

## Back To The Basics

These are the reasons why all Christians should observe/celebrate Hanukkah, Passover, First Fruits, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets and other Feasts. These events are clues to the Birth of Christ Jesus, the start of the Church and many other revelations.

In Leviticus 23, the word Feast is the Hebrew word *Moed*. *Moed* means appointed time. God states that at the appointed time/feast He would visit His people. We see this happening with Christ being crucified during Passover rising during First Fruits and The Holy Spirit falling on Pentecost. All at the time, God appointed. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come". The Holy Spirit would not come until the time was exact.

Convocation, another word used in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter can also be translated as rehearsal. The Hebrew word *Miqra* is what Christ Jesus referred to when He said do this in remembrance of me in I Corinthians 11:24,25. Our constant rehearsal of these events until that God intervenes in the course of History prepares us to meet the Heavenly Father through His Son Christ Jesus. These truths are based on the Word of God and are not derived from pagan rituals as many the symbols related to Christmas, Easter and other pagan celebrations that have crept into the Church.

When did the bulk of these controversies start? It goes back to Constantine and the emerging church in the fourth century. The First Ecumenical Council, which was a convening off all Bishops in Christendom, was convoked to deal with the Arian heresy. Arius was of the opinion that Christ Jesus was a creation of God and therefore not equal with God the Father. This controversy was settled, but something much more important happened that would shape Christendom from then until now.

Passover, the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, was the most important day of the year for Christians. The person or group that controlled this day greatly controlled the heart of the church. It was at this First Ecumenical Council that the decision was made to go away from celebrating Passover as Christ Jesus and the Apostles had done, but to change it to Easter.

*"We also send you the good news of the settlement concerning **the holy pasch**, namely that in answer to your prayers this question also has been resolved. All the brethren in the East who have hitherto followed the Jewish practice will henceforth observe the custom of the Romans and of yourselves and of all of us who from ancient times have kept Easter together with you. "*

By changing the Holy Day from Passover to Easter, the church began to distance itself from its Jewish roots. Why was this important? No longer would the Bible or inspired scriptures serve as the guide for men would, but now organizations and denominations would become the interpreter of God's word.

This is the time of year that Christians often overlook, but these are days that our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus observed.

### **John 10:22-38**

**22 Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23** and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. **24** The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

“The holiday was called *Hanukkah* meaning "dedication" because it marks the re-dedication of the Temple after its desecration under [Antiochus IV](#). Spiritually, Hanukkah commemorates the Miracle of the Oil. According to the Talmud, at the re-dedication of the [Temple in Jerusalem](#) following the victory of the [Maccabees](#) over the [Seleucid Empire](#), there was only enough consecrated [olive oil](#) to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days - which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate new oil. “ (Wikipedia)

The current theme of exchanging gifts during this Holy Day is an Americanized version that resulted from competition with Christmas.

However there are still some important implications if we read the Biblical text closely. Hanukkah is also called the Feast of Lights. Notice what Christ Jesus proclaims in the eighth chapter of John which happens about the same time as the Feast of Dedication.

#### **John 8:12**

[Then spake Jesus again](#) unto [them, saying, I am](#) the [light](#) of the [world](#): he that [followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have](#) the [light](#) of [life](#).

This is the True Light that has come into the world. Not the lighting of the candelabra, but the Light that illumines the hearts of men and leads them to salvation.

This is also the time that Christ Jesus declared Himself to be Divine or God. John 10:30, Jesus declares that I and the Father are One. This is in response to the Jews asking Him if He were the Messiah (Christ). Christ Jesus declares Himself to be more than an Anointed Person (Greek meaning of Christ), but indeed God in the Flesh.

Therefore at this time of the year Christ revealed that He is the One to illuminate the dark hearts of men and also that He is God.

#### **[Hag 2:18](#)**

[Consider](#) \* now from this [day](#) and [upward](#), from the [four](#) and [twentieth day](#) of the [ninth](#) month, even from the [day](#) that the [foundation](#) of the [LORD'S temple](#) was laid, [consider](#) \* it.

#### **2:20**

And [again](#) the [word](#) of the [LORD](#) came unto [Haggai](#) in the [four](#) and [twentieth](#) day of the [month, saying](#),

#### **2:21**

[Speak](#) to [Zerubbabel, governor](#) of [Judah, saying](#), I will [shake](#) the [heavens](#) and the [earth](#):

#### **2:22**

And I will [overthrow](#) the [throne](#) of [kingdoms](#), and I will [destroy](#) the [strength](#) of the [kingdoms](#) of the [heathen](#); and I will [overthrow](#) the [chariots](#), and those that [ride](#) in them; and the [horses](#) and their [riders](#) shall come [down](#), every [one](#) by the [sword](#) of his [brother](#).

#### **2:23**

In that [day, saith](#) the [LORD](#) of [hosts](#), will I [take](#) thee, O [Zerubbabel](#), my [servant](#), the [son](#) of [Shealtiel, saith](#) the [LORD](#), and will [make](#) thee as a [signet](#): for I have [chosen](#) thee, [saith](#) the [LORD](#) of [hosts](#).

The ninth month is sometimes the month of Kislev which corresponds to our month of December. This is the same time as Hanukkah. It is during this time that God said He will overthrow and destroy the Kingdoms of the heathen.

I believe that Christ Jesus our Lord appeared on the Feast of Dedication/Hanukkah at Solomon's Porch to declare Himself to be the fulfillment of the prophecy in Haggai. Hanukkah is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the ninth month and Haggai prophecy took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the same month.

Along with the change to Passover came also the change to Christmas and other ways of worship. Until the Church gets back to the true meaning of God's word, we will continue to see sinners becoming even more prominent in the church. The Church is in search of its identity. It cannot be found as long as false leaders and teachers purport to be leaders of God's Church.