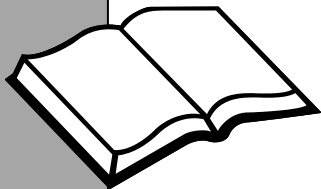


Running the Good Race



Scripture Highlight

John 2:1-11

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

1st Corinthians 9:24-27

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

2nd Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Discussion

Surely there is a reward for the righteous (this statement is paraphrased from *Psalms 58:11* and *Proverbs 23:18*). Consider that the first miracle of Christ was at a wedding feast. This fact is *very* significant! Discuss some parables and your deeper insights into the various Appointed Times that you have learned about and how they may be associated with each other.

On more than one occasion, The Apostle Paul relates his journey in life to keep the faith as a race – one that he is determined to win. He is determined not only to receive the gift of salvation, but also to strive for righteousness (see *Isaiah 61:10* which describes two separate articles of clothing). Discuss with others how you might journey together in your pursuit of righteousness while doing the many things you have learned from the lessons presented in this booklet.

Historical Notes

Passover: The story of the Exodus and every single detail of this miraculous event was a prelude of the time when our Messiah was going to be killed as our Passover Lamb – just as the Passover lambs gathered by the shepherd priests around Bethlehem were killed on this very same day, the 14th of the first month every year. Noah, Abraham, and Lot all kept this time of the year long before there was ever anyone known as a Jew.

Firstfruits: The Wave Sheaf day is the day our Messiah ascended to Heaven with the captives that were dead and brought back to life at this same time.

Unleavened Bread: The 7th day of Unleavened Bread is believed to be the day the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea putting Egypt and sin out of their lives for good.

Pentecost: The Feast of Pentecost is believed to be the day the Ten Commandments were given. Also on this very same day, the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles. There are seven Sabbaths that occur before this day from the time of the Firstfruits. (*see note below)

Trumpets: The Feast of Trumpets is the Feast that comes at a day or an hour that no man can know. Similar to the time that a baby is to be born, one cannot predict with certainty what exact day the mother is to give birth. No One Knows the Day or the Hour. This is believed to be the day our Messiah was born on, and it is also the same day He is going to come back on. This is why there is shouting for joy along with the blowing of party horns, known as shofars.

Atonement: The very somber Day of Atonement is the day when God himself said that *He* would die for our sins and put the blame back on the guilty one who caused it, Satan, who is then led away by a strong man on this very day. This is when you are cleansed and your sins are forgotten.

Tabernacles: The Feast of Tabernacles is a wedding party for 7 whole days. This is the day we are to be married to the Messiah. All of Christendom awaits this day, but far too many do not know or understand this day because they have done away with the laws that teach it.

The Last Great Day: The last day of Tabernacles is known as the 8th Day Feast which shows us that on this day Yehovah is going to come and dwell us. It is our new beginning.

* The time between Firstfruits and Pentecost each year is also teaching about the Jubilee Years of Leviticus chapters 25 and 26, as a Jubilee year occurs after seven complete Sabbatical Years. From counting the Jubilee years, one can know when the 7th Millennium Rest spoken of in Hebrews is to begin. Only by understanding the counting of the Jubilee Years, can one understand Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy: this is the 70 Jubilee Year prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 that is a proclamation of 70x49 years from the time Moses was given his commission at the burning bush for the Hebrews to leave slavery and become a nation 2451 years – or after 50 Jubilee Years – from creation, in the year 1386 BC.

Two Jubilee years directly mentioned in Scripture:

2500 years after creation, or 1337 BC (the year Joshua entered the promised land):

Leviticus 25:2-4 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

3136 years after creation, or 701 BC (Hezekiah is given knowledge of the Jubilee year as a sign):

2nd Kings 19:29 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.

More can be read about this king, Hezekiah, and his dealings with the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, by reading the accounts in Isaiah 37 and 2nd Chronicles 32. One very appealing piece of archeology worthy of researching is *Sennacherib's Annals*, stone artifacts from this time period which are preserved in museums. Although there are numerous accounts of other Sabbatical years recorded by historians from Roman records and coins and most prolifically in the Jewish tombstones of Zoar, *Sennacherib's Annals* are most notable for describing Scriptural account of the siege of Jerusalem during Hezekiah's reign and thus allowing historians to put modern dates on these particular events described in Scripture.

