***CULMINATION OF THE FEAST CALENDAR***

Just as sure as Israel’s Spring Feasts so accurately portrayed Christ’s First Coming, and just as sure as the Summer Feast portrays the Church Age, well then, just as sure do the Fall Feasts portray events related to Christ’s Second Coming. In the Feasts of Israel, God gives us a general prophetic outline of redemptive history. It’s all right there in Leviticus 23.

We are currently seeing the fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost which portrays the Church Age (which began on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2) in which Israel has been temporarily set aside in her long “summer” dryness (cf. Ezek. 37). The next thing up on God’s prophetic feast calendar is “The Feast of Trumpets” (cf. Lev. 23:23-24).

The blowing of the trumpets signals the end of the Church Age and the culmination of God’s program with Israel as outlined in Daniel 9:24-27. Right now we are awaiting the blowing of the trumpet in which the Church will be caught up to heaven followed by the whole earth entering into the Day of the Lord judgment (1 Thess. 4:16; 5:1; Rev. 3:10).

Ten days after the Feast of Trumpets came the Day of Atonement, on Tishri 10. These 10 days leading up to the Day of Atonement are called ***“the days of awe”***. These are soul-searching days for the Jews, and a time to repent and get right with God.

***The Day of Atonement***

**Leviticus 23:26–29 (NKJV)**

**26** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

**27** “Also the **tenth day of this seventh month** shall be the **Day of Atonement.** It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall **afflict your souls,** and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.

**28** And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.

**29** For any person who is not **afflicted in soul** on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

The Day of Atonement signified repentance; and on that basis, cleansing from sin. Passover highlights sacrifice as the basis for salvation. The Day of Atonement highlights the response of human repentance that appropriates it. Salvation is by faith alone, but it must be the right kind of faith. A true saving faith involves the element of repentance.

Note that 3 times in Lev. 23 (in verses 27, 29, and 32), they are told that they must afflict their souls on this day, which implies fasting and repentant sorrow. In fact, verse 29 says that the person who is not afflicted in soul shall be cut off from his people.

What is typified here prophetically depicts the coming repentance of Israel in the Tribulation Period, when Zechariah says they will ***“mourn for Him [Christ] as one mourns for his only son”*** (cf. Zech. 12:10). They will be repentant and broken over their sin, as typified in the Day of Atonement.

Note also the great emphasis here on doing no work.

In almost every verse dealing with the Day of Atonement, God repeats the command to do no work. The only person who was to be active on this day was the high priest. Our salvation is not obtained by anything that we do, but solely on the basis of what our Great High Priest Jesus Christ has done for us (cf. Heb. 9:11-14, 25-28, 10:19-21).

The Day of Atonement is also known in Hebrew as ***Yom Kippur***. It is the one feast day where there is no celebrating. It is the one feast day that is actually a fast day (to ***“afflict your souls”*** means to fast). It was the most sober and solemn day on the Jewish calendar.

The last feast is the Feast of Tabernacles.

***The Feast of Tabernacles***

**Leviticus 23:34 (NKJV)**

**34** “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘**The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles** for seven days to the Lord.

**Leviticus 23:40 (NKJV)**

**40** And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you **shall rejoice** before the Lord your God for seven days.

**Leviticus 23:42 (NKJV)**

**42** You shall **dwell in booths** for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

During the Feast of Tabernacles, the children of Israel were to make booths (Hebrew – **Sukkot**, often translated as *“tabernacles”*). This was done as a memorial of God’s provision when they came out of Egypt. Note that 3 times in this chapter God says at various points, **“it shall be a statute [ordinance] forever in your generations”** (cf. vv. 14, 20, 41).

Twice, God speaks with the authority of “I am the LORD [YHWH] your God (cf. vv. 22, 43). Tabernacles speak of dwelling before the Lord and rejoicing in His provision. The Feast of Tabernacles will be celebrated in the kingdom. As such, the Feast of Tabernacles is a foreshadowing of Kingdom Rest. This feast will continue to be celebrated in the kingdom, as noted in Zechariah 14:16-19.

Whereas the Day of Atonement denotes fasting and repentance, the Feast of Tabernacles denotes celebration and rejoicing. This will find complete fulfillment in the kingdom when God dwells intimately with His people, and His repentant people will know the kingdom joy to the fullest!

The time of kingdom celebration is coming, but it will not come until Israel is first broken over their sinful rejection of their Messiah. First comes the day of Atonement, then the Feast of Tabernacles. First comes repentance then the kingdom.

**Acts 3:19–21 (NKJV)**

**19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

**20** and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

**21** whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.