continue like Christ, to have their own minds, individuality and personality.

God does not want nor can He have a kingdom with beings who don't have their own minds. The ability and the freedom to think is what makes makes individuality and personality possible; otherwise, men would be just like all the animals created by God who don't think and whose actions are almost entirely determined by instinct. Animals can provide companionship to people but they cannot relate to human beings like other human beings can. Humans need to and, can only have meaningful and satisfying interactions, with other human beings. In the same way, God wants to interact with other beings like Himself. The only way that can happen is for God to elevate human beings to the same kind and level of existence as Himself which is something He has the power to do.

This is a longer introduction to 1Co 12 than I had anticipated so I will stop here and read through the verses.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1Co 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

1Co 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

1Co 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, [the functions of the different parts of our human bodies have been established by God in the same way that the functions of the members of Christ's body will be established by God; the body of Christ is another way of saying the Kingdom of God; Christ under God the Father is the head of God's Kingdom or the body] as it hath pleased him.

1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? [The body (our human bodies and Christ's body, the church) could not exist without having many different members

having different roles, responsibilities and functions as will be explained in the following verses.]

1Co 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

1Co 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

1Co 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: [Even those parts of the body that seem to not really have any great utility, are necessary in both the human body and in the body of Christ.]

1Co 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

1Co 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

1Co 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. [There are no parts of the human body or functions in God's Kingdom that are not required by the body; all parts play a vital role in our human bodies in the same way that all the functions/roles allocated by God will all be essential in the body of Christ or God's Kingdom (Eph 4:16).]

1Co 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. [And so it is with our human bodies where when one part is hurting the whole body feels it; and in God's Church which is the body of Christ, when one member is hurting all sympathize and help and when one member is honoured, the whole congregation rejoices with him. In other words, our human bodies which God designed and which the Scriptures say are wonderfully and fearfully made are a perfect type of the body of Christ which is also the Kingdom of God and of how that Kingdom will exist and function.]

The preceding Scriptures (John 17:21-23 and 1Co 12) allow us to understand the oneness that presently exists in the Godhead where God the Father and Christ are one though being two separate and distinct beings with their own minds. They also allow us to understand how the members of God's Church who constitute the body of Christ in the resurrection will be one with Christ and God.

As Paul said in Eph 5:32: "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." You may have to spend a bit of time thinking about what has just been explained before you fully understand knowledge which has always been there but not necessarily understood.

In light of the information given we can hopefully understand that Atonement looks forward to and very greatly rejoices in the knowledge that God's saints, when they become glorified spirit beings, will fully share in the very nature of God. They will be one with God, being God, as God is God, as members of God's Kingdom. They will retain their individuality, personality and ability to think independently but will be in perfect submission to God in the same way that Christ is a distinct and separate individual with His own mind and thoughts while being in perfect submission to God. This is the oneness that now exists in the Godhead and which will continue to exist in the Godhead even with the addition of thousands of new individuals to it.

The meaning of Atonement for New Testament Christians is given us by Christ Himself in John 17:21-23 and by God through Paul in 1Co 12. Christians in the resurrection will one with God with the same unity that exists between God and Christ. Man can become a God being i.e, become a spirit being in which dwells immortality through a resurrection from the dead to glorified spirit life.

The great message of hope of the Day of Atonement to NT Christians is that man can become God as God is God and having the same nature live in oneness with God while being separate and distinct beings with their own minds and personalities.

Feast of Ingathering — Salvation Opened up to all Mankind

The 6th annual holy day was initially celebrated as the Feast of Tabernacles and it was a reminder to ancient Israel of God's punishment for their refusal to trust Him to be able to bring them into the Promised Land. For 40 years they wandered aimlessly in the desert until all those that were of that generation that refused to go into the Promised Land had died. It was a grave reminder to ancient Israel to trust God and obey Him and of the severity of the consequences for not doing so.

Once Israel entered the Promised Land, during the same period of time as the Feast of Tabernacles, there was the Feast of Ingathering (See Lev 23:34 and 23:39 quoted below). It was a time of thanksgiving to God for the bountiful fall season harvest which was all important to their survival during the winter months. If there were to be a massive crop failure in any given year there would be widespread misery, famine and death in Israel.

Lev 23:34 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.

Lev 23:39 **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.

