

Feast Keeping
in
God's Kingdom?

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by Robert G. Theophilus

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In the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the pastorship of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) it has been stated in sermons made during the Feast of Tabernacles that it would continue to be observed in God's Kingdom. The question that arises is: "Why would it be necessary to do so?" Does the Bible give us any clear indication one way or the other or is this question to remain unresolved?

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,

God 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 [I,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 firstborn 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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For those of us who are former members of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) while headed up by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), we have all at one time or another, heard in a sermon that God's Church will continue to keep the holy days in God's Kingdom.

One of the Scriptures quoted in support of this belief is the following.

Mat 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

This Scripture is in the context of the last Passover Christ held with His disciples. Since Christ said He would not drink wine as they had done during the Passover until He does so again with his disciples in God's Kingdom, then it followed they said, that God's holy days would continue into God's Kingdom.

Are God's holy days to continue into God's Kingdom and if not, why not? In order to resolve this matter we will have to turn to God's Bible the only sure source of truth that we have. As a first step, let's examine why it was that God instituted the Old Testament annual holy days?

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.

Fear is the Bible word for "obedience." God gave ancient Israel the 10 Commandments and the statutes and the judgments. The last 2 are derived from the practical application of God's law to different social and interpersonal situations. The law also included the instructions contained in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy specifically, and to a lesser extent, it can be found throughout the Bible.

The one and only thing God wanted from Israel was their obedience which required that they follow the laws given them. These laws represented God's wisdom which if followed would result in happy and contented lives and a safe and peaceful nation of Israel. They were a means to an end and not an end unto themselves. Their purpose was as a means to obtain the good results from following them.

God also gave Israel the weekly Sabbath which they were to observe throughout their generations.

Exo 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

And, Israel was given the annual holy days which they were to celebrate as specified by God.

The requirements of the religious observances given ancient Israel involved the performance of laborious, physical, repetitive and symbolic rituals. Ancient Israel not being converted, could not worship God in spirit and in truth as they did not have the mind to be able to do so. They worshiped and demonstrated their obedience to God by following the physical requirements of the law given them. However, even if Israel had perfectly kept the physical requirements of the law given them, their sins would still not have been forgiven.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we [\[the apostles\]](#) have believed [in](#) Jesus Christ, that we might be justified [\[our sins forgiven\]](#) by the faith [of](#) Christ, and not by the works [\[OT physical rituals\]](#) of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

The justification or forgiveness of sin is by the faith of Jesus-Christ

being imputed to those called and chosen by God the Father.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD **imputeth not iniquity, [sin]** and in whose spirit there is no guile **[clever and sometimes dishonest behavior to deceive someone]**

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom **God imputeth righteousness [Christ's]** without works,

So, 2 things here to notice. God does not take into account the sins of His called, chosen and faithful ones as He applies to them the perfect holy righteous character of Christ which is what saves them. To impute something to someone is to consider a person as being a certain way, in this case without sin, though in actuality the person is still a sinner.

The criterion for imputation is that a sincere effort is being made by the person to be the way God wants him to be. For example, one of our friend may have been a liar but he has decided to no longer lie; however, he will still sometimes lie despite his continuing best efforts not to do so. Despite his failing to be always truthful, I will consider him to be an honest man even though I know that sometimes he will still lie because of his inability to always resist the temptation to lie. His dominant attitude is not to lie.

For Christians this means that God applies to true Christians the grace or forgiveness of sin that resulted from Christ's perfect sacrifice because we are trying not to sin while still remaining sinners despite our best efforts and sincere desire to no longer do so. Yet, because of the weakness of our flesh which is to say, our inability to always successfully resist all temptations, we continue to be sinners.

A bit of a digression here so let's go back to the main topic of this study.

The ministry of God's church in the wilderness, ancient Israel, was only for a time and would have to be changed because no forgiveness of sin was made possible by the Levitical priesthood of Aaron and his sons.

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?

It was therefore necessary that another priest arise by whom sin could be justified.

Ancient Israel never learned to fear God and in the book of Malachi, we have a description of Israel's persistent attitude of disobedience to God. Israel grew to be indifferent and bored with having to fulfill the physical requirements of the law that God had given them.

