

#3 THE HEART AND HOW TO CELEBRATE YOM TERUAH

Shalom to all our Feast Attendees: **PREPARE FOR THE FEAST!!**

Hello, Hello! This is the 3rd email to help you prepare for the Feast. I really want you all to get these and read through them before you join us for the Feast :-) It's very important to your experience of it. So, thank-you for taking the time to read, watch or do what we suggest in these "study guides!"

Yom Teruah Fact #3: It is a High Shabbat

Shabbat means to Rest! Yepee!

Yahovah said we are to keep Yom Teruah as a Shabbat, no matter what day of the week Yom Teruah falls on. Each year that day changes because of the organic nature of the Creator's calendar (another story and lesson :-) For those of you who don't know what a Shabbat is and when it happens. Briefly....

What is a day?

It's simple. Yahovah told us that evening and morning make a day. In Gen.1:3-5 Yah said,

"Let there be light," and there was light. Yahovah saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. Yahovah Elohim called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."

So, at sunset the new day begins. And check it out -- we get to begin the new day with rest (as in a good night's sleep). It's fun to watch for the new day, especially on Friday evening. We are count the hours and minutes until we get to rest — not as a reward for work done, but just because we are commanded to! It's super cool! (Here is a great book about the Sabbath rest (even though he keeps Sunday instead, he has great insights about Sabbath.)

What is a Shabbat?

We needed to understand how to reckon a day in order to find out where the edges of Shabbat are (sunset to sunset). But now we need to find out what day of the week is Shabbat (is it Sunday, Monday, Tuesday etc?).

In the "10 Commandments" (part of the Royal Law) Yahovah commanded us to keep Shabbat. He told us when it is and how we are to treat it.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yahovah your Elohim. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days Yahovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore Yahovah blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:8-11

So, here we see that the weekly Shabbat is the 7th day of the week (Saturday). We also see that we are to rest

and not work during that 24-hour period (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset).

What are Annual Shabbats?

The Creator not only has weekly Shabbats that we are to set apart, but he has 7 annual Shabbats as well. We see him refer to Sabbath(s) -- plural. As in, more than one. Ex.31:12-13

“Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am Yahovah your Elohim.” ““You must observe my Sabbaths...” Ex. 20:20 (Lev. 19:30; 26:2; Ez.20:12; Is.56:4 etc.). Yom Teruah is a High Shabbat, one of the annual ones. So, we keep it like we do the weekly Shabbats — only they are even a little more special.

How do We Keep as Hosts of a Feast?

On Shabbat we are to do no usual work. Just rest. So, we’ll do our best at participating in the rest even though we are hosting it. How? Well, we do lots of preparing for it ahead of time (while still taking off the weekly Shabbats for rest as we plan); the banquet will be all set up before sunset; we will minimally clean up at the end of the banquet (as in: load up the trailer if we are at the beach, put food away so it doesn’t spoil etc.), but we keep it to a minimum—we’ll do all the dishes and major clean up after Yom Teruah; and then we will sleep in and rest as we normally do for Shabbat. So, this year, we will set up the banquet before Shabbat arrives (Sunday) and then clean up the day after Yom Teruah (Tuesday).

We see no exception for “leadership” to not rest on Shabbat. The command applies to all people. That’s one reason we are not positive a weekly Shabbat gathering is a good idea, because those in charge are not resting. :-) The 4th Commandment says to rest. It does not say to assemble. But in most of the annual Feast instructions it does say to assemble! So.... put that bee in your bonnet and consider what you are doing on Shabbat. :-)

Prepare Lesson #3: Read

Read Lev. 23:24-25 and Numbers 29:1-6. Yahweh (Yahovah, YHVH, the Father, the Creator) gave us instructions about how he wants his Holy Days set apart and kept. Please read the Scripture references above and discover what basic things he said we must do for Yom Teruah.