So, according to Lev 23:39, there were 2 feasts on the 15th day of the 7th month: the feast of tabernacles and the feast of ingathering but they are not the same and don't have the same meaning. It is not possible to speak of the feast of ingathering as though it were nothing more than an extension or a different version of the feast of tabernacles. In other words, they are separate and distinct feasts who cannot be blended together as the WCG did.

The feast of ingathering could only be celebrated once Israel entered the Promised Land and had crops to harvest. It was given at Mount Sinai but only came into effect when Israel entered the Promised Land.

In NT times, the 6th annual holy day most applicable to spiritual Israel is the Feast of Ingathering which looks forward to the time when God will gather end-time Israel from the nations where they will have been taken captive during the Great Tribulation and were slaves (Ez 11: 17; 36:24). Christ brings them back in a Second Exodus to the original Promised Land where as a physical nation they are to become as powerful and rich as in the days of Solomon (Jer 33:7; 33:11). There will also exist a spiritual nation of Israel which will be those of end-time Israel that make the New Covenant at the end of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry to them. They then become part of His Church (those who convert; not all will) to which will be added Gentile converts all through the Millennium and the Last Great Day.

This is the time spoken of by Paul in Romans 11 when Israel will be redeemed. All those who enter into the New Covenant become part of God's Church. They will then become unto God a holy nation and a kingdom of priests in embryo i.e., begotten or conceived but yet to be born (Ex 19:6).

God punished Israel but promised to restore it to its original greatness and more as He will be faithful to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. He will again choose Israel, restore it to the Promised Land and make it more prosperous than anciently but NOT because they all become converted and are eager to obey Him. He does it because He is faithful to His promise to not destroy Israel despite its sinfulness and to make of it a great nation. For a detailed explanation of the restoration of Israel, please see the following study: [When and Why will God Again Choose Israel?](#)

In the WCG, there was a blending of the feast of tabernacles, a reminder of ancient Israel's sinfulness and of the severe punishment that came upon it as a result, and of the time of the Millennium (the Feast of Ingathering) when physical Israel would be restored to the Promised Land and will have been made to prosper by God as in the days of Solomon.

In the WCG, Tabernacles was seen as the requirement for NT Christians to live in temporary accommodations during the feast and to live as richly as they could afford to do based on their 2nd tithe which would be a type of how people would live during the Millennium. In practice, for many, it was a time of excessive eating and drinking that left them physically sick. However, it is highly unlikely that the days of misery and punishment endured by ancient Israel (Tabernacles) can or should be included in Christians' celebration of God's 6th Holy day in NT times. Ancient Israel celebrated both feasts together which occur on the same date every year.

Ancient Israel was a physical nation who were direct descendants from those who had lived 40 years in the desert as punishment from God for having refused to trust Him. For them, the purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles was as an ongoing reminder of this historic event in their nation's past. But, New Testament Israel, is a spiritual nation made up of men from all nations; they do not have a shared historical past with ancient Israel; their forefathers never spent 40 years in the desert; and the Feast of Tabernacles does not represent a step in God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Nowadays, what is most applicable to NT Israel is the Feast of Ingathering which was celebrated by Israel once it settled in the Promised Land and had crops to harvest. There were no crops to be sown or harvested in the desert especially that during the 40 years they spent in the desert, Israel was nomadic i.e., did not remain in the same place for any great length of time. There is no use in planting crops in the desert which in the best of conditions require a great deal of attention and time to grow if it will not be possible to remain at the same place long enough to tend and harvest what was sown.

Once Israel entered and settled the Promised Land their main feast celebration was no longer the Feast of Tabernacles but the Feast of Ingathering. They lived in booths only in a ceremonial way; they remained in their cities and towns; they did not go back out into the desert and dwell in tents during the time of the Feast.

Neh 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Neh 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their

cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Neh 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Of course, ancient Israel's celebration of the feast of Ingathering had no spiritual meaning for them nor could it as they were never given access to the holy spirits of the God family which is the only way God's spiritual truth can be known. It was a time of rejoicing because of the abundance of their crops which ensured they would not starve in the coming winter months.

