

THE BIBLICAL NEW YEAR



Scripture records that YHWH said to Israel:

Exo 12:2 This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

And also:

“Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of Yahweh your Elohim... (Deuteronomy 16:1)”

The first month of the year for Israel was to be the month of Aviv. It is this month that is the New Year for Israel.

Of course the date for this month is always 1st Aviv on the lunar Hebrew calendar but the corresponding date on the solar Gregorian calendar will be different each year. This year the 1st Aviv New Year will begin on the evening of the Gregorian date 7th April and continue through the daylight of 8th April. This is because the biblical day begins at evening and darkness and finishes with the daylight. We are given this pattern because it enables us to see and understand that there will be a time of darkness (tribulation) before the light (day) of Messiah’s kingdom is established.

Judiasm has decreed that there is also what they call the ‘civil new year’ which they celebrate on Rosh Hashanah (the feast of Yom Teruah). However there is no scriptural justification for this as the new year for true Israel.

We are also told that all the feasts of scripture are ‘shadows of things to come’.

Shaul writes:

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah. (Colossians 2:16-17)”

Many use this passage to justify not keeping the feasts anymore. They would claim that it does not matter what day we keep as a Sabbath or any other festival.

In truth this passage isn't a statement apposed to the feast days of Yahweh, (as many believe it to be) rather it is an affirmation to keep Yahweh's Sabbaths etc. It is telling Israel not to let the Gentile culture oppress them so that they forsake these "shadows" or festivals because they are about Israel's High Priest – King Messiah YahShua.

The Hebrew word for shadow is צֶלַח tzel.

A shadow is merely an outline or projection of some image much more solid and tangible. The shadow can only be seen when there is light available.

The word for a more tangible image in Hebrew is צֶלֶם (tzeh'lem).

In other words, the shadow (tsel)... is actually an external manifestation of the tzeh'lem – true image!

What is the true image then of the feasts? It is Messiah Yahshua and the Torah with all its commandments and precepts. It is the Torah that is the projection of the person of Yahshua.

There are very significant events in the history of Israel past and future on this date of 1st Aviv.

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am Elohim, and there is no other; I am Elohim, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfil my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do . (Isaiah 46:9-11)”

Most people probably believe that the feast Days are arbitrarily given dates to correspond to an agricultural cycle. However, if we look with a Hebraic mind we will see the historic connections which are in YHWH Word of many things that happened before the date of a particular feast was given to Israel.

The 1st of Abib

The Theme of the 1st of Abib is cleansing and new beginnings.

- The priesthood prepare themselves in accordance with the Torah on Aviv 1. Ezekiel 45:18-20 shows the cleansing process. **"Thus says the Sovereign Yahweh: "In the first month, on the first day of the month, you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary. The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering and put it on the doorposts of the Temple, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the gateposts of the gate of the inner court. And so you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the Temple. "**

This process is true for both the Levitical priesthood and the Melech Tzadick priesthood.

- On Abib 1 the water began to dry up after the flood. (Genesis 8:13,14)
- Two years after the Exodus, Moses was instructed by Yahweh to build the Tabernacle. On the 1st of Abib Moses set up the Tabernacle.

“So the Tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year. (Exodus 40:17-19, 34, 35)”

- Abib 1 was the death date of Miriam the drumming prophetess who danced at the shore of the Red Sea.

After King Solomon died, a series of wicked kings led a divided House of Israel and House of Judah. Finally, Yahweh raised up King Hezekiah who:

“He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, just as his father David had done. In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of Yahweh and repaired them. (2 Chronicles 29:2-3)”

- When he came to power, the House of Yahweh was in such ruins that it took weeks to repair and cleanse. