

## Rosh Hashanah 5781-5782

### I. Shofars & Calendars (1-7)

#### 1. The Voice Behind the Shofar

I am here to get you ready to celebrate Rosh Hashanah [RoshHa ShaNAH / which we usually pronounce as Rosh HaSHAnah]. **Rosh** means “the head or beginning of”.

**So, what is beginning?**

**It's the beginning of the New Biblical Year of 5782 at nightfall Monday (Labor Day evening) as the Biblical Calendar flips to Tishrei 1. Rosh Hashanah** will continue until nightfall Tuesday. The celebration is filled with great foods, trumpets, and rest.

**If you want to greet someone for the holiday it IS NOT Happy Rosh Hashanah - It's Shanah Tovah** [sha-NAH toe-VAH] which means a "good or happy year" (shanah is year and tovah is happy or good).

Rosh Hashanah ushers in **the Ten Days of Awe Yamim Nora'im**, ending **on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement**. Which is **the most holy day of the Jewish year**.

The name "Row-SHA ShaNAH" is not used in the Bible. We have only 2 commands to celebrate this Feast with just two words of instruction:

**Numbers 29:1** 'And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is **a day of blowing** the trumpets. **A Yom Teruah**.

**Leviticus 23:24** says, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a holy convocation, [**“a memorial of blowing of trumpets” (in Hebrew “a zikhron teru’ah”)**].”

**“terû’â” is war-cry or battle-cry; an alarm or warning signal, a blast for marching; shout of joy**

So, obviously most translations put the word shofar (the ram's horn) or trumpet in it. But the closest actual name for this holiday would be Yom Teruah, which literally means "a day of shouting or blasting", which the Jews feels means blasting the shofar and trumpets.

**Two words:**

**zikhron - remember and mention**

It's the same word in Exodus 3:15 when God commands us to zikhron His name Yehovah.

**And the second word is teruah** which is in the scriptures **36 times, so we know what it means**. Even though the Jews hyper focus on blowing the shofar 100 times on that day, there is a lot more to teruah than blowing a shofar.

The KJV translates Teruah as: shout (11x) and shouting (8x) **[19]**, alarm (6x), sound (3x), blowing (2x), joy (2x), misc (4x).

A few of those 36 teruah's include:

Psalms 33:3 (KJV) **Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.** That's one for you drummers out there.

Psalms 150:5 (KJV) **Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.**

Psalms 27:6 (KJV) **And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.** So, the sound of your praise is teruah!

Joshua 6:5 (KJV) **And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long [blast] with the ram's horn, [and] when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. So here it's not the sound of the shofar blast but the loud shout.**

**When David celebrated with the ark, scripture says they used the shofar and they teruah. So, it's shouting and the shofar**

Teruah is also referred to as crying a lot, so the question is it happy or sad crying. The sounds of the shofar can be very sad like mourning.

Job 8:21 **He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing (teruah). So, no doubt there, the crying is happy.**

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of Yehovah, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise Yehovah, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to Yehovah: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a **great shout**, when they praised Yehovah, because the foundation of the house of Yehovah was laid.

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet **many shouted** aloud for joy, so that the people could not discern the noise of the **shout** of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud **shout**, and the sound was heard afar off. Ezra 3:10-13

The only passage in the Tanach (OT) of a celebration on the day of Yom Teruah is in Nehemiah when they first returned from captivity and rebuilt the walls and gates of Jerusalem and were read the law of Moses for the first time:

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which Yehovah had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding **on the first day of the seventh month.** Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed Yehovah, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped Yehovah with their faces to the ground. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to

Yehovah your God; do not mourn nor weep.”

For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, **eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared**; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of Yehovah is your strength.” So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them. Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,9-12

**The shofar used for Yom Teruah was the horn of a wild goat.**

**The shofar is blown during the Yom Teruah service 100 times!**

They are blown in a set pattern of 3 different sounds, blown 3 times each for a total of 9 blasts.

This series of patterns is repeated 11 times for a total of 99 blasts.

**The 100th blast is set apart and this is the blast that is known as the “Last Trump”!**

God says in Leviticus 23 to have a **“holy convocation commemorated with trumpet blasts.”**

The Feast of Trumpets marks the end of the summer harvest.

The Day of Atonement is near when you stand before God.

It’s prophetic - as the church, we are in the midst of the great harvest just before the Day of the Lord.

**The Feast of Trumpets is God's wakeup call: We don't have forever!**

## 2. The Call of The Shofar

The shofar itself recalls **the Binding of Isaac, which occurred on Rosh Hashanah when a ram took Isaac’s place as an offering to God.**

The Torah readings on Rosh Hashanah are about Abraham and Sarah.

Genesis 22: 2,13 “He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

...And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.” (It reminds us of Jesus – the first mention of love in the bible)

**Shofars and trumpets in Scripture have many connotations** and are **mentioned almost 80 times** in different contexts: **summoning the tribes** to the door of the tabernacle, **getting ready** to up-tents and move on, **as a warning, an announcement, inaugurating a new king, as a call to repentance, building, as a battle cry, a victory shout, or the sound of rejoicing...**

**Through the sound of the shofar, God calls His people to turn their minds and attention back to Him, back to heavenly matters.**

**God’s “voice” is the Hebrew word “qol”.** It’s also used for the sound of a shofar blast.

What does the voice of God sound like?

**He warns us when we start to stray; whispers encouragement to us when we struggle;**

commands our enemies to flee; comforts us when we fail or lose someone dear; and even sings over the deepest parts of us in the good and bad times because life is hard, and he is familiar with our suffering. **He does it with His presence**, through words or even groans we can’t comprehend, and He does it in symbolic ways. The blast of the shofar is one of the more interesting symbols of His presence.

Since **God speaks in different ways for different situations, the shofar has several distinct blasts:**

**T'ki'yah** - In ancient Israel, one long sustained blast was a common reassuring sound that meant the watchmen guarding the city were on duty and all was well. It reminds us that God is constantly drawing us near so that we might receive His strength and comfort.

**She'va'rim** - Three consecutive blasts signaled some significant event – usually it meant good tidings. Likewise, God rejoices over us with singing and dancing. Most of us will never experience a crowd applauding us for our achievements on earth, but if we draw near to God in those moments, we will feel His deep affection. What so many of us are trying to get from “likes” on Facebook is available from the One who created and sustains everything.

**T'ru'ah** - Nine rapid bursts, was the sound of alarm. It meant you were under attack. We encounter that with the Holy Spirit - Ever feel your skin crawl during temptation or when danger was near? Like Israel, we all need to be alarmed so that we become aware of sin that separates us from God. We need to know an enemy has drawn near. And we need to hear His voice reminding us of our need for atonement. When your spirit feels shaken within you, learn to respond to the sound of His alarm. We need to constantly pray, “lead us not into temptation but from deliver us from evil”.

