

Expounding Our Hebraic Roots

Shavuot – May 2009

Roly Buys



The question is sometimes asked, “Do we need to do this? Was this not done away with through Yahshua?”¹

The answer is very simple. No!

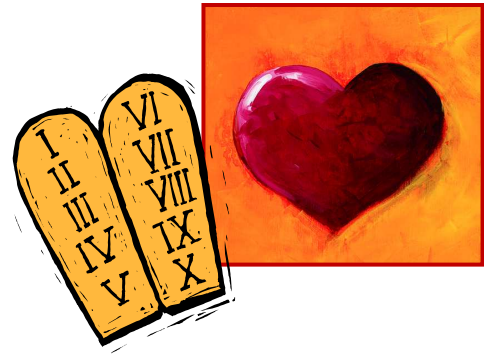
Why? Because Yahshua says so. He in fact tells us that He did not come to abolish the Commandments ...

Matthew 5:17-19 ¹⁷ *Do not think that I have come to do away with or undo the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to do away with or undo but to complete and fulfill them.* ¹⁸ *For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away and perish, not one smallest letter nor one little hook [identifying certain Hebrew letters] will pass from the Law until all things [it foreshadows] are accomplished.* ¹⁹ **Whoever then breaks or does away with or relaxes one of the least [important] of these commandments and teaches men so shall be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven, but he who practices them and teaches others to do so shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

Interestingly, Yahshua teaches us something highly relevant here, namely that those of us who are:

- practising *and*
- keeping the Commandments

... will be great in His Kingdom.



Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ *Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ **Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you ...**

We therefore come to understand that the *goal* of Paul's ministry was to teach us to be *obedient* to God's Commandments:

Romans 1:5 ⁵ *It is through Him that we have received grace (God's unmerited favor) and [our] apostleship to promote obedience to the faith and make disciples for His name's sake among all the nations,*

¹ Please note, we will be using the proper Hebraic name for Jesus ... “Yahshua”

Romans 16:27 ²⁷ *To [the] only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One)! Amen (so be it)."*



We need to proclaim that *Feasts of the Lord* are a *reality* for each one of us to *sh'ma* (hear), *shmar* (guard), and *asah* (do).

In order to go forward though, we need to first go back ... all the way to the beginning.

God creates by *speaking* His Words of Life into chaos so that something new is put in place.

Genesis 1:3, 6, 9 ³ **And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.** ⁶ *And God said, Let there be a firmament [the expanse of the sky] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters [below] from the waters [above].* ⁹ *And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be collected into one place [of standing], and let the dry land appear. And it was so."*

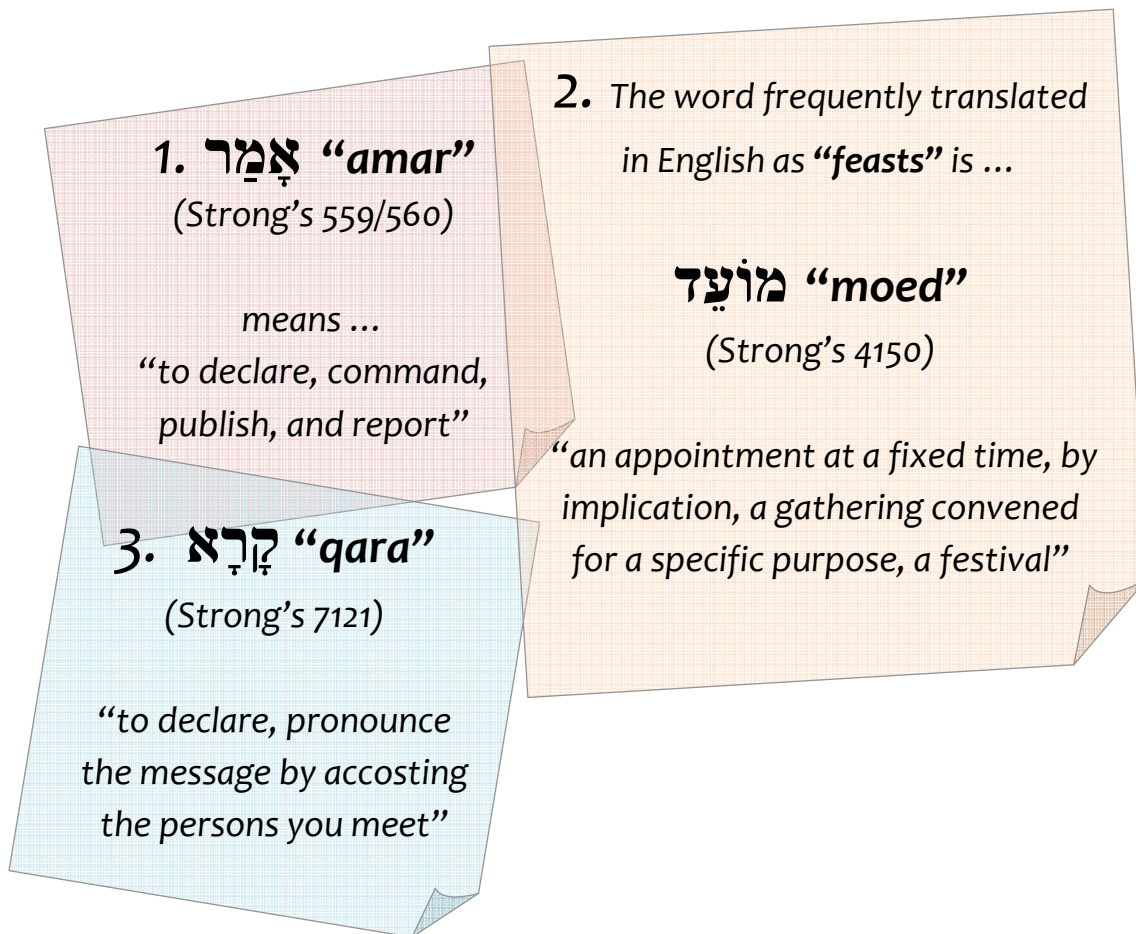
We learn from this that God's Words are *life-changing*.