49 Year Jubilee Cycles (in columns sorted by "Millennial Days")													
Years Counting From Creation							Modern Counting of Years						
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
49	1029	2009	2989	3969	4949	5929	-3788	-2808	-1828	-848	133	1113	2093
98	1078	2058	3038	4018	4998	5978	-3739	-2759	-1779	-799	182	1162	2142
147	1127	2107	3087	4067	5047	6027	-3690	-2710	-1730	-750	231	1211	2191
196	1176	2156	3136	4116	5096	6076	-3641	-2661	-1681	-701	280	1260	2240
245	1225	2205	3185	4165	5145	6125	-3592	-2612	-1632	-652	329	1309	2289
294	1274	2254	3234	4214	5194	6174	-3543	-2563	-1583	-603	378	1358	2338
343	1323	2303	3283	4263	5243	6223	-3494	-2514	-1534	-554	427	1407	2387
392	1372	2352	3332	4312	5292	6272	-3445	-2465	-1485	-505	476	1456	2436
441	1421	2401	3381	4361	5341	6321	-3396	-2416	-1436	-456	525	1505	2485
490	1470	2450	3430	4410	5390	6370	-3347	-2367	-1387	-407	574	1554	2534
539	1519	2499	3479	4459	5439	6419	-3298	-2318	-1338	-358	623	1603	2583
588	1568	2548	3528	4508	5488	6468	-3249	-2269	-1289	-309	672	1652	2632
637	1617	2597	3577	4557	5537	6517	-3200	-2220	-1240	-260	721	1701	2681
686	1666	2646	3626	4606	5586	6566	-3151	-2171	-1191	-211	770	1750	2730
735	1715	2695	3675	4655	5635	6615	-3102	-2122	-1142	-162	819	1799	2779
784	1764	2744	3724	4704	5684	6664	-3053	-2073	-1093	-113	868	1848	2828
833	1813	2793	3773	4753	5733	6713	-3004	-2024	-1044	-64	917	1897	2877
882	1862	2842	3822	4802	5782	6762	-2955	-1975	-995	-15	966	1946	2926
931	1911	2891	3871	4851	5831	6811	-2906	-1926	-946	35	1015	1995	2975
980	1960	2940	3920	4900	5880	6860	-2857	-1877	-897	84	1064	2044	3024

(note: the number shown in each box is the completed number of years of that cycle or the last year of that particular 49 year cycle. A Jubilee Year occurs the following year.)

Calendar Timing Review

To observe the calendar properly, it is important to understand the timing. Each new year does not start at midnight on January 1st, as the world commonly observes it, but rather at the first sighting of the new moon in the spring when the winter barley crops in Israel are in a state of ripeness called “Abib” (sometimes pronounced “Aviv”) in Hebrew. In fact, Scripture calls the first month of the year Abib:

Exodus 13:4 – This day came ye out in the month Abib.

Abib is the first month of the year, a beginning of months:

Exodus 12:1-2 – And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: *it shall be* the first month of the year to you.

The *Feast of Passover* is in this first month:

Deuteronomy 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.

The week long *Feast of Unleavened Bread* (which contains *FirstFruits*) is also in this month:

Exodus 23:15 – Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Exodus 34:18 – The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.

Knowing when the year begins, that is when the month of Abib begins, is crucial to keeping the yearly appointed feasts at the proper time! Without seeking to discover when the year actually begins, one cannot know the proper time of the appointed times in the month of Abib or when to start counting out to Pentecost (known as the Feast of Weeks) which occurs on the day after seven Sabbaths have been completed from the Feast of Firstfruits. Many, by relying on preprinted calendars that mathematically *guess* on the dates of the appointed times years ahead of time, have been known to observe the holy in error in the amount of days and even over a month away from the proper time.

The Feast of Trumpets, that comes at a day or hour that no one but our father in heaven can know, announces the beginning of the seventh month of the year. By knowing when the first and seventh month begin, one can count out to the proper evenings in which the appointed feast times occur.