However, for God's NT spiritual nation of Israel, God's 6th annual holy day refers to the time when Christ will gather Israel and bring it back to the Promised Land; minister to them for 3 1/2 years and make the New Covenant with those of Israel who commit themselves to obeying Him. It is not celebrating the Millennium as a time of peace, prosperity, security and abundance supposedly brought about by the massive conversion of just about everyone as God pours out of His Spirit upon all flesh i.e., when the holy spirit God the Father calls all men to salvation, which is what was taught by the WCG.

Indeed, all men will be called and consequently there will be a greater number of converts than at the time when the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman was only given to individuals specially chosen by God from the foundation of the world but overall, though more than before will be called during the Millennium, it will not be the many that will become and stay converted. (See the [Administration of God's Plan of Salvation During the Millennium](#) for a detailed explanation of this topic.)

Christ plainly tells us in verses that need no interpretation that many are called and few are chosen (Matt 22:14) and that of the few chosen, there are few that remain faithful (Matt 7:13). Given these Scriptures, it is not logically possible to think that there will come a time in God's plan of sal-

vation where all but a few hardheaded individual will become and remain converted resulting in a wonderful world of peace, safety, security, abundance and joy.

Also, it is doubtful that NT Christians are to live in booths or tabernacles to properly celebrate God's 6th annual Holy Day period and even if they are to do so, as per Neh 8:16, there would be no need to leave their homes but in a symbolic way i.e., by erecting a tent in a backyard as in the days of Nehemiah and spending some time in it every day. Nehemiah knew how the 6th annual holy day was to be celebrated.

The Feast of Ingathering is what is most applicable to God's NT Spirit-begotten nation as it looks forward to the ingathering of God's elect from the nations of the world during the Millennium which is indeed one of the steps followed by God in bringing salvation to mankind while the feast of tabernacles which was a reminder of the time of severe punishment of ancient Israel for its disobedience, isn't a step in God's plan of salvation.

The gathering of Israel scattered across the nations is the first step in a greater gathering that will occur once those of the physical nation of Israel who come to conversion have become part of God's spiritual nation or God's church. This will occur at the time of the making of the New Covenant at the end of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry to the remnant of end time Israel returned from captivity.

All those living during the Millennium will be called as the holy spirit God the Father calls all men to salvation. It is the beginning of the time of the great ingathering which will start with the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel and then extend to all those living during the Millennium. This process will continue throughout the Millennium and become complete during the Last Great Day when all those since the beginning of mankind who had not been called will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence and be called. By the end of the Last Great Day all of mankind will have been called and given the opportunity to be saved. It will complete the time of God's great ingathering and of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Dwelling in booths in the desert for 40 years was physical punishment for a physical people and once Judah returned from its captivity and dwelt in Jerusalem it was only observed symbolically (Neh 8:16) during the Feast of Ingathering; the people did not leave their homes to dwell in tents in the desert. The OT feast of Tabernacles does not teach anything about how God is proceeding to save mankind and is not a step in God's plan of salvation for mankind while the Feast of Ingathering represents the next-to-final step in that plan.

There therefore does not remain a requirement for NT Christians to dwell

in booths but in a symbolic way as was done in the days of Nehemiah when Israel was back in the Promised Land following its captivity under the Persian Empire. The requirement is to rather celebrate the Feast of Ingathering in its spiritual dimension. There is a great deal of wonderful and fascinating information about the meaning of God's 6th annual Holy Day period which was never taught in the WCG; which most members of God's Church unfortunately continue to be unaware of and to whom, in most instances, it is impossible to share any of this information with them as they are still babes-in-Christ unable to understand the meat of the Bible. ([Are You Spiritually Mature?](#))

God's 6th annual holy day celebrates the time when God will begin the work of the final great ingathering of mankind by the holy spirit God the Father calling all men to salvation (Joel 2:28). The holy spirits of the God family will be made available to all men during the Millennium and all will be given their opportunity for salvation. All will then be free to follow or not their calling and become inheritors of God's Kingdom or lose their salvation. It is a major step that is the beginning of the finalization of God's master plan of salvation.

The last annual holy day, the Last Great Day, will complete the ingathering process and bring God's plan of salvation to a close.

The Last Great Day — Great White Throne Judgment

The Last Great Day is God's 7th annual holy day that follows immediately after the Feast of Ingathering.

Lev 23:34 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.