Having established this principle, let us look at the passage of time when the *Feasts* are put into force ...

Leviticus 23:1-2 ¹ **THE LORD said** to Moses, ² **Say** to the Israelites, *The set feasts or appointed seasons of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, even My set feasts, are these:*”

Take note, God says. It is His Creative, Life-Changing Words which are set loose. It is God's express Commandment that we keep His Feasts.



The modern thinking of the “Church” as a gathering has created the impression that this is a “Feast” in a bigger gathering or congregation. God's Plan is for the *family unit* to be the focal gathering organization, a unit which recognizes and plans then actively around God's Timetable.

The focus is not on the “Feast”, but in fact *on a meeting with God*, an appointment at a *fixed time* where God renews our understanding of our purpose and destiny and of His Covenantal Promises.

Only in such a place of intimacy can we truly “hear” God, and are then able to internalise His Mind's Eye to us, so that we are able to renew our minds and reach out to higher levels of Holiness.

4. The English word
“convocations” is translated
from the Hebrew word ...

מִקְרָא “miqra”
(Strong’s 4744)

“something called out, a
rehearsal, a convocation”

So, if we “enlarge” the translation, we get something like this:

- And God spoke (using His creative ability through the Words that He releases)
- to Moses, “Speak” (declare, command, publish and report) to the children of Israel,
- “saying” (declare or pronounce to every person that you accost)
- the Feasts (the appointed times that are set out where I will meet with you in moments of intimacy)

- which you shall proclaim to be Holy Times of rehearsals where God will meet to change your life.

Shavuot is therefore:

- an appointed time
- where people, who humble themselves
- to keep God's Commandments
- will receive from God an empowerment:
 - the Torah
 - the Holy Spirit
- something which none of us has merited or earned



“Lord ... | stand in awe ...”



- and, if we yield to Yahshua’s Will, we will fulfil our End-Time destiny. We become:
 - a Special Treasure
 - a Kingdom of Priests
 - a Holy Nation (Exodus 19:5-6)

Exodus 19:5-6 ⁵ Now therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God]. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites.”

Interestingly, our purpose is not to become a pastor, evangelist, prophet or some other “title” in life.

What are the components of this destiny and purpose?

“A Special Treasure”

עַם “am”
(Strong’s 5971)

“A people or a nation”

סְגֻלָּה “segullah”
(Strong’s 5459)

“to shut up, or to endure”

The pictorial representation is as follows:

samech/s = a circuit, or predetermined course consisting of regular ascents and descents.

gimmel/g = a man running

lamed/l = a device to get you moving in a given direction

hey/h = window through which revelation comes

Put this all together and we get the following picture:

You and I walk on a journey set out in the Torah and, irrespective of whether we are always “successful”, we continue to act as beacons and guides pointing the way to the Creator – the Source of all our inspiration.



We are always in the eye of the pagan world, they watch to see if we do what we say, if our deeds match our words, if our yielding is a joy, irrespective of what others say.