**God’s “voice” (the Hebrew word quol) is the same word used for the sound of a shofar blast. But that’s not all the word quol is used to describe. What else does the bible compare to a shofar blast? Quol is also used for the sound of someone calling out, shouting, or even singing.**

In many ways, **worship is paying attention to God, giving him our time and “putting our hearts” with him... Being present, engaged, and focused.** We remember God’s worth and come towards Him to give Him the love and honor He is due.

But so often we busily read through Bible passages, and maybe think about it for a while, but are we thinking with God? Or separately from Him? Are we truly present with Him? Does he have our ear? Are we inviting Him to speak, and giving him room and space to do so? Do you ask Him what is on His heart, or what He would like to express to you? Does He have your undivided attention in your times together? Are you gazing up at Him, or at your own issues, your own life?

**The blast of the shofar reminds us to forget self and remember God, putting His agenda at the front of our minds.** It’s also an opportunity to remember our own personal “Sinai” event, where God invited us into covenant with Him and we said yes. **The Hebrew root of the word shofar means to beautify...when we turn to God, we are made beautiful.**

### 3. The Last Trump

**On Yom Teruah the shofar is blown 100 times** in a set pattern of 3 different sounds, blown 3 times each for a total of 9 blasts. This series of patterns is repeated 11 times for a total of 99 blasts.

**The 100th blast is set apart and this is the blast that is known as the “Last Trump”!**

Leviticus 23:24 **“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.”** (Dress Rehearsal)

**The Hebrew word for “blowing of trumpets” is “Teruah” a battle-cry, especially a clangor of trumpets, as an alarm. Why the alarm and the battle cry? It’s a dress rehearsal.**

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (Referring to Psalm 47)

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

“Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet...” (Zechariah 9:14).

Psalm 47:5 “God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. “  
The Hebrew word for shout here is “Teruah”! And the word trumpet is “Shofar”.

Psalm 89:15 “Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound.”

Here the Hebrew word for “sound” is also “Teruah” which is why we want to hear and be able to know and discern the sound of the Shofar on Yom Teruah!

### **A Thief in The Night**

1 Thessalonians 5 – “The day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

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. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day.”

### **Who is getting stolen?**

The alive church on fire for Him.

To those who are serving, loving and wise.

The Bride of Christ

### **Who is the Thief leaving behind for judgement?**

- The Dead church: Revelation 3:1-3
- The Lukewarm church: Revelation 3:14-17 / Revelation 16:15
- The Evil servant: Matthew 24:48-50
- The Foolish virgins: Matthew 25:11-13
- Those living in darkness: 1 Thessalonians 5

Rosh Hashanah begins what is known as the “10 Days of Awe” until Yom Kippur (the Day of Judgment).

We know God will judge every man, woman, and child for every word, thought, and deed they have had. No one will miss their divine appointment.

### **As we gaze up to God and give Him our attention, we become more tuned in to His agenda.**

God has purposes and plans that He is rolling out in our days, and He is looking for those who will work with Him. We need to be seeking God’s face to hear His instructions to us and to understand His word to the world in these times. God is calling us to be His trumpet blowers in this world, conveying His message.

“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:8)

The trumpet blast calls out. It’s a calling and an invitation. It’s a call to remember the God of Israel and an invitation to meet with Him.

There is still time for people to come to God in repentance, to be forgiven, embraced, and to be adopted into God's loving family.

Jesus commissioned us in Matthew 28:19 us to make sure the whole world gets to hear this good news.

**The time will come when a different kind of trumpet blast will be heard:**

**“Then Yehovah will be seen over them as His arrow flashes like lightning. Yehovah Elohim will blow the shofar and march in whirlwinds of the south.”** (Zechariah 9:14)

One day the very last trumpet will sound, and everything will change forever.

#### **4. Calendars**

**On Elul 1 Moses went up the mountain for his 3rd trip to receive for 10 Commandments**

**On Elul 1 Jonah began his 40 days of preaching to Nineveh**

**On Elul 1 Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted**

**It's now day 30 for all three – they will conclude on Yom Kippur in 10 days.**

**The Biblical Calendar is a little odd for many reasons.**

First, the calendar has two New Year's Days each year;

**One in just a few days called Rosh Hashanah**, which kicks off the Fall Season and remembers creation when God made man.

**The second New Year's Day is in Spring** and was added by God at the Passover in Egypt, 2,500 years after creation.

Not everyone agrees that the first day of the seventh month begins a new year or that Yom Teruah should be considered the start of a New Years. They believe it's mostly a pagan influenced feast from Babylon. Many argue that this Fall calendar didn't exist until after Israel's Babylonian captivity, and that it was inspired by the Babylonian calendar...

Those who do think it's the original New Years and 6th day of creation would argue that it is the beginning of the Sabbatical year.

I DO NOT agree with that argument. In fact, it says in Exodus 12 of Passover in the month of Nissan, **“Yehovah spoke to Moshe and Aharon in the land of Egypt; he said, “You are to begin your calendar with this month; it will be the first month of the year for you.”**

Keep in mind this is 2,500 years after creation. So, I don't believe God would establish “what sounds a lot like a change of what month begins their year”, if a different first month didn't already exist. It's hard for either side to make the argument since Moses was the first to write about the beginning 2,500 years after it happened, and he often speaks of the past from his present perspective.

The second reason two New Years in the Biblical Calendar is a little odd is that the Fall calendar begins with creation, but it doesn't start with Day 1 when God said, “Let There Be Light”.

**The first day of the month of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah) is Day 6 when God Created Man.**

**This year Rosh Hashanah or Day 6 of creation begins on Labor Day, Monday September 6<sup>th</sup>** at nightfall and will continue till nightfall on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>.

So, counting backwards,

If Tuesday is Day 6 when God made man and land animals;

And Wednesday will be Day 7 – the very first Sabbath.

Then Monday is Day 5 when He made birds and sea creatures;  
Sunday is Day 4 when He made the sun, moon, and stars;  
Saturday is Day 3 when He made the dry ground and plants;  
Today is Day 2 when He created earth's atmosphere separating the waters above from the waters below;  
Thursday (yesterday) was Day 1 when He said **“Bereshit bara Elohim et Hashamayim ve'et ha'aretz”, which we generally translate as, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

**This Morning I will be talking about:**

1. Shofars, Trumpets, and Calendars first
- 2. Then we will study the meaning behind the year of 5782 Peh Bet,**  
And take a prophetic look at the year ahead
3. Lastly, we'll visit Bethlehem Ephrata for the Birth of Jesus on Rosh Hashanah

Today is Elul 26. **The month of Elul is when “The King is in the Field”.** God has drawn near to look closely at how we are tending the fields - **Elul is when you are preparing to meet God for judgment - But He comes to the field to be most approachable so we can truly know Him in His mercy.**

The earth was unformed and void, darkness was on the face of the deep, and **the Ruach Elohim (Spirit of God) hovered over the surface of the water.** He spoke and everything came into being... Then **Elohim** said, “Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule... **YEHOVAH Elohim, took the person and put him in the garden of ‘Eden to cultivate and care for it... Then YEHOVAH caused a deep sleep to fall upon the person; and while he was sleeping, he took one of his ribs and closed up the place from which he took it with flesh. The rib which YEHOVAH Elohim, had taken from the person, he made a woman-person; and he brought her to the man-person.**

So, this idea of the King is in the Field that we have during the month of Elul originated during creation's first 6 days when God was literally in the field of earth.