Lev 23:35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Lev 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: **on the eighth day shall be an 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.

This is the time when Christ said if anyone thirsts let him come unto me and rivers of living water will pour out of his belly.

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, [the eight day] Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

**Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said,
out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

This was also the time when the priest poured out water in the temple which was symbolic of the holy spirits of the God family that would be available to or poured out on all those in the Second Resurrection to flesh-and-blood existence of the Last Great Day.

In NT times, this feast day looks to a time in the future when all those who have never known God's truth will be resurrected and called. They will all live for a 100 years and then be judged at the end of that time period in the Great White Throne Judgment.

Isa 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

In NT time, the actual accomplishment of the Last Great Day and the Great White Throne judgment are still in our future. The Great White Throne judgment is the time when God gathers up His elect as described in the Parable of the Tares in Matth 13:24-30.

When the 100 years are up, the Third Resurrection will occur of all those who have died and had not followed their calling or who turned away from it. They will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence and suffer the second death in the Lake of Fire with those of the Last Great Day resurrection who did not follow their calling or who turned away from it. It is also the time when at the end of the Last Great Day, all those called, chosen and faithful during the Millennium and the Last Great Day are resurrected/transformed to glorified spirit life just before the coming of the Lake of Fire which consumes the wicked and is the second death from which no resurrection is possible.

There are a lot of things occurring during and especially at the end of the Last Great Day when the third resurrection and the Great White Throne Judgment occur which have never been covered fully by the ministry. For a complete explanation of what will happen during the Last Great Day I would refer you to the following study available on this site as it would take up too much space to repeat it all in this study: [When are God's Millennial Saints Resurrected and Will They Appear to the Unconverted?](#)

I highly recommend you take the time to read this study, you will be glad you did.

The Last Great day completes God's gathering of His elect. All humanity will have been called and given an opportunity for salvation. All those who rejected God's calling or turned away from it will die the second death in the Lake of Fire which is the beginning of the process that God will use in creating a new heaven and a new earth.

The Last Great Day is the last step in God's plan of salvation for mankind which brings to a close the 7,000 years allotted to mankind by God at the time of the creation of Adam and Eve.

God's Plan of Salvation

We can now do a quick summary of God's Christian annual Holy Days and demonstrate how they are an excellent description of the steps being followed by God in administering His plan of salvation for mankind.

1. **Passover** is the first step. A perfect sacrifice was needed that would make possible forgiveness of the sins of mankind conditional upon men repenting, believing and remaining faithful until the end of their natural lives to the truth given them by God.
2. The **Days of the Unleavened** is the second step and it has to be taken by the newly-converted Christian. After having had his sins forgiven by the application of the grace that abounded from Christ's death on the stake, he must never go back to deciding right and wrong according to his own personal standards of right and wrong as he did before his conversion. He must remain humble before God and fully trust Him to define right and wrong for him. He is then an unleavened lump as he is then under grace. God does not impute any sin to him and God the Father and Christ dwell in him.
3. **Pentecost** celebrates and memorializes the foundation of God's New Testament Spirit-begotten church which is to never die out as long as there are human beings alive on the earth. Those called and chosen are to demonstrate to God by their works of obedience the sincerity of their commitment to obey Him in all things to the best of their abilities.
4. The feast of **Trumpets** announces Christ's Second Coming for the purpose of restoring (restitution) all things "...which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Act 3:21) to end-time Israel returned from its scattering among the nations. Those who enter into the New Covenant

at the end of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church; it is the time of the redeeming of Israel.