Index to timing of yearly appointed times as per Leviticus 23		
Leviticus 23:5	Passover	14 th day of the first month, known as Abib
Leviticus 23:6	Unleavened Bread	Starts the 15 th day of the first month (day after Passover)
Leviticus 23:10-11	Firstfruits	The day after the weekly Sabbath after Passover
Leviticus 23:15-16	Pentecost	The 50 th day after Firstfruits (day after 7 weekly Sabbaths)
Leviticus 23:24	Trumpets	The first day of the seventh month
Leviticus 23:27	Atonement	The tenth day of the seventh month
Leviticus 23:39	Tabernacles	Starts the 15 th day of the seventh month

Calendar Examples

Example of how Appointed Times occur in Arbitrary Spring and Fall Months

An Arbitrary Spring Month of "Abib"						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				new year 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Passover 14	Unlvd Bread 1 15	16	17
Firstfruits 18	19	20	21	Unlvd Bread 7 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

An Arbitrary Fall "Seventh" Month						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Trumpet 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	Atonemt 10	11
12	13	14	Tabncles first day 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Tabncles 7th day 22	Tabncles 8th day 25	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Example of counting out 7 Sabbaths to Pentecost

An Arbitrary Month of "Abib"						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				new year 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Passover 14	Unlvd Bread 1 *	*	*
Firstfruits *	*	*	*	Unlvd Bread 7 *	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
*	*	*	*	*	*	Sabbath *
Pentecst *	*	*	*	*	*	*

It is important to note that the first day of the months in each of these examples could have occurred on any day of the week. Also note that the labels for the days of the week in the examples are shifted slightly to the right to remind the reader that days begin and end at sundown.

Another important observation is that the counting of Sabbaths between Firstfruits and Pentecost each year compares to the pattern one observes with the Sabbatical and Jubilee years. Consider the additional example of the current Sabbatical Cycle presented below:

Current Sabbatical Cycle

Jubilee 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Sabbath 2002
2003	2004	2004	2006	2007	2008	Sabbath 2009
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Sabbath 2016
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Sabbath 2023
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Sabbath 2030
2031	2032	2033	2024	2035	2036	Sabbath 2037
2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	Sabbath 2044
Jubilee 2045						

Calendar Exercise

The Spring

As an exercise to better understand when the yearly Sabbaths occur in the spring, try using this tool. Since Scriptural days begin in the evening, determine ahead of time whether you will be writing down dates of the evening, or the following day.

To begin, Write the modern date that the new moon is sighted on the first month of spring in the box below:

Modern Date that the new moon is sighted in the spring to begin the first Hebrew Month

Next, count out to the 14th day and write that date on the first line of the chart below, then fill the days that follow:

Modern Date	Hebrew Day	Yearly Sabbath Days
	14	Passover
	15	Day 1 of Unleavened Bread
	16	Day 2 of Unleavened Bread
	17	Day 3 of Unleavened Bread
	18	Day 4 of Unleavened Bread
	19	Day 5 of Unleavened Bread
	20	Day 6 of Unleavened Bread
	21	Day 7 of Unleavened Bread

Firstfruits will occur on the day of the week after the *Weekly Sabbath* in the chart above. Write the date after the *Weekly Sabbath* from the chart above into the box below:

Modern date for Firstfruits

Firstfruits

Finally, the Yearly Sabbath of Pentecost will occur on the first day of the week after seven Sabbaths have been fulfilled from Firstfruits. So, count out fifty days from the date of Firstfruits in the box above and write that date in the box below:

Modern date of Pentecost

Pentecost

The Fall

As an exercise to better understand when the yearly Sabbaths occur in the Fall, try using this tool. Since Scriptural days begin in the evening, determine ahead of time whether you will be writing down dates of the evening, or the following day.

To begin, Write the modern date that the new moon is sighted on the seventh month in the box below:

**Modern Date that the new moon is sighted in the fall to begin the seventh Hebrew Month.
This day is the Sabbath of Trumpets.**

Trumpets

Next, count out to the 10th day and write that date in the box below:

Modern date for Atonement

Atonement

Finally, count out five more days to the 15th day and write that date the first line of the chart below, then fill the days that follow:

Modern Date	Hebrew Day	Yearly Sabbath Days
	15	Day 1 of Tabernacles
	16	Day 2 of Tabernacles
	17	Day 3 of Tabernacles
	18	Day 4 of Tabernacles
	19	Day 5 of Tabernacles
	20	Day 6 of Tabernacles
	21	Day 7 of Tabernacles
	22	Day 8 of Tabernacles

This exercise was designed to fit on one page; however, there may be better tools out there for calculating these. If you know of one, share it with others. In addition, try finding out when the moon was sighted to start the Hebrew Year started in a previous year and use that date to begin this exercise for practice.