**And it continued:**

**“And they heard the voice of Yehovah Elohim walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yehovah Elohim amongst the trees of the garden.”** Genesis 3:8

The word used in Genesis 3 for God's “voice” is the Hebrew word “qoel”. It is also used for the sound of thunder, water, rain, a multitude, or when someone is calling out, shouting, or even singing. It's also used for the sound of a shofar blast.

The second phrase used in Genesis 3, **“in the cool”, is the Hebrew word “ruwach”.**

While ruwach is translated “cool” for this verse, it's used nearly one hundred times for “wind”, and several hundred times for the “Holy Spirit”. So, when we read a little deeper, we have the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all coming to deal with the sin of Adam and Eve, to bring them out of hiding. God's voice is carried on the wind of the Holy Spirit through the Garden beckoning Adam and Eve to come out of hiding. They find judgment, but they also find His deep love for them.

## 5. Rosh

The **Rosh** in **Rosh Hashanah** means **head or beginning of**. You will also run into the word **Rosh** every month because every month has a **Head or Beginning** on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month.

**God is a God of new beginnings.** That's why instead of celebrating just once a year, we have two New Year's Day celebrations. But He also commands us to celebrate new seasons, new months, new weeks, new days, and of course He really loves shofars and trumpets.

**One of the more important commands He makes is that we celebrate the beginning of every month**, at each new moon. That's twelve new beginnings! The beginning of each Hebrew month is called "Rosh Chodesh", or "the head of the month". Ironically, **chodesh**, the word for **month**, comes from **chadash**, the root for **new**.

Numbers 10 tells us, "When you go to war in your land against an adversary who is oppressing you, you are to sound an alarm with the trumpets; **then you will be remembered before Yehovah your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. Also on your days of rejoicing/gladness, at your set Feasts and on Rosh-Hodesh, you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; these will be your reminder before your God. I am Yehovah your God.**"

Notice, when we are facing attack and **He hears the trumpets, Yehovah will remember** His vows to us and save us. So it is, **when we hear the sound of the trumpets, it is our reminder that Yehovah is our God.**

During times of persecution the Jews were often forbidden to observe Rosh Chodesh as well as Shabbat to keep them from obeying God.

The Bible begins and ends with the Tree of Life - first in Eden, and then in paradise.

"The Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month...." Revelation. 22:2.

"He made the moon to mark the appointed times" each month (Psalm 104:19).

Revelation 22:14 reads: "Blessed are those who do His commandments so that they may have access the Tree of Life..."

**We are not obligated or bound by any law of God to observe any special feasts days, new moons, etc (except sabbaths).** But Isaiah prophesied about life in the Millennial Kingdom: "It shall be that from one Rosh Chodesh to another, and from one Shabbat to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, declares Yehovah" (Isa. 66:23).

God's calendar was instituted by Him, and the days have spiritual application to our lives as believers and as members of the house of Israel (Ephesians 2 says we have access by the blood of Jesus).

"For through him we have both access by one Spirit to the Father. So then ye are no longer strangers and foreigners, but ye are fellow-citizens of the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the corner-stone..."

Just because we aren't commanded to observe these days, it is an honor and joy to get to celebrate with Yeshua Jesus, because it is His glory that is revealed in each of these special times.

### Other Ways to Celebrate Rosh Hashanah:

**Food:** Eat apples dipped in honey and raisin bread dipped in honey.

Eat honey for a sweet year. Eat fruit to have a fruitful year.

Eat pomegranates – they have 613 seeds – there are 613 commandments in the bible.



**Casting Off:** There is a custom called Tashlikh (tash-lick) - it means to cast off.

Small pieces of bread are put in a pocket, and you empty your pockets in a stream, or collect pebbles from the bank and toss them in the stream.

**It's to symbolically cast your sins into the depths of the sea or to leave your past year behind.**

Just like at our Jan 1<sup>st</sup> New Year, you might make resolutions. [You might want to change behaviors to avoid temptation or sin, pray and prepare for anything God shows you about the coming year]

Tashlikh is normally observed before afternoon services of the first day unless it's Shabbat, when they'll observe Tashlikh on Sunday afternoon, to avoid carrying (the bread) on Shabbat.

### **Tashlikh prayers:**

Let us cast away the sin of deception, so that we will mislead no one in word or deed, nor pretend to be what we are not.

Let us cast away the sin of vain ambition, which prompts us to strive for goals which bring neither true fulfillment nor genuine contentment.

Let us cast away the sin of stubbornness, so that we will neither persist in foolish habits nor fail to acknowledge our will to change.

Let us cast away the sin of envy, so that we will neither be consumed by desire for what we lack nor grow unmindful of the blessings which are already ours.

Let us cast away the sin of selfishness, which keeps us from reaching out in love to others.

Let us cast away the sin of indifference, so that we may be sensitive to the sufferings of others and responsive to the needs of people everywhere.

Let us cast away the sin of pride and arrogance, so that we can worship God and serve God's purpose in humility and truth.

**Up next: 10 days to change everything**

## **6. The 10 Days of Awe**

Leviticus 23 says "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The Feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My Feasts ...which you shall proclaim **at their appointed times**'" [In their seasons].

Time isn't just flowing along randomly. We are on a journey to somewhere with a purpose. We are told to: "**Set up signposts, make landmarks; set your heart toward the highway**, the way in which you went. Turn back, O virgin of Israel, turn back to these your cities." Jeremiah 31:21

**These Feasts are markers on the road.**

- The Sabbath Rest reminds us that Jesus is our rest – **Are You Resting or Striving?**
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover, & Feast of Firstfruits – Our **Salvation** from Sin
- The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) – He **Empowers** Us
- The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) - He Is **Our Father** and **The Breath** Inside Us
- The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) – Judgment Is Coming – **Obey - Proclaim**
- The Feast of Tabernacles – He is preparing a place for us – **The Best Is Yet to Come**

The Feasts are a shadow of Christ;

The earthly Jewish temple was a shadow of the Temple in Heaven;

Jesus is that Temple, in the same way that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit here on earth. We are the hands and feet of Jesus on the earth - so these Feasts are part of us.