Such was the commitment of Ruth, the Moabite. Her declaration of submission to God is matched by her submission to Naomi and Boaz.

Ruth 1:16 ¹⁶ *And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God."*

We will be a **Royal Priesthood** (*mamlakah kohanim*). As priests, we go about our calling to be an intermediary between God and this world. We chose to hear what His Word for our lands and nations is, and come together to function with all other Believers in unity ... establishing His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

We will be a **Holy Nation** (*gay k'dosh*). A "set apart people" means exactly that – we look, act, and speak differently to the rest of the world. Our reaction to events and things that happen to us cause us to think and react as the Father would. Accordingly people must say, *"They walk to the sound of a different drumbeat"*.

Moses reads the Words and Prophetic Declaration of God to the people so that they could *hear* again.

This time the response is:

Exodus 24:7 ⁷ *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people; and they said, All that the Lord has said **we will do**, and we will be obedient."*

When we say "we will do", it is a choice of the *soul* – the mind, will and emotions – *only*. When this happens, we become legalistic ... we are really saying, *"I can do this on my own"*.

As soon as the agreement is with the *soul only*, then we begrudge the time, work, or effort offered and we tend to weigh up the effort of this "job" against the effort of something else.





WE NEED TO RESPOND

Again, we are given the Old Testament as the example, to teach us how we should react and respond to God.

God's opening Words of Covenant language before the Ten Commandments are given, is a prophetic declaration that:

“If you sh’ma (hear) My Voice
And
Sh’mar (keep) My Covenant”
Then...

You will be a
**Special
Treasure.**

You will be a
**Kingdom of
Priests.**

You will be a
Holy Nation.

The people respond and say – we will “*asah*” – **we will do.**

Exodus 19:8 ⁶ *And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord has spoken we will do. And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.”*

What does God require of us at this time?

Yahshua spent most of His Time in conflict with the religious leaders showing them that they had instituted man-made laws in addition to God’s Words of Life.

The other acts of celebration, rehearsal, or proclamations are left up to you and your family to decide.



All we must do to keep God's Commandments is:

- Harvest the barley offering.



Leviticus 23:10, 16 ¹⁰ *Tell the Israelites, When you have come into the land I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the **firstfruits** of your harvest to the priest. ¹⁶ Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a cereal offering of new grain to the Lord.*

John 12:23-24 ²³ *And Jesus answered them, The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified and exalted. ²⁴ I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains [just one grain; it never becomes more but lives] by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces many others and **yields a rich harvest.***

- Wave the two loaves of bread as an offering.

Leviticus 23:17 ¹⁷ *You shall bring from your dwellings **two loaves of bread to be waved**, made from two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven, for firstfruits to the Lord.*



John 12:32 ³² *And I, if and when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw and attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself.*

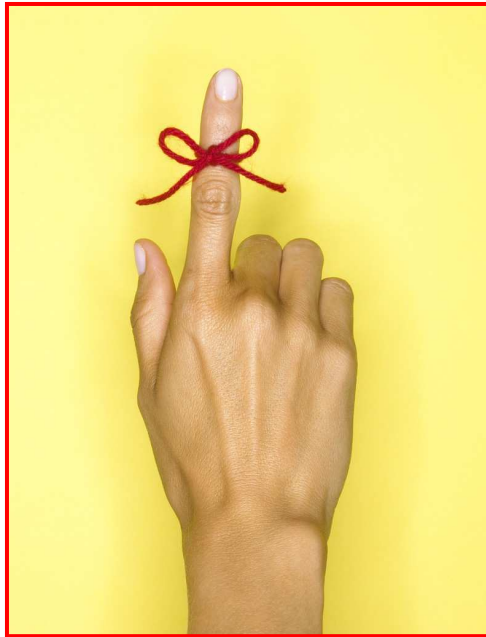
- Personally count the Omer – a process of individual and personal purification in order to meet with God.



Leviticus 23:15 ¹⁵ *And **you** shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths; [seven full weeks] shall they be.*

- Help the poor and needy.

Leviticus 23:22 ²² *And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger. I am the Lord your God.*



CONCLUSION

This is the final rehearsal of the Messiah's fulfilment of the *Spring* Feasts of the Lord. We keep these times in remembrance of what Yahshua has done for us. We also remember and anticipate what He *will* do when He returns to fulfil the *Fall* Feasts of the Lord ... *Rosh Hashanah* (Feasts of Trumpets) and *Succoth* (Feast of Tabernacles).

What a privilege!

Shalom!