5. **Atonement** teaches Christians that one day they will be one with God as God the Father and Christ are one. They will be God beings sharing fully in the very nature of God as immortal spirit beings while retaining their personality, individuality and mind power in the same way Christ and God are separate and distinct beings with their own minds and yet are both God beings. It will be a very great time of incredible rejoicing.
6. The **Feast of Ingathering** is the time when God begins the process that will lead to the finalization of His plan of salvation. During the Millennium the holy spirit God the Father will call all men and give them their first and only opportunity for salvation.
7. **The Last Great Day** is the time when the holy spirit God the Father will call all those who were never called during the previous 6,000 years of mankind's existence by resurrecting them to flesh-and-blood life and giving them 100 years to demonstrate their commitment to obey Him or not. This will complete God's ingathering process and bring to a close His plan of salvation for mankind at the end of the Last Great Day when occurs the Great White Throne Judgment.
8. **The Great White Throne Judgment** takes place at the end of the Last Great Day and the damned are consumed by the **Lake of Fire** that engulfs the earth. The faithful of the Millennium and Last Great Day inherit salvation and become part of God's Kingdom. This ends God's 7,000 year plan of salvation for mankind.
9. **God Make All Things New.** A new heaven and a new earth are created, the new Jerusalem comes down from Heaven and God will dwell with men i.e., with men become glorified spirit beings as the time when the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven is after the new heaven and the new earth have been created. There are then no longer any flesh-and-blood men left alive.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, [who then are all glorified spirit beings in God's Kingdom; all others died in the Lake of Fire] and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Summary of Important Points

God's Holy Days were instituted during the Old Testament and the reason for their celebration and the manner in which they are celebrated changed even in the Old Testament where there is a distinction that needs to be made between:

- the time Israel wandered for 40 years in the desert
- the time when Israel entered and settled in the Promised Land and
- the time when a remnant of Judah came back from captivity under the Persian Empire to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and to build the 2nd temple on the site of the first temple that had been destroyed.

These very different physical circumstances are the reason we find that some of the feast days have more than one name as they refer to different time periods in the history of Israel (the wandering years versus the years in the Promised Land vs the return from captivity).

The physical and ceremonial rituals followed by ancient Israel and performed by the Levitical priesthood are no longer applicable to NT Christians. Also, God's annual feast days as celebrated by God's NT Christians convey information that could never have been known by ancient Israel which remained unconverted as under the Old Covenant they were never given access to the holy spirits of the God family. NT Christians who have the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in them can understand the spiritual message contained in the annual holy days and most of this information is given us in NT Scriptures but not exclusively.

As we have seen together, the annual holy days in NT times are celebrated in a different way than in the OT (OT rituals and ceremonies and animal sacrifices are no longer performed) and their NT meaning in most instances is different from what we have been taught in the WCG.

God's 6th Annual Holy Day

In closing off this study I would like to do a final review of this feast time.

As previously stated, Tabernacles does not teach anything about how God is proceeding to bring salvation to mankind and is not a step in God's master plan of salvation for mankind. As indicated in the book of Nehemiah the "tabernacles" aspect of God's 6th annual holy day was only celebrated in a symbolic way when Judah returned from its captivity to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.

Neh 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Neh 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Neh 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

The people did not leave their towns and cities and go out in the desert to live in booths or anywhere else for that matter; they made booths on the roofs of their houses and in their backyards. They did not travel anywhere; they stayed in their houses, homes and cities and this was in accordance with how God wanted them to celebrate this feast time. And, there was then no talk of God placing His name in a certain place that they were to go to to celebrate the feast. They celebrated the feast where they were.

In NT times, if we follow their example, this would mean there is no need to be away from our homes during the time of the feast. Also, it would stand to reason that when they dwelt in rudimentary booths made on their housetops and in their backyards they didn't remain in them without interruption as a small and hastily made booth out of branches makes it

impossible for them to cook their meals, live with their wives and children, wash their clothes and themselves, take care of their wives and children, etc. The Feast of Tabernacles was kept symbolically and it is most unlikely that during the feast there was a total abandonment of responsibility for wives, family, personal care and hygiene as would be required if they spent all 7 days of the feast sitting in a small, hastily made rudimentary booth on their rooftop.

Then, at that same time of year when the Feast of Tabernacles occurred, there was the Feast of Ingathering which began to be celebrated once Israel had settled the Promised Land after having been made to wander 40 years in the desert. It coincided with the time when the fall harvests had been completed and the people could rejoice that there would be no famine in the land during the coming winter. God had given them abundant crops and it was a time of thanksgiving to God. That was the time when God, before Israel went off into captivity, would place His name in certain parts of Israel where Israel was to go and celebrate the feast in drink and food and thanksgiving to God.

They would then live in booths or tabernacles (places of temporary residence) as wherever they would go during the feast would not be their homes and there they would use either their money or the goods they had brought with them to celebrate the feast.

There were different feast sites as it would be impossible to bring all of Israel to a single site. But after Israel went into captivity and only a remnant came back to rebuild Jerusalem and the walls of the city, the way they celebrated the feast was as described in Nehemiah.