These Feasts were given to the Jews so they could recognize Jesus as Messiah. They all point to Jesus. Many Jews saw and followed Jesus, but the Jewish nation missed it.

Jesus revealed Himself to us Gentiles as well, which means these Feasts are also connected to us, they mark us with the fragrance of Jesus. Our daily lives are supposed to be an extension of the Feasts that points the Jews to Jesus. The heart and message of these Feasts should always be alive in us because they are revealing Christ (or revelations of Him). The Feasts are living testimonies of what He did and is doing in us. They are more than history; they are the story.

**Why should Christians observe Holy Days?** If we are not under the Law (and we are not), then why rest on a Holy Day or treat it like a Sabbath?

Holy Days are appointed days, set apart for repentance:

They are days God did something significant or will do something significant for our Salvation, so, it's the wrong time for doing what we want or acts of self-righteousness. Resting honors Him and shows we are not trying to do works of righteousness that will save us.

Rosh Hashanah was the **6th Day of Creation** when **God made Adam and Eve and when Jesus was likely born.**

The Feast of Trumpets kicks off the Ten Days of Awe which are days for us to repent and humble ourselves in His presence. **Adam and Eve made it till Day 10 when they brought sin into the perfect world and were tossed out of the Garden. That's Yom Kippur.**

God had a plan to fix their sin, failure, and rebellion. **He created Feasts to prepare the people for two things: His First and Second Coming.** They mark the Beginning of the **Tribulation**, the **Rapture** and **Second Coming**. It reminds us to lift up our voices like a trumpet to bring in a harvest of souls.

The Jews obviously don't celebrate the First coming of Jesus during the Feasts, but they do believe the Fall Feasts will mark the Judgment of the world. Rosh Hashanah is also called **the Day of Remembrance & Day of Judgment**. God is said to **inscribe the fate of every person for the upcoming year in the Book of Life or the Book of Death.**

It is the beginning of the Ten Days of Awe, when they are to focus on their sins of the past year - how they violated God's laws and injured other people. They are to confess their sins to God and seek to make things right with those they have hurt in hopes of influencing God's final judgment Before **their fate is sealed on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.**

**Obviously with Jesus we have a much better deal: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atonement sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commands."** 1 John 2:1-3

As Christians, we are born again. Because of Jesus every day is our Day of Atonement. We have a new destiny and a new eternity that are determined by our relationship with Jesus. As we repent of our sins and put our faith in Jesus, He saves us by grace through faith.

And because we do still sin, we need an advocate. **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** 1 John 1:9

The Days of Awe are a wonderful picture of confession and repentance that that leads to forgiveness which is available to us every day so we can live out the hope we have in Jesus.

**These 10 days are all about focusing on our choices and how they determine our destiny.**

Leviticus 10:11 **"distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean".**

Every time we repent - we are turning around and turning away from a sin that we are committing.

So, we are changing our destiny by changing our direction.

These 10 days help set the course for our year - The choices we make and directions we choose.

The 10 days are like a preview of the year ahead or a snapshot of trends.

What you conquer now - impacts your entire year ahead - decisions count more now

**I'll be back Wednesday September 16th to share on Yom Kippur to teach in detail about that Awesome Day.**

**A Quick Preview:** Yom Kippur is a day of total fasting, rest (absolutely no work), and prayer.

It is the only holiday that fasting is explicitly commanded by the Lord -

**"You shall afflict your souls"** (afflict doesn't mean to punish yourself but to humble yourself)

The Jews wear white (or burial clothes) - to live all day as if they were dead (fasting)

It's humbling yourself before God and reminder that you are mortal.

## II. Prophetic Numbers (7-17)

### 7. Peh and Bet (bait)

**Each year on Rosh Hashanah I like to give you a prophetic picture of the coming year.**

**God speaks constantly, quietly, and prophetically from His Biblical Calendar.** We need ears that can hear to be in sync with His times and seasons. He created an alphabet with letters, which are also numbers, and which are also prophetic. They don't dictate anything, and they have no power in themselves, but **they are predictive markers which cause us to turn aside to look**, like Moses did at the burning bush, so that we hear God's voice to see what He directs.

**Numbers have layers of revelation** that help us see Yeshua (Jesus). We can't judge what God is doing by what we see in the natural realm. God is always moving behind the scenes in a realm that's not visible, and His timing is perfect. The Hebrew alphabet has **22 letters. Each has three different prophetic attributes: a sound, a numeric value, and a pictograph or sign.**

**Yom Teruah** (The Feast of Trumpets and Head of the Year) occurred on September 7<sup>th</sup>, as we transitioned from the year 5781 to **5782. What do those numbers mean?** The first two numbers are 5700; it's the millennium and century. **In Hebrew, 5700 means, "may it be the year of..."**

We just started the 82<sup>nd</sup> year of that reality. The real prophetic aspect we are going to focus on is those last two numbers in the year, 82. There are two separate aspects, the 80, and the 2.

We've been studying the number 80 since it arrived two years ago. So, here's a quick refresher.



**80 is Peh and it means mouth, breath, speech, or word.**

**We are called to open our mouth, speak out, and proclaim the truth. the primary aspect of this decade of Peh is about the power of agreement or declaration. There are spiritual aspects, political or governmental realities, it comes to play in sports, in war, and just about everything in life.**

**The meaning of Hebrew letters comes from the first time they are used in Scriptures.**

**The first visible use of peh in the Torah was Genesis 4:11.**

**“Now you are cursed because of the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.”**

Here Cain is **cursed** because of **the cursed ground** that **opened its mouth** to receive **Abel's blood** from Cain's hand.

**So, the 1<sup>st</sup> use of mouth (peh) in the Torah deals with murder, curses, death, and the grave. So peh, all by itself, carries some ominous realities.**

Before we talk about the future, do these aspects of peh make sense with what we've see over the last two years?

Yes, the most interesting aspect of this **“Peh” decade**, is there has been **unprecedented resistance to anything concerning the mouth. continues to be very prominent.**

Since 5780 / 2020, we have seen the mouth thru breath carrying a deadly disease, wearing masks, the mouth speaking in accusation and protest bringing terrible destruction. The realm of politics and government has been front and center.

Peh has brought us murder, curses, death, and the grave, thanks to those who, like Cain, did not weigh the cost of their words or actions.