God Reproducing Himself

The reason for God having created humanity was as a means to reproduce Himself. However, God and the Word cannot co-exist with sin so until there could be a sacrifice that forgave sin, God's plan could not begin. This is why once Christ's perfect sacrifice occurred, God could start the process of reproducing Himself. No sin is ever ascribed, attributed or imputed to a truly converted Christian who maintains an attitude of obedience to God in all things through still remaining a sinner because of the weakness or infirmity of his flesh. Christ's perfect holy righteous character is then imputed to him and God and the Word comes to dwell in them.

Psa 103:10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Psa 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Psa 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Psa 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. [clever deceitfulness]

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom **God imputeth righteousness without works,**

Rom 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom **the Lord will not impute sin.**

On the day of Pentecost, God's new spiritual nation of Israel began with God the Father calling men out of the nations of the world and with God the Word teaching them all things if they follow their calling. There would no longer be any requirement for them to be taught the habit of obedience by performing laborious, repetitive and symbolic ceremonies and sacrifices as in the days of the physical nation of Israel. The physical ordinances (animal sacrifices, ceremonial washings, etc) of Old Covenant Israel are not a requirement for God's spiritual nation of Israel.

New Covenant Worship of God

When we move into the time of the New Covenant, God very clearly tells truly converted Christians that there is no longer any requirement for Him to be worshiped through the performance of symbolic physical rituals.

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

New Covenant Christians worship God in spirit and in truth through Christ their one and only mediator between them and God.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Christ as the mediator is the holy spirit being working in the minds of the truly converted as they study their Bible which is Christ in writing and which is also their physical point of contact between God and Christians.

For the unconverted, the bible can be a source of knowledge but without the holy spirits of the Godhead dwelling in them, they cannot get understanding. You will recall that Christ had to explain to His disciples the meaning of the parables.

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Mat 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Mat 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

And, you will also recall that those who heard the parables spoken by Christ were only able to understand them literally; not in their spiritual intent. When Christ told the crowds that followed Him that He was the bread of life which they had to eat to have eternal life and that they had to eat His body and drink His blood they did not understand the symbolic meaning of what He said and were completely confused. Turn to John 6:48 to read the story for yourself if you are not already familiar with it.

God, in New Covenant times, speaks to truly converted Christians by His Son, Christ who before His incarnation was God the Word and Spokes-

man.

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;

God is no longer sending prophets which is to say, men to whom He has given understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible to be His spokesman to His called and chosen ones. Paul and the apostles were living in the last days which began on the day of Pentecost and therefore so are we.

In the last days, God is working out His great master plan of salvation by His Son who is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman giving understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible to God the Father's called and chosen ones as they study their Bible. God's prophets who wrote the books of the Bible, themselves did not understand the spiritual meaning of the words they wrote. God's message recorded through them was for His spiritual nation of Israel.

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. [\[Your mortal flesh-and-blood bodies \(bodies are souls\) will be raised as immortal spirit beings and you will become part of God's Kingdom.\]](#)

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them [\[Christ is the holy spirit God the Word who is God the Father's Spokesman. In this case it was to the Old Testament prophets. In New Testament times, it is to God the Father's called and chosen ones\]](#) did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was [revealed](#), that not unto themselves, but unto us [\[New Covenant Christians\]](#) they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost

[the holy spirit God the Word] sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

The Bible was written for those God the Father would call and choose. Not everyone is now called but by the time of the end of God's plan of salvation all men that have ever existed will have been called and given their opportunity for salvation. The spiritual comprehension of the Bible is given to men **by revelation** from God.

Gal 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.

Eph 3:3 How that by **revelation** he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

And, revelation is something that happens through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who in the salvation process is responsible for teaching all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save **[but for]** the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but [by] the Spirit of God.**

God in New Covenant times is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. Men are called by God the Father who is the only one who can do so and those who accept their calling are taught all things by God the Word, Christ, who is their one and only mediator between them and God. He is the only one who can give understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible to men. There are no men or organizations of men by whom God the Father calls men and by whom God the Son reveals to them (gives them understanding) of the spiritual truths of the Bible.

Feast Observation in New Covenant Times

The observance of God's weekly Sabbaths and annual holy days or

feasts in New Covenant times is something that primarily occurs in the minds of truly converted Christians. The New Testament (New Covenant) books of the Bible give us no information but for the Passover on how, physically, we are to observe the other annual feasts.