I see 7 things Papa asks us to do for Yom Teruah:

1. Keep it as High Shabbat (no working for 24 hours)
2. Watch for (observe) the New Moon
3. Blow the trumpets and shofars when the New Moon is sighted (observed).
4. Assemble together
5. Shout (teruah!) to Yahweh
6. Present an offering of fire
7. Do not show up empty-handed (a general feast instruction: Ex. 23:15; Deut. 16:16)

Delight / Impress

We need to notice that Yahweh also tells us to impress his ways upon our children’s hearts (Deut. 6:7). He tells us to delight in his Shabbats (Is. 58:13).

Our family takes the impress and delight command very seriously. For one thing the heart has a mind of its own. It will never trade down. It will only trade up.

Holiday Attachments

Let me unpack that for a moment. The pagan celebrations of our past attach to our heart and every year when we smell spiced-cider, hear that piece of music or see multi-colored lights, fond memories are called back into remembrance. That's the danger of celebrating things that are not from Yahweh year after year. We become attached to them. And with every year that passes those attachments get stronger. The danger was unknown to most of our parents as they helped us form those attachments when we were young. Now the memories of our childhood during holiday time play on our heart strings making it an epic journey to let go of something that we have been attached to most of our life. But when we gain eyes to see and the desire to repent, the immediate job in front of us is to make new attachments — for us and our children. The call of the entire Scriptures is to repent of these attachments and make new ones in order to have eternal life! (And actually, when you get eyes to see and understand the history of the pagan holidays—you will want to vomit. So, it actually can be easy to walk away).

Worship

Every human will worship, be attached to or bow down to something. Activities, ideas, projects, education, school, work, drugs, routines, places, people, music, Facebook, religion, church, doctors, sports, media, cyberspace, food, coffee, nature, activism... the list is endless! But being attached to something is not inherently a bad thing. Actually, it is how our hearts were made to work. The Creator made us with the need for attachment. I believe that this is the number one reason he commands us to follow his ways, worship and make sacrifices only to him. Because if we don't do it to him, we will do it to another. And he knows there is no life outside of him. Our hearts must be attached to him or we will die. Yahshua tells us to resist the Devil so, we can not forget that ha'Satan (The Devil, The Adversary) knows about our need for attachment and has set up false holidays in order to bind our hearts to his counterfeit ways. Ways that will not lead us to the "Happily-Ever-After."

The rule of the heart: it will only trade up. Never down.

So, letting go of fond memories is especially hard to do if there isn't something better to turn towards. I'm here to tell you that there are way better days to mark than the pagan ones that are full of gluttony and have roots in child sacrifice. With a little study, a lot of creativity and actually diving into the mo'edim (instead of talking about them) we can discover that Yahweh's Feasts far exceed any pagan days! By exploring the depth of Yahweh's true celebrations, applying some thought, energy and creativity to them we can give our hearts and our children's hearts an easy choice to make. A trade up.

This is how we approach hosting the Yom Teruah Banquet—to make memories for our children's hearts that will keep bringing them back year after year.

Paper cups or wine glasses?

I believe that Yahweh's Feasts should never be celebrated on folding chairs, with jeans and a t-shirt or with paper plates (unless that's the best you have). Personally, I always wonder, "what if the King showed up to the Feast I was hosting?" I can't have him eating dinner on a paper plate, when I have better in the cupboard. His holy days should take lots of time, energy, money and preparation. Now that I have repented, I will give Yahweh's Holy Days more thought than I ever gave the pagan holidays. I will make sacrifices only to him.

The holy days you honor, mark and show up for align you with the god of that day. What god do you make sac-

rifices to? The holidays you celebrate tell the Universe who your god is.

So, after reading the Scriptures that command us to celebrate Yom Teruah and considering the idea of impressing and delighting....

1. . How does Yahweh want us to mark this holy day (mo'ed)? (ie: What did he tell us to do on this day?)
2. Can we be creative when celebrating his mo'edim?
3. What will our hearts never do?
4. What is the danger of celebrating things that are not from Yahweh year after year?

Yom Teruah Trivia #3

Yahweh did not give a reason for celebrating Yom Teruah like he did the other feasts.