**As it turns out, 80 (Peh) is related to the other number we are looking at for this year of 5782, the 2 (Bet). These two numbers have a rather fascinating relationship, that's also a little complicated.** I said earlier that the letter **Peh** was not used **“visibly”** until Genesis chapter 4; but that also means it **was used in a non-visible way.**

**When you write the letter Peh, [it's a little like an o that's not completely closed on the bottom left. And the way the letter is designed, there is empty space inside the letter which looks like a backward C.**

**This empty space inside the letter Peh is in the shape of the letter Bet.**



**The letter Bet is literally hidden within the letter Peh. Or you could say, the peh is wrapped invisibly around the bet.**

So, technically we can say that **the first use of Peh** happened before it was used as the grave for Able in Genesis 4. The first time **peh** was used was when it was used in its hidden form when the letter **bet** was first used. As it happens, **Bet** (bait) is the first letter of the first word used in Scripture in Genesis chapter 1 verse 1. **Bereishit Bara Elohim... [In the beginning God created...]**

So, this idea of **Peh with hidden bet** came into play two years ago when the calendar flipped to 5780 (2020) – from the prophetic perspective, it meant that what was hidden would be exposed or unveiled.

This certainly happened in 2020 and 2021 with the revealing of the labs in China as the origin of the corona virus – and it also happened with the revealing of the corruption behind the 2020 elections – and there is still lots more].

## 8. Adding Bet to Peh

**It's now a new year, 5782. I talked about how the number two or bet is hidden inside the letter peh (80), and how that has been impactful for 5780/2020 and 5781/2021.**

**This year, for the first time the Bet is not hidden, it accompanies Peh. So bet is breaking out.**

What prophetic significance does that bring to the year ahead? What should we expect to see? What should we do to be in the plan of God?



**Bet is the first letter of the Torah** and of the Book of **Bereshit** (Genesis).

**The Pictographic of bet is considered a house or tent (with a door),** which introduces concepts like **building and dividing**.

**Bet/Two is also related to** the Hebrew word **shanah (year)**, which obviously carries the idea of **change or repeating**.

**Bet/two**, carries a lot of ramifications, both positive and negative.

**When two** (a male & a female) come together, they can join together **to form one** flesh, which brings **unity**. But obviously that doesn't always happen.

**Bet/two often brings increase because it's the first step past 1: which brings about** both, second, twice, double, repeat, dual, pair, blessing, abundance, couple, and the idea of dying to self.

**When bet is on the negative side, the concepts are divided, difference, oppose,** judge, discern, witness, conflict.

**So bet/two's character can be one of increase or division; making choices or opposition; blessing and constant contrast or conflicts and battles;** as in all war - judgment and discernment will be needed.

**So, before we get too deep into bet. Prophetically,** in the most basic sense, what does it mean for the year ahead that the hidden bet that's been inside peh for the last two years (2020 and 2021) is now breaking out, but will still be near peh?

Think back ten years to **2012**. That was **the last bet year, 5772**, but it was near the **aiyn or the eye** rather than **peh the mouth**, so it has similarities. For me it was one of the **toughest years of my life**. I thought the year might kill me; but **in the end it brought so much good, change, newness,** and really ended some major life seasons for both me and the radio station. But **it was brutal to live through**. I wish I had shown more faith and less fear; and walked in more confidence and less anxiety.

**Bet is really very familiar: Mankind has two natures which mirror the TWO trees in the Garden, The Tree of Life and The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.**

Jews call the two natures the **yetzer hara** and the **yetzer hatov**.

The good inclination and the evil inclination

**We must look inward at our heart to see which nature sits on our throne.**

**Bet/Two often presents challenging choices:**

Decisions that will lead to **life and blessing** OR **death and curses**;

A positive change can mean a redefining of direction **that will change who you become.**

With bet/two, **it can feel like you are somewhat disconnected to God.** You aren't, in reality. You are as near as ever. **It's just really easy to miss the still small voice** of God, much like Elijah did with Jezebel.

It's been debated as to **why the Torah started with the second letter** of the Hebrew alphabet (bet) and not the first (aleph)?

One answer is that **bet, with its value of two, symbolizes our world** (while one symbolizes the heavenlies).

In a positive sense, **bet** stands for man, his realm and all that God created for man's benefit.

In a negative light, **two stands for all that is separate or opposed to God.**

**When there was only God (Who is One) there was perfect unity** – one reality – one conformity.

The number two represents separation, division, and disunity (We undid perfection).

Consider some two's:

The **second sentence** in scripture speaks of chaos,

The **second chapter** reveals **two trees** representing **life and death.**

The second Feast is Unleavened Bread in the Spring (which includes Passover and Firstfruits).

**The feast divides or separates one from leaven.**

The lake of fire is called the **second death.**

## 9. The Blessing of Bet

**It's been noted that everything earthly is embedded in plurality or duality.**

**All that was created for man's use came in pairs:** Day / Night; Good / Evil; Man / Woman; Light / Darkness; Plus / Minus; Hot / Cold; Left / Right; Sons / Daughters.

Even the **SECOND Day** of creation was when God DIVIDED the upper and lower waters.

**The *shamayim* (heavenly waters) from the *mayim* (earthly waters).**

**It's also the only creation day that is NOT called *tov* (good).**

That doesn't make it bad, but we should be very careful in how and what we separate.

**Division is only truly good if it leads to building and gathering** (multiplication),  
**not tearing down and isolation** (reducing/division).

**Ideally, two should mirror one, as in the "two shall become one flesh."**

Thus, making a true "pair" that works together like one's ears, eyes, nostrils, hands, and feet.

**Adam (alone) God said: was not good.**

He made Eve and they **both** were naked, man and wife, and not ashamed. Genesis 2:25

The word Two [senayim] is first used in scripture in Genesis 4:19: **“Lemekh took himself two wives.”** First Cain killed Able and then Lemekh took two wives.

Both actions were separations from God’s standards.

**Context determines meaning (as with all numbers).**

**There are a bunch of things that point to the good side of two:**

There are **two great commandments** (love God/love neighbor), two houses of Israel, two sticks, two sisters, two olive branches, two silver trumpets, two leavened loaves on Shavuot, two cherubim guard Ark of the Covenant, two good spies (Joshua and Caleb), sons/daughters and two witnesses mentioned in the Bible.

**What is opposite is meant to complement for a blessing, not bring division and conflict.**

There were two pillars that protected and watched over Israel in the wilderness: a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

**Two is meant to bring a blessing, *barukh / berakhah*, which begins with the letter bet.**

**To bless is to multiply something or someone. With the number two, multiplication becomes possible.**

**When Yeshua (Jesus) came** as Messiah (The Mashiach ben Yosef), He brought atonement for sin, but which required His death.

**When Yeshua (Jesus) returns** as Messiah (The Mashiach ben David), He will reign and endure.

**Adam (the first Adam)** was perfect, but he sinned and destroyed the world.

**Yeshua (Jesus) [the second Adam]** rebuilt and corrected that which had been destroyed.

**Two conveys the verification of facts by witnesses.**

**The testimony of at least 2 people were needed to convict someone of a crime or sin.**

**When two isn’t reflecting unity, it denotes division** rather than multiplication (which is blessing).



Combining Peh (the mouth or word), with Bet (two, house, division, choice, change), we have the idea of **creation, habitation**, and all that is possible with the power of the tongue –that’s for bad and for good.