The big difference of significance between the way ancient Israel had been commanded to observe the holy days was that God gave them physical and symbolic ceremonies to do on those days while there are none prescribed for His New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel, except for the Passover.

As we go from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant the essential difference is that the worship of God goes from being physical to being spiritual and God says it is something we must do.

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

The correct way of keeping the Sabbath and the annual holy days doesn't require the observance of ceremonies conducted by organizations of men claiming to be God's church. Christians have to be pleasing God, not men.

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, [a truly converted Christian] which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, [mind] in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Conversion is something that occurs in the mind as a result of having been called by God the Father. It is a change of attitude from being in opposition to God to one of wanting to obey Him as best we can in all things which is something not visible to others. Do the people you meet on the street know you are a Christian? How about your friends and relatives? Unless you've told them, they don't know and even then, they don't care as long as you are not preaching at them.

Circumcision is of the mind. It does not involve being a member of the right club, following the right man or attending and going through ceremonies based on Old Covenant practices administered by organizations of men claiming to be God's Church.

The holy days are celebrated by New Covenant Christians by reviewing their meaning with their Bible, working at increasing their understand-

ing of them and making sure they stay clear and fresh in their minds. Basically, the holy days give us understanding of who and what is God and of the steps He is talking to make salvation available to all of mankind which has ever existed.

The Old Covenant holy days' purpose was for ancient Israel to learn to fear (obey) God. The purpose of the New Covenant holy days is to give us understanding of how salvation will be made available to mankind. New Covenant Christians worship God by their obedience to His spiritual law which is written in their minds, as best they can.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God's New Covenant is still to be made with the descendants of physical Israel but is being made with God's spiritual nation of Israel since the day of Pentecost. It is the one and only means of salvation for both Old Covenant and New Covenant Israel. ([God's Church A New Covenant Church?](#)) Physical Israel has to become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel to have access to salvation.

Men become part of God's New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel only if they commit themselves to obeying God as best they can when they are called. In New Covenant times, God is not trying to teach spiritual Israelites the habit of obedience. Each called out one must decide without being forced to do so whether he will submit or not to God. And, as previously stated, God is a spirit and must be worshiped in spirit and in truth; NOT by faithfully performing any of the symbolic physical rituals of the Old Covenant nor through the observance of the symbolic physical rituals of organizations of men calling themselves churches of God.

The End of the Matter

Mankind was created physical and mortal for 2 reasons that are fundamental to God's administration of His plan of salvation for mankind.

Firstly, God did not want to give immortality to mankind until He could be assured of their obedience so there would be no rebellion as occurred with Lucifer and the angels placed with him on the earth. Mankind was not created with immortality dwelling in them.

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become

as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Secondly, mankind was created as material beings to make it possible for them to change. Spirit beings once fully created can no longer change.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [the dust of the ground] became a living soul.

Psa 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Psa 104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

The Sabbath and annual holy days were administered differently for ancient Israel who was never given access to the holy spirits of the Godhead than they are in God's New Covenant nation of Israel. The reward of the saved is to become God as God is God. They will have immortal spirit bodies, in which there will be as an unchangeable part of their spirit character, the desire to obey God in all things. In the resurrection they will God as God is God and their obedience will be perfect. The many different members of God's Kingdom will all function as one body because all will be in obedience to the head, Christ who has always been in full obedience to His Father.

The question we now need to ask is: "Do God and the Word keep the Sabbath and the holy days?" Did they keep them before the creation of mankind? Did they keep them after the creation of mankind? Will they keep them after the end of mankind and of the current heavens and earth?

God created the Sabbath by resting on the 7th day WHICH MEANS IT DID NOT EXIST PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

The annual holy days except the Passover are Sabbaths. The Old Covenant holy days were only instituted because of Israel sinning while Moses had gone up on the mount to receive the 10 commandments.

Jer 7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

So, these observances commanded by God didn't always exist and were given to Old Covenant Israel that they may learn to fear God which is to say, obey Him.

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 31:13 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.

The Sabbath and the holy days were tests of obedience for the never converted physical nation of Israel. But in New Covenant times, when observed in spirit and in truth, in their New Covenant meaning, they are a way for Christians of knowing and keeping fresh in their minds how God is administering His plan of salvation. They are not to teach them the habit of obedience. In order to become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel, men have to self-willingly and without being forced in any way to do so, commit to obeying God when they are called. Anyone losing his attitude to obey God in all things ceases to be part of God's New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are [led](#) by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Since in God's Kingdom all will forever be in full obedience to God and the Word there will no longer be any need for activities whose purpose is to be tests of obedience for God's saints. And since God is in the Word and the Word is in God and both of them will be in all members of God's Kingdom, they will then all share in the same knowledge and understanding and there will be no need for activities which would be means to learn and remember spiritual truth.

After the Great White Throne Judgment God creates **all things new**, the **former things** have passed away.

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, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for **the former things are passed away**.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new**. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The Sabbath and the annual holy days instituted by God for a material, mortal humanity with limited abilities to learn and retain knowledge even with the holy spirits of the Godhead dwelling in them, and as tests of obedience, will no longer be required when God's Kingdom fully comes into being.

God the Father works and God the Son works, and so will God's saved.

Joh 5:17 But Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work**.

What defines God and the Word is that they create. God and the Word are now actively engaged in a process that will ultimately result in the creation of new God beings who will become part of their Kingdom. Men who are created in the image and likeness of God get their greatest joy and contentment from their accomplishments, from doing things; not from sitting around all day with nothing interesting to do. Happiness comes from working at achieving material and intellectual goals. The need to do things and have accomplishments which gives us satisfaction

is part of God's very nature placed in man whom God and the Word created in Their image and after Their likeness (Gen 1: 26).

This is what God tells us in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecc 3:13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and **enjoy** the good of all his labour, it is the **gift** of God.

Ecc 3:22 Wherefore I perceive that there is **nothing better**, than that a man should **rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion**: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Men made in the image of God and the Word and after their likeness have to be continually renewing themselves physically and intellectually by setting new goals for themselves, as their bodies and minds change as they grow older, to have happy and satisfying lives.

God's nation started off as a physical and never converted people then it changed to be only those who were called and chosen by God the Father. At the end of God's plan of salvation, God's nation will again change to become wholly composed of men who have been resurrected to immortal spirit life and who become members of God's Kingdom.

Is this the final end point?

Remember that happiness and satisfaction come from being engaged in the pursuit of goals, reaching them and then setting new ones. It does not come from doing the same things over and over again which quickly becomes very boring and dissatisfying.

The weekly Sabbaths and the annual holy days were instituted by God for a specific purpose related to the accomplishment of His master plan of salvation for mankind. In Old Covenant times it was so ancient Israel would learn to obey Him and in New Covenant times, it is to keep fresh in the mind of the faithful, the steps being followed by God in bringing salvation to mankind. New Covenant Christians don't need to learn to obey God. They are part of God's spiritual nation **because of their maintaining their commitment to obey Him** as best they can in all things.

In God's Kingdom, their attitude of obedience maintained until the end of their lives will become a permanent part of their spirit character and being God as God is God they will no longer need to go through yearly and weekly reminders of how God is proceeding to bring salvation to mankind.

The purpose for which the weekly and annual holy days were instituted will have been fulfilled and there will be no need to continue them. As previously stated, the only thing God wants from mankind is their obedience. This is how in this life we honor and worship God and on becoming God as God is God in the resurrection, we will forever and completely be in obedience to God and fully share in the same knowledge.

God the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father and the Father and Christ will be in all members of God's kingdom.

Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

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.

Conclusion

The Old Covenant manner of celebrating the holy days ended with the making of the New Covenant who are those called and chosen by God the Father since the day of Pentecost. New Covenant Christians worship God is spirit and in truth and their celebration of the holy days is in spirit and in truth.

These celebrations will no longer be required after the Great White Throne Judgment as the reason why they were instituted will then have been fulfilled.

A new universe and a new earth will be created and the members of God's Kingdom will forever be engaged in using their creation power, under the direction of the holy spirit God the Father who through the holy spirit God the Word, will lead men become immortal spirit beings who never tire or grow old, in the accomplishment of exciting, interesting and fulfilling works of creation.

God's purpose is to transform physical, mortal men into God beings. Men in the resurrection will be fully God as God is God. GOD DID NOT OBSERVE SABBATHS AND HOLY DAYS BEFORE THE CREATION OF MANKIND AND NEITHER WILL MEN UPON BECOMING GOD BEINGS.