God in the OT spoke to His people through the prophets and through them He could communicate to them where He would place His name for the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in the days when people were to leave their homes and travel to the sites where God had placed His name. But, as we have seen, when Judah came back from its captivity to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple, they built booths in their backyards and on the roofs of their houses; they were not required to travel anywhere.

In NT times or in the last days in which we are presently living, God no longer has prophets. He speaks to us through Christ in writing, the Bible.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Even if the requirement to travel remained in NT times, there would be no prophet of God to tell the Church where it would have to go to celebrate the feast.

In Conclusion

As we can see, some of the annual holy days were not celebrated in the same way as Israel went from wandering in the desert to being settled in the Promised Land to being a small remnant returned from captivity to rebuild Jerusalem which had been destroyed by the invading armies. And, there are still more changes that occurred with the foundation of God's NT Spirit-begotten nation which includes men from all nations who after their conversion do not gather themselves together to live in one geographical location so as to constitute a physical nation; they are a spiritual organism and nation whose members are spread all over the world.

In NT times, none of the annual feast days are celebrated like they were in the Old Testament and none of them mean the same thing for NT Christians as they did for the ancient physical nation of Israel. The meaning of the annual holy days since Christ's First Coming is spiritual requiring the in-dwelling of the holy spirits of the God family to be understood. The OT holy day celebrations are reminders to the physical nation of Israel that then existed of significant historical and physical events in the life of their nation where God at times acted to punish or bless them.

Christ who is to be our example in all things, as part of His ministry with his disciples, changed the way the Passover was to be celebrated and its meaning. Passover, from that time forward, would be a memorial of the death and sufferings of Christ for the redemption of the sins of mankind. It would no longer be a way for the physical nation of Israel to remember how their firstborn were saved the night the angel of death went over Egypt.

The days of unleavened bread would no longer be to keep Israel in remembrance of the time they left Egypt; rather they would be a time when God's spiritual nation of Israel would be reminded not to commit the unpardonable sin so as not to lose their salvation.

The third Annual holy day was celebrated by ancient Israel as the feast of firstfruits but in NT times this day is to be celebrated as Pentecost by God's spiritual nation of Israel as it is on that day, as related to us in the New Testament, that God founded His New Testament Church with great miracles attending its creation to mark how unique and special was that day for NT Christians.

The feast of Trumpets had no spiritual meaning for OT Israel but we know through NT Scriptures that trumpets signal the 2nd Coming of Christ to

restore all things to His people, the remnant of the modern-day nations of Israel returned from their end-time captivity to the original Promised Land. This time of restitution of all things is Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry with the remnant of end-time Israel. Those that convert and enter into the New Covenant become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel and God's Millennial Church.

Atonement in OT Scriptures is the time when Satan is banished and the chief priest entered the holy of holies coming into the very presence of God. In NT times, Atonement celebrates the time when God and men who inherit salvation will be one with God as God is one with Christ. Atonement rejoices in the knowledge that men through a resurrection from the dead to glorified spirit life will become God as God is God and be one with God as God the Father and the Word are one.

In NT times, Christians celebrate the Feast of Ingathering together as it points to the time when God will begin His final gathering of men by the holy spirit God the Father calling all men during the Millennium which is one of the major steps in the accomplishment of God's plan of salvation.

The 7th holy day is the Last Great Day which will complete God's ingathering of His saints and bring to a close His plan of salvation for mankind.

There is no doubt as has been discussed all through this study that all the annual feast days need to be celebrated but it is also a sure thing that most aspects of God's annual holy days as celebrated in the Old Testament are no longer pertinent and binding on New Testament Christians. It is also a sure thing that through no fault of Mr. Armstrong there was a lot of very important and meaningful information that was never taught.

This study is an effort to bring this information to the attention of those who are able to understand it and benefit from it.

Is everything said in this study to be believed unconditionally? Of course not, YOU have to check it out with your Bible and determine for yourselves whether what has been said in this study is effectively supported by the Bible.

That is one of your main responsibilities as a truly converted Christian.

DON'T believe me, don't believe any man; keep an open mind and check things out with your Bible and then BELIEVE your Bible not men and act accordingly.