**When God spoke, He created. Within the mouth He has placed the power to create. 80 is about the power of agreement or declaration**

Revelation 17:14 **“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”**

Just about every Hebrew prayer begins, **“Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha Olam” or, Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the Universe.**

**Yehovah is King of the Universe!** Over all the planets, stars, galaxies, all matter, and energy...”

**But the enemy of our soul will not stop making war against us.**

Thankfully, the Lamb Yeshua (Jesus) will overcome these evil warriors we’re battling.

**But it won’t be with metal swords or laser beams.**

**“...Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it [the tongue] will eat its fruit.”** Proverbs 18

The CJB version say, **“A person’s belly will be filled/satisfied with the fruit of his mouth;**

**with what his lips produce** he will be filled/ satisfied.  
**The tongue has power over life and death;** those who indulge it must eat its fruit.”

I love how that translation puts it:

**“The tongue has power over life and death;  
and secondly, those who indulge it must eat its fruit.”**

**Remember that. Don't underestimate what you say, and especially don't underestimate what others say to you, try to say to you, or try to get you to accept or believe. Whatever you pander to, will become a part of you.**

How many times in recent years have you seen a person (especially politicians) overtly lie, but then call it the truth; and with their words, establish in the minds of their listeners that the lie was the truth. They dismiss the actual truth and scoff at it as if it's silly because they are establishing the lie as the truth. That's the power of the tongue - for bad.

## 10. Making War

**Mankind has two natures.** The evil inclination and the good inclination.  
We will see both in the coming year: **It will be a good year with lots of bad mixed in.**  
It requires us to look inward at the heart to see which nature sits on every throne.  
We will need wisdom for the year ahead.

**When there are Two there is a choice:**

Decisions will lead to either **life and blessing** OR they will lead to **death and curses;**

If we make **positive changes, we redefine** our direction **and change who we become.**  
If we make **negative changes, we redefine** our direction **and change who we become.**

**Two is bet, and it's meant to bring a blessing. The letter bet begins the words barukh / berakhah or blessing, so blessing requires “bet”. The good that is coming will require labor and birth pains.**

Keep in mind, there are **two realms at creation: the heavens and the earth.**  
You could also call them **the supernatural and the natural, or the spiritual and the flesh.**  
A war has raged there from the beginning of time and continually in every life.  
**We may be able to see this war more visibly and from a new perspective in this coming year.**

**“Behold, I have created the blacksmith** who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and **I have created the spoiler to destroy.**  
**No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.** This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.” Isaiah 54:16-17

**The Peh is the mouth – the power is there. Choose to speak life, blessing, and prosperity over everything.** **“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”** (Ephesians 6:12)



“Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm: **“Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?”**

Job 42:1-12 “Then Job replied to the Lord: “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

What is Job’s response to God challenging his understanding of justice? Job realizes that when we complain or murmur, **we exalt situations, and so insult God’s ability and justice**, making Him our enemy. So, quickly he concludes that we can’t comprehend justice or injustice. God is greater.

**God says twice to brace ourselves [to recognize who we are as warriors, and the ability He has given us, which clearly is sufficient for our suffering].**

He tells us **to hear His words so we will have ears to hear**. You can have your own opinions, but you can’t have your own truth.

## **The Name of the Father**

**“...Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”**

Our tongues have the power to create. This year I have tried to draw attention to what I believe is **the most crucial issue that Christians and the church have literally lost sight of: The Name of the Father**. In that one name lies blessing, power, and intimacy with the Living God Yehovah.

Isaiah 12:4 “On that day you will say, **“Give thanks to Yehovah! Call on His name! Make his deeds known among the peoples, declare how exalted is his name.”** But 6,828 times, English language Bible Translators and Publishers have decided for you and me that we should not fulfill that command. They replaced the name of the Father with LORD, calling that His name.

**“Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel...**

**יהוה Yehovah (not The LORD) God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.**

When God appeared to Israel on Mt Sinai, there was thunder and shofars and fire, and then the first three words He said were, **“Anokhi Yehovah Elohekha.” “I am Yehovah, your God.”** Exodus 20:2

**We are commanded around 250 times to proclaim His name, sing praises to His name, Extol Him by His name, etc. And there is a powerful promise associated with speaking it:**

Exodus 20:24 **“In every place where I cause my name to be mentioned, I will come to you and bless you.”**

**The Romans in 138 A.D. banned the Jews from speaking the name of Yehovah.**

Sometime later the Jews declared the name of Yehovah was too holy to speak.

**It’s not. It’s too holy NOT to speak.**

Sadly, despite these simple realities, English language translators and publishers are still greatly influenced by the Rabbinic traditions, **so our Bibles are void of the 6,828 times the name of the Father is present in the Hebrew scriptures.**

If there ever has been a time when we need to experience the reality of Exodus 20:24 it's now.

**“In every place where I cause my name to be mentioned, I will come to you and bless you.”**

2 Chronicles 7:14 says, **“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face... it's time we were called by His name.**

Psalm 9 says, He said, **“Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Yehovah, [you will need to read a version that doesn't replace His name with O Lord] have never forsaken those who seek you.”** We need to know how to trust our God; knowing His name is a big part of that.

### III. The Birth of Christ (12-16)

#### 11. The Timeless Gospel Story began at Creation

The first mention of the Gospel story, though it was rather veiled, is following the Fall when God pronounces judgment on the serpent. **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed (zera) and her Seed (zera); He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”** Genesis 3:15

God sacrificed an animal to make Adam and Eve clothes. We know from the dispute between Cain and Abel, that they understood the significance of sacrifice. So, the reality of the need for blood to enable forgiveness was taught from the beginning. We know that our righteousness is in Christ. That has never changed.

Noah (born 1,000 years after Adam – the 10<sup>th</sup> generation) was the only righteous man in his time – the belief in a coming Messiah had vanished except for him.

Job (and his three comforters knew about it after the Flood: **“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh will I see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes – I and not another. How my heart yearns within me”.**

**Abraham was a contemporary of Job's, about 400 years after the Flood. Noah was still alive.**

God promised Abram he would have a son, and even changed his name to Abraham. He and Sarah were around 100 when Isaac was finally born. Then, in Genesis 22, we read what seems like an intensely disturbing command by God for Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.

**I don't think I could do that or would not do it. But he didn't seem to even blink.**

And yet I have Jesus living inside me, along with the Holy Spirit, who give me access to the Father and I am seated in heavenly places with Christ. What did Abraham have to inspire such faith?

**“Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey...”** Genesis 22

When God told him that Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be destroyed, he begged and pleaded for their lives. **“Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous**

people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?" (He negotiates down to needing only 10).

Abraham does not plead for the life of his son. He very possibly thought Isaac was the promised Messiah, the child of the Promise. First of all, Abraham did receive a very specific promise that he would have a son at a particular time (Genesis 17:15-16, 18:10).

