

GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVING THE PERIOD OF REPENTANCE AND THE END OF YEAR APPOINTED FEASTS

BACKGROUND

1 Thess 5:1-5

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

1 Thess 5:8-10

But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

As Paul exhorted the Thessalonians we should discern the times and seasons in order to do the relevant will of God. This concerns us as individuals, family, the church, communities and cities/nations.

Jesus stated that just as we associate the season of Autumn with the falling of the leaves of fig trees, the second coming of Jesus will be preceded by some signs in Matt. 24, the Book of Daniel and Joel Chapter 2. Jesus said that those that are able to endure till the end will be saved. He also said that the tribulation will be so severe that even the elect may not be able to survive if the period is not shortened. When we walk in the Lord's will we can dwell in His presence where we shall enjoy rest while He takes over our battles. God instituted the Feasts as rehearsals for things that would happen in His plan for His people. In Ezekiel Chapters 36 to 38 God speaks of sanctifying the tribes of Israel of the idols and abominations they had defiled themselves with before they would be returned to their own land. The Period of Repentance and Return that the Jews observed just before the Autumn/Fall Feasts were a rehearsal for preparing them for the coming of the Messiah.

2015 and 2016 are the Shemitah Year and the Year of Jubilee respectively.

The importance of the proper and effective observance of this year's Autumn Appointed Feasts(Rehearsals) and Preparatory activities cannot be over-emphasized(See *Annex 2 Preparation and Equipping for End-times Mobilization for Evangelism*)

FALL/AUTUMN CLUSTER OF FEASTS OR FEAST OF TABERNACLES FEASTS SEASON

General

Most Christians don't know about the Fall Holidays of ancient Israel;

The Appointed Feasts of the Lord are prophetic. They reveal specific information of the way they will be prophetically fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are 7 Feasts of the Lord. The first set of 4 of the Appointed Feasts have already been celebrated in the months of April to May this year. These are:

- a. Passover Feast
- b. Feast of Unleaven Bread
- c. First Fruit Offering, and
- d. Feast of Pentecost.

The next last set of Appointed Feasts of the Lord are to be celebrated in September October this year. These are:

- a. Feast of Trumpets
- b. Day of Atonement
- c. Feast of Tabernacles

Prior to the celebration of the September/October Appointed Feasts, there is a period of preparation known as the Period of Repentance and Return.

1. Period of Repentance and Return (2 Chron. 7:14, Joel 2: 12-19)

- This is the period when trumpets are blown for a 30 day period of repentance and return to the LORD up to the Appointed Feast of Trumpets, which is to take place on the first day of the Jewish seventh month which is September 13th this year and it is followed, 10 days later, by the Day of Atonement. The Feast of Trumpets, therefore, is part of the preparation for the Day of Atonement which will be on 12th October 2016. The 30 days of repentance and return before the Appointed Feast of Trumpets followed by the 10 days of Awe observed before the Day of atonement together add

up to the 40 day period known as the **Period of Repentance and Return** that the Jews called *Teshuvah*.

2. 10 Days of Awe

- The ten-day period from the Feast of Trumpets to the Day of Atonement is known as 10 days of awe. These ten days are known as High Holy Days of the Jews.

3. Days of Holy Convocation or Sacred Assembly

- It is noticed that the day of the Feast of Trumpets was a day of a sacred assembly or holy convocation on which no customary work was to be done. On the Day of Atonement, which was the most holy day in the Jewish calendar. No work of any kind should be done so it is to be observed as completely sacred and devoted to God.
- **CHRIST-CITADEL INTERNATIONAL CHURCH IS THEREFORE CALLING ON ALL MEMBERS TO OBSERVE THIS PERIOD AND THE APPOINTED FEASTS** in two Phases in accordance with the guidelines which are issued below.

Phase 1

1. You are called upon to observe pray for repentance for 30 days from 2nd September to 1st October 2016 along with fasting from Monday to Wednesday each week.
2. There should be morning prayers and evening prayers during this period mainly for the forgiveness of sins for yourself, family, your church, the community and country in which you are living. (***See attached instructions on daily prayers for Repentance and Return***). The prayer points include declarations for return and healing/restoration
3. On the actual day of the Appointed Feast of Trumpets(Sunday 2nd October, 2016) and Day of Atonement(Wed. 12th October, 2016), Church doors should be opened in the morning at 6am up until evening for whole day prayers and the breaking of the fast together.

Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)

The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), which falls on 2nd October 2016, is the Jewish New Year, and begins the high Holy Days in the seventh month (corresponding to September or October). It is a celebration of the spiritual birthday of the world or creation, and is celebrated with the blowing of the trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25). The Feast of Trumpets is a powerful prophetic look at the final days and Messiah's return
A guide for observing the feast of Trumpets is attached.

4. 10 Days of Awe Observance(Mon 03 Oct to Wed 12 Oct 2016)-Phase 2

4.1 Guidelines for the first 9 days of Prayers with Fasting are attached.. These include prayers for release, deliverance and cancellation of curses as well as soul healing.

4.2 The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

The holiest day in the Jewish year (a fast day not a feast day), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), is spent in fasting, prayer, and confession. This was one gracious day a year given by God that each individual could receive forgiveness. The High Priest enters the holy of holies to make atonement for the nation by sacrificing an animal (Lev. 23:26-32). Jesus has provided our atonement by His blood, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Rom. 3:23) and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Him.

An all-day Day of Atonement Prayers Observance with Dry Fasting for which the following are to be complied with on that day in order to humble ourselves and to focus our attention on the Lord without distractions on the holiest day of the year:

- a. No eating or drinking
- b. No Wearing of shoes with leather soles
- c. No bathing or washing
- d. No anointing of oneself with perfumes and lotions
- e. No sexual relations

f. No work of any kind

Separate instructions are attached for observing this most sacred assembly on the 10th Day of Awe(Day of Atonement).

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4.3 Feast of Tabernacles / Sukkoth(Sun 16 Oct - Sun 23 Oct 2016)

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth or Booths) is celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month(Tishri 15) as outlined in Leviticus 23:33-43. This seven-day harvest festival, during which the Jewish people are told to live in “booths,” or temporary shelters, is a reminder to future generations of how the Israelites had also lived in booths when God delivered them out of Egypt .We are also living in temporary accommodation waiting for the coming of the Lord. As we celebrate this Feast let us remember that we have a permanent home in Heaven..” We should look forward expectantly to the Feast of Tabernacles, just as we look forward to the coming of the Messiah to bring His government, His Kingdom, and His laws (Mic. 4:1).