

Recently the following questions were submitted to the web site www.itsinthere.org. Below you can read my reply.

What feasts did the Jews follow through God's guidance that you believe are still relevant today? Secondly, would they have ended when Jesus came?

Thank you for your questions. As I begin my response, let me ask you a quick question. After the great flood God made a promise to Noah and all of mankind that He would never destroy the earth by water (Genesis 9:11-16). Do you think that the whole earth will be destroyed by water? What is the basis of your confidence? I am sure it is the Word of God as recorded in the Scripture. Let's take a moment to examine the text.

And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for *perpetual* generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the *everlasting* covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." — Genesis 9:12-16

The two words in italics type are the same word in Hebrew. That word is "olam" and it means eternal, everlasting, or perpetual. God made an everlasting covenant with mankind and His promises do not fail! Let's see where else this word shows up in the Scripture.

In Genesis 17:8 God promises Abraham and his seed after him the land of Canaan for an *everlasting* possession.

Exodus 12:14 says the following: "And this day (Passover) shall be unto you for a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance *forever*."

Exodus 12:17 tells God's people to observe the feast of unleavened bread and to do so in your generations by an ordinance *forever*.

Exodus 15:18 states, "The LORD shall reign *forever*."

Exodus 19:9 says, "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you *forever*.'"

Regarding the Sabbath the Bible says, "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel *forever*; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).

Let's take a break from the word study and simply point out that according to Ephesians 2:11-16 we, the Gentiles, were once without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. However, because of

the cross we are now considered one man. Therefore, the covenants with Israel do apply to those who are in Messiah. Now back to our study of the word “*olam*.”

In Leviticus 16:29 the sons of Israel (of which you are a part) are to meet on the “Day of Atonement.” For it says, “This shall be a statute *forever* for you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country, or a stranger who dwells among you.”

The next appointed time where we find the word “*olam*” is at Pentecost. “And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute *forever* in all your dwellings throughout your generations” (Leviticus 23:21).

Regarding the Feast of Booths the Scripture says, “You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute *forever* in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month” (Leviticus 23:41).

Let’s view one last Scripture involving the word “*olam*.” “One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance *forever* throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD” (Numbers 15:15).

The point I am trying to make is simply this, the same God who put a rainbow in the sky to confirm his “*olam*” covenant with Noah is the same One who gave us His appointed times (Leviticus 23:1-44). These appointed times should be viewed as the blueprint of our Heavenly Father’s plan for mankind. Below you will find a summary:

Appointed Time	Occurs	Symbolism
Sabbath Every	7 th day	We acknowledge the Genesis account of creation. It is a picture of the coming 1,000 year Millennium rest.
Passover	Spring	A picture of the redemptive work of Yeshua/Jesus.
Unleavened Bread	Spring	Messiah lived a sinless life.
First Fruits	Spring	Messiah was the first fruits of the resurrection.
Pentecost	Spring	A picture of the Spirit of God dwelling with men. (The very thing God wanted to do at Mt. Sinai, but the Hebrews were too afraid.)

All of these have been fulfilled by Yeshua/Jesus. The Spring Feasts are a picture of the redemptive work of the Messiah. This does not mean that we no longer obey our Father’s instructions. Look at it

this way, every year we celebrate the 4th of July. We remember the event and the sacrifices made. It's a memorial that will be observed for as long as America exists. This is how we should view the appointed times of our Heavenly Father, for as long as He exists!

Now let's look at the Fall Feasts. We have the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Booths. These appointed times give us a picture of Yeshua/Jesus the King ruling and reigning over the nations of the world. These have not been fulfilled.

Appointed Time	Occurs	Symbolism
Trumpets	Fall	Ingathering of the believers. Fulfillment yet to be determined (Revelation 11:15).
Day of Atonement	Fall	The judging of the nations. Fulfillment yet to be determined (Zephaniah 3:8).
Booths	Fall	Messiah dwelling with His people. Fulfillment yet to be determined (Isaiah 2:2-3, Zechariah 14:16-19).

Keep in mind that the Messiah did not come to do away with the Law (Matthew 5:17), He came to fill it full of meaning. He gave us two irrefutable signs to verify that His Law/Torah was still in effect. As long as we have heaven and earth, His Law is still in operation. The reason our Heavenly Father uses physical signs is simple. The natural signs can not change their opinions or their doctrine to fit the times.

I trust this study has addressed both of your questions. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to send them.

Shalom!