He does not question God's command. Why not? **Did Abraham know the Messiah had to be sacrificed and then would be resurrected? And did he believe his son was that sacrifice?** Abraham obeyed "early the next morning," and traveled for three days with their servants to make this horrible sacrifice.

When they arrived, Abraham says this to the servants who accompanied them: **"Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."**

Abraham indicated they were both coming back.

**How do all these ancient saints have such a profound understanding of the Gospel and are able to hold onto an unshakable faith for long stretches of time with no bible, no Jesus in them, no Holy Spirit in them, no church or pastor, nothing?**

**God wrote His Gospel in the Stars Themselves**

Psalms 19:1-4 **"The heavens declare** the glory of God; **the skies proclaim** the work of His hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night **they reveal knowledge.**

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

**The stars are revealing knowledge to us about Jesus**

Isaiah 40:26 **"Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?**

**He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.**

**Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."**

God let man name the animals but,

**God named the stars on Day 4 and He made each one with a purpose.**

**Its name tells you its purpose.**

**Long before Moses wrote down the story in the Torah, God wrote the story in the stars.**

**We can look up and literally read the Bible.**

## **12. The Stars Prophecy**

Revelation 13:8 identifies Jesus as, **"the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world."** (Meaning from Day 1 thru Day 6)

**Let's track back to Day 4 When Jesus created the Sun, Moon, Stars, and Time**

Genesis 1:14

**"Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons [months], and for days and years."**

The word translated **seasons is [mo-ad] - it means appointed times**

It doesn't mean the four seasons, but more likely months, because the phrase "appointed times" is

only used for the Feasts, which were determined by the new moon which is at the beginning of every Biblical month.

You may be familiar with the word zodiac – it's often associated with astrology

**Astrology says a man can tell something about himself from the stars. That's NOT truth.**

**The Bible says that the stars tell us something about God and His plan for the world.**

The Bible condemns everything about astrology - it's occultism.

Because God created us, and He alone sets our destiny.

Astrology tried to corrupt the story by changing the characters into mythological deities with silly stories. The real story in the stars was written by God Himself – it's the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Stars have a Purpose: **“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons...”** Genesis 1

When God was speaking with Job (Job 38), He asked, **“Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth [Constellations] in its season? Or can you guide Arcturus? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?”**

According to Arabic tradition, the signs of the zodiac came originally from Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam. In Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned, how did God describe how He would redeem them? **It was the story of the future Messiah, the Seed of the woman, crushing the head of the serpent (Satan).**

One of the many ways we see Jesus as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world is when we first see death enter the world. God killed animals to cloth Adam and Eve, and we see blood sacrifices beginning soon after. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. This was also built into the design of the universe. The constellation Ara is an altar. The Milky Way usually represents the smoke rising from the altar. There is a Ram and a Bull constellation. A herdsman like you would find in Bethlehem raising sacrificial animals.

There is a serpent constellation to tell the Eden story. There is the great dragon, we know as Satan. An Eagle, which is associated with the gift of prophecy. There is the dove, which speaks of Noah and the Flood. There are several wreaths or crowns to speak of royalty and marriage. There is a cup or chalice, used in Sabbath meals, Passover and in communion. There is a celestial river, which you will find flowing from the throne of God. And of course, the Southern Cross.

When the Bible says, **“Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world”**, it means several things, including that the testimony or story is written into the universe itself. The story of Jesus as Redeemer was literally written in the heavens using the constellations when they were made. And this is the ancient story.

### **The Seed Zera Arrives**

In May of 4 BC, during the priestly course of Abijah, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zachariah in the Temple and foretold the conception and birth of a son to be called John (the Baptist). Luke 1:5-25

**In June Zachariah' priestly duties were done, and John the Baptist was conceived.**

We know John the Baptist was 6 months older than Jesus, because Mary traveled to Judea to see her cousin Elizabeth, who was now six months pregnant. (Luke 1:26-56).

**John was born** to Zacharias and Elizabeth during **Passover in the Spring** (near March 10, 3 BC), Luke 1:57-80. Which means **Jesus was born 6 months later during the Fall Feasts, (September 11, 3 BC)**, six months after that of John.

**Every year since 164BC** the Jews have celebrated the cleansing of the temple by the Maccabees with an 8-day festival called Hanukkah, “the Feast of Lamps.”

**Doing the math** - Gabriel appeared to Mary, and **Jesus was conceived** by the Holy Spirit 9 months earlier, would have been in December of 4 BC during the **Festival of Lights - Hanukkah**.

**15 months later, the Magi arrived during Hanukkah in 2 B.C. when we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.**

Meaning both the conception of Jesus in 4 BC and the visit of the Magi in 2 BC, occurred during the celebration of Hanukkah on the Jewish calendar.

### 13. A Great Sign Was Seen In Heaven

We are told the details of the birth of Jesus in three places in the New Testament: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and in Chapter 12 of Revelation. The version in Revelation showed us a picture of the night sky that revealed the precise date and hour of the birth of Jesus.

Together with the Gospel accounts, and Old Testament prophecies, we can easily pinpoint the facts. Here’s the Apostle John’s account in Revelation:

“Now a great sign was seen in heaven — a woman clothed with the sun, under her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and about to give birth, and she screamed in the agony of labor.

Another sign was seen in heaven there was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven royal crowns. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of heaven and threw them down to the earth. It stood in front of the woman about to give birth, so that it might devour the child the moment it was born.

She gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who will rule all the nations with a staff of iron. But her child was snatched up to God and his throne; and she fled into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be taken care of for 1,260 days.” Revelation 12:1-6

We know the great sign in heaven was speaking about Jesus being born to Mary. Based on that sign He would have to be born when Virgo (originally called **Bethulah the Vigin**) was **clothed with the sun**, and that happens every year around **September**.

Jesus was 30 years old at the time of His baptism. Luke tied this event to the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (which was in 27-28 AD). This would then place the birth of Christ in 3 BC.

**We can use modern technology to tell us that in the years Jesus would have to have been born (4BC- 2AD) the one that best matches the sign in heaven is 3 BC. And in 3 BC, the position of the Sun**, as described in Revelation 12 **could only have occurred August 27 through September 15.**

**During that same time, the Moon crossed the Virgin constellation every day and was under her feet each evening.** With the sun and moon being in such close proximity, the Revelation 12 sign is indicating a new moon, not a full moon which occurs at most Feasts.

So, Jesus' birth was not possible on the Feast of Tabernacles or on Passover, as some propose. Both occur in the middle of lunar months when the moon is full, which would not meet the signs required by Revelation 12.

The Romans also give us some clues. Jesus could not have been born during any one of the three Pilgrim Feasts: Passover/Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, or Tabernacles. These were times when all Jewish men in Israel were required by the Law to be in Jerusalem.

