

Abel Observed God's Appointed Festival

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Jesus Christ described Abel as being a righteous man in Matthew 23:35. Righteousness is defined in the Bible as doing the will of God of which the commandments of God are central (Ps. 40:8; Rom. 7:12). To know righteousness is to have the law of God in one's heart and thus, to live by it (Isa. 51:7; Ps. 37:29-31). God's law is truth (Ps. 119:142). Therefore, being described as a righteous man, Abel would have known about God's law and commandments.

For **all Your commandments are righteousness** (Ps. 119:172b; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise stated).

Not only would he have known about them, he would have observed them just as the nation of Israel was instructed to do many generations later.

And **the Lord commanded us to observe (do) all these statutes** (ordinances), to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. ²⁵ **Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments** before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us (Dt. 6:24-35; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It should come as no surprise that Abel was aware of God's law and commandments because the spirit-being who taught Adam and Eve about the law of sacrifice would also have instructed Cain and Abel.

Also, for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics (SHD 3801; coverings) of skin (confirming

a sacrifice was required for their sin) and clothed them (Gen. 3:21; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The "Lord God" mentioned in the scripture above would not have been Almighty God because the spirit-being who created Adam and Eve later became known as Jesus Christ, who created all things under delegation from Almighty God.

For **by him (Christ) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on the earth, visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or principalities (rulers) or powers (authorities). **All things were created through him** and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things and in him all things consist. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have preeminence (Col. 1:16-18; cf. Jn. 1:3; Heb. 1:2; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This truth is important because it confirms that the spirit-being who taught Abel is the same one who later became known as Jesus Christ. It also explains why Christ's disciples referred to him as their "Teacher" (cf. Mt. 23:8; Jn. 13:13) because he has always been the one delegated by Almighty God to teach those given to him throughout history (cf. Jn. 6: 37; 44; 65).

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8; emphasis added).

In modern Christian teaching, it is common to hear that God's appointed festivals, or Holy Days, were introduced at Mt. Sinai during the time of Moses and that they apply only to the Jews, which shows ignorance of Biblical history because Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons and eleven of them were not "Jewish" (of Judah). Another "Christian teaching" claims that no one must keep God's appointed Festivals, or Holy Days, because they were fulfilled by Jesus

Christ. Both these positions are erroneous and will be exposed as such in the remainder of this study.

In order to confirm that Abel was taught about God's Holy Days many generations before Moses, it is important to compare one of God's laws regarding the offerings associated with these "commanded assemblies".

All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify (set apart) to the Lord your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. ²⁰ You and your household shall eat it before the Lord your God year by year **in the place which the Lord chooses** (Dt. 15:19-20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The highlighted phrase "in the place which the Lord chooses" identifies the command to collectively worship God three times a year at His appointed festivals.

Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God **in the place which He chooses**: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (inclusive of The Passover), at the Feast of Weeks (a.k.a. Pentecost), and the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed (Dt. 16:16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

By combining the instructions in Deuteronomy 15:19-20 with the command to collectively assemble for worship three times a year "in the place which the Lord chooses", it becomes clear that Abel knew about these regulations and brought the correct offering to one of the three Holy Day periods appointed by God.

Abel also (in addition to the fruit of the ground; cf. vs. 3) **brought of the firstlings of his flock** and of their fat. And the Lord respected

Abel and his offering (Gen. 4:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Abel was also taught about "the fat" of the offering (cf. Gen. 4:4b), which means he understood how to properly sacrifice a "clean" animal.

Then he shall offer from his offering, as an offering made by fire to the Lord. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails. ¹⁵ the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; ¹⁶ and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; **all the fat is the Lord's** (Lev. 3:14-16; emphasis added).

Therefore, Abel had been taught about God's appointed Holy Days many generations prior to the birth of the nation of Israel, which included the family of Judah (the Jews). This eliminates the erroneous teaching that God's appointed festivals were introduced at Mt. Sinai and were meant only for "the Jews".


Now we will examine the other false teaching that God's appointed festivals ended at the death of Jesus Christ. If this is correct, then Christ did not do a good job of teaching his disciples because they continued to observe these appointed times long after his resurrection.

The obvious starting point is the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. Had Christ's disciples not observed this Holy Day, they would not have received God's Holy Spirit.

Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole

house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire. And one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance (Ac. 2:1-4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Those who teach that God's Holy Days no longer need to be obeyed, might claim that this was the last time Christ's disciples observed one of God's appointed festivals. Unfortunately for them, Paul kept this same Holy Day long after the disciples had gathered together for the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection. As Paul was personally taught by Christ, Christ should have explained that these appointed festivals no longer needed to be observed, if this was indeed the case (cf. Ac. 22:14, 17-21; 23:11; Gal. 1:12-18).



FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS
BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP, YOU
PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH TILL
HE COMES.

I Corinthians 11:26; emphasis added

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for **he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem**, if possible, **on the Day of Pentecost** (Ac. 20:16; emphasis added).

Not only did Paul keep the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost, but he also kept the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. In fact, Paul said Christ had taught him about the New Testament Passover and that it was now to be observed by eating unleavened bread and drinking wine, which were symbols representing Christ's body and blood. This would have been quite a revelation to someone who had previously

observed the Passover by consuming lamb or goat meat at the end of the 14th day of the first month every year (cf. Ex. 12:5-6).

For I (Paul) received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which he was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵ In the same manner he also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me' (1Cor. 11:23-25; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It is important to stress that Paul pinpointed when this New Covenant service was to be observed by associating the symbols of unleavened bread and wine with the timing of Christ's death, which occurred in the afternoon of the 14th day of the first month.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** till he comes (1Cor. 11:26; emphasis added).


Paul also observed the Day of Atonement, which is referred to as "the Fast" due to the fact that everyone is to abstain from eating or drinking anything on this solemn Holy Day.

Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because **the Fast** was already over, Paul advised them.... (Ac. 27:9; emphasis added).

So we have seen that God's true servants throughout the First Covenant period, starting with Abel, observed God's appointed festivals and that Christ's disciples continued to keep them long after his death and resurrection. Now we will examine a prophecy pertaining to God's Feast of Tabernacles. The time setting is after

Christ's return when he is ruling and educating this planet using his Father's law and commandments (cf. Isa. 2:1-4).

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be that **whichever of the families of the earth** do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the sin of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:16-19; emphasis added).



ALWAYS LEARNING AND NEVER ABLE
TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
TRUTH.
II Timothy 3:7

After Christ's apostles were martyred, or died of old age, a false gospel message that Paul warned against, began to creep into the religion that is now referred to as "Christianity".

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him (Almighty God) who called you in the grace (forgiveness) of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another (of the same kind); but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert (distort) the gospel of Christ (Gal. 1:6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Christianity today does not adhere to the doctrines of the early church that Christ built. Instead, it has absorbed many pagan customs,

including pagan holidays, and put Christ's name on them in an attempt to legitimize them. Sadly, the nation of ancient Israel did the same thing and they were eventually disinherited by God (cf. Jer. 3:8).

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' (Ex. 32:8)

Those who observe God's Holy Days, at His appointed times, are being taught by Christ and learning more and more about the plan for rehabilitating and restoring sinful mankind in their relationship with Almighty God. This is pictured in the three annual festival periods. Those who reject these Holy Days remain deceived and cannot understand the purpose of this life (Rev. 12:9), even though they may be acquiring a considerable amount of knowledge during their lifetime.

Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2Ti. 3:7)

Those in positions of religious authority who mislead others through their erroneous teachings, including those pertaining to God's appointed Holy Days, will have to give account to the head of the church, Jesus Christ (cf. 2Ti. 4:1; 1Pe. 4:5; Ac. 10:42).

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell (Gr. Gehenna; a refuse dump outside Jerusalem where garbage was burned) as yourselves (Mt. 23:15; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Ezekiel 34:1-31 is a prophecy pertaining to false religious leaders, and Christ is pictured as eventually delivering those who have been enslaved by their false teachings and other forms of abuse. This is one of the greatest deceptions because religious leaders are held in high esteem and yet they are often self-serving. This problem was already occurring in the early church and Paul addressed it head on by identifying those who claimed to represent Christ and yet taught a different gospel message.



...FOR ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS
ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Psalms 119:172b

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2Cor. 11:13-15).

In order to identify a central feature of this false teaching, Paul used certain words and phrases on purpose. He describes these false teachers as being like "an angel of light."

The word "light" is used in scripture to represent God's law and commandments.

For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light ... (Prov. 6:23a).

Therefore, false teachers may appear to support God's law and commandments, but, they won't believe it is necessary to obey them, including the observance of God's appointed festivals. Whether these false teachers realize it or not, Paul pointed out that they are Satan's ministers, even though they appear to be "ministers of

righteousness". The word "righteousness" is used to describe obedience to God's commandments.

... For all Your commandments are righteousness (Ps. 119:172b).

The method by which a true servant of God can be identified is described in the following scripture, and it is "law-based".

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them** (Isa. 8:20; emphasis added).

In conclusion, Christ has been teaching God's true servants how to correctly observe his Father's appointed festivals from the time of Abel, and he will continue doing so after his return to rule and re-educate this entire planet. Anyone teaching against the observance of these Holy Days is teaching a false gospel and will be held accountable by Christ.

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