The Romans would not have selected any of the three primary festival seasons for a census in Israel, in order to increase compliance by the Jews. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, not to Jerusalem at the time of His birth!

**The Caesars** - 3 BC and 2 BC was a period for celebrating the glory of Rome.

2 BC was the 750th year of the founding of Rome.

Caesar Augustus celebrated his 25th year as Emperor in 2 BC, counted from the time he was proclaimed "Augustus" in 27 BC.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> of 2 BC Augustus was awarded his most prestigious title: Pater Patriae (Father of the Country).

This award confirms the chronology of Jesus' birth because a decree went out from Augustus that the entire Roman people were required to register their oath of allegiance to in the year prior to the award, which was 3 BC.

**In the year 3 B.C., the Sun and Moon were in the proper positions only one time, September 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:15pm and lasting until 7:45pm. As the New Moon appeared it signaled the beginning of a new lunar month on Tishri 1.**

**So, according to the Revelation 12 signs, Jesus was born between sunset and moonset on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 B.C. on Rosh Hashanah.**

Interestingly, "the enthronement Psalms" in which Yehovah reigns (Psalms 47, 93, 96-99), were a part of the liturgy of the ancient synagogues on this date.

Tishri 1, the day of trumpets, was the day that many of Israel's kings were inaugurated, including Solomon, Jeremiah, and Ezra.

**Rosh Hashanah was day 6 of creation when Adam and Eve were created. So, it makes sense that Jesus, the second Adam, who was the Creator, would be born then as well.**

It was the day God re-created the world: "By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry". Genesis 8:13

The sign of Revelation 12:6 also has a future fulfillment, "Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she ha(s) a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days." The time the woman is in the wilderness, 1260 days, is the reign of the Antichrist. This is a picture of Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt, and so also a prophetic picture of the flight of the righteous at the Midpoint of the Tribulation."

## 14. The Manger

### 2000 Years Ago in a Bethlehem Field

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And **this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.**”

We know the shepherds end up in the right place,  
**But how did the shepherds find Jesus with only three vague clues?**

1. A newborn baby
2. Swaddling cloths
3. The Manger

A typical home in that time, had a dug-out area below the house where they kept the animals. To find a specific place, you would need some type of directions.

#### **How did the shepherds find Jesus with such odd vague directions?**

First, the Hebrew would have been,

*“You will find **the** Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in **The Manger.**”*

Adding a instead of **the** was a choice of modern translators.

The shepherds of Bethlehem were in charge of raising sheep for the temple sacrifices.

Every lamb born there made its way to Jerusalem to be sacrificed.

According to the laws governing sacrifice, the sheep that were used for the offerings had to be:

- a one-year-old male sheep
- that had been outside for 365 days (one-year)
- the male sheep were offered as burnt offerings
- the females as peace-offerings.

Since these sheep needed to remain outside the shepherds were also outside-

**“That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep”.**

The hills of Bethlehem were home to the many thousands of lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple. As a boy from Bethlehem, King David would likely have tended sheep in these very hills that were destined for the daily offerings or the feasts. **These shepherds knew that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.**

#### **Where in Bethlehem?**

Just northeast of the shepherd's fields are the ruins of ancient Bethlehem Ephrath, near a place called Migdal Eder - near the tomb of Rachel. Genesis 35 and 48 say that Rachel was buried at, **"Ephrath, which is Bethlehem."**

Micah 4:8 **"And you, O Tower of the Flock (in Hebrew, Migdal Eder [mig-dale e-dar]), the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto you shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem"**

Meaning, a king would be born at Migdal Eder to a girl from the line of David.

At the base of the Migdal Eder watchtower was a special birthing room called **The Manger**, for birthing these very special sacrificial lambs.

The Angels declaration to the Bethlehem Shepherds **could only mean “The Manger” at the base of the Tower of the Flock.**

The shepherds were trained as children what was required for each sheep to be worthy of sacrifice. During lambing season, the sheep were brought to the watchtower from the fields.

Being themselves under special rabbinical care, these priests would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean birthing place.

They would wrap the newborn lambs in Swaddling Clothes, to prevent them from thrashing about and harming themselves. It was their job to make sure that the animals weren't damaged or blemished. After the lambs had calmed down, they could be inspected to make sure they were without spot or blemish.

**Being “wrapped in swaddling clothes” would only be a significant clue if the angels were referring to a Passover Lamb.** Newborn babies had been wrapped in swaddling cloths long before the time of Jesus; it was common, so it was not a good clue unless it was the cloths used by the Shepherd Priests

**These shepherds weren't random. They were notified by the angels because it was their calling to certify Passover lambs at birth.**

## 15. A Guest Room

If Jesus was born in **“The Manger” at the base of the Tower of the Flock** at Migdal Eder **in Ephrath, which is Bethlehem**, then what happened to there being no room at the inn?

Most Christians know Jesus was not born on December 25th. This date was established by the Roman Catholic church around 360 AD, when they held a special mass to honor Christ, while the pagan world celebrated Saturnalia, a feast honoring the birth of their sun god. As the church grew in power and Roman deities faded away, the church kept the day, and it eventually became known as "Christ-Mass".

Mass has two meanings for the Catholics: Originally it meant the victim of a Sacrifice – Death. Eventually it meant to be sent on a mission – Go. So, in one sense you can't celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas without also focusing on His death.

**The Inn** - There is another verse that causes some confusion with the way it's been translated.

**“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in the manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”**

The word translated as “Inn” is Katalyma – ka-tall-e-mah - It means guest chamber not an inn.

- A Kataluma would have been a guest room in the family home in Bethlehem that Mary and Joseph would stay in when they visited.  
At least three times a year for the Feasts - like every other Jew
- Both Joseph and Mary were direct descendants of King David, whose lineage and property went back to Boaz (who married Ruth).



- Boaz owned a home with a threshing floor in Bethlehem which, by right of inheritance, was handed down to succeeding generations
- Joseph was of David's lineage through his son Solomon.  
Mary, was of David's lineage through his son Nathan (brother of Solomon).
- These guys are from the royal line

### **Unclean Not Unwanted**

Is there any good reason a pregnant Jewish woman couldn't stay in their family home during a High Feast Day?

According to the Torah, **when a woman had an issue of blood for any reason, like pregnancy**, she was ritually unclean for that time and for seven days after.

**“Anything she lies on during her period will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean....Anyone who touches anything she sits on will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening...A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days...”**

**She had to live separately so as not to defile the people in the household by her presence and definitely by a birth in the house.** (Leviticus 15:19-23).

So **“no room” actually means something very different.** The Jews are very family oriented – they all live together. That story, translated that way, would be offensive anywhere.

Would her family, who loved her, send her to give birth in a filthy stable of animals.

Prophecies about the Messiah tell us He “would be revealed from Migdal Eder”.

We don't know the exact circumstances, but there is much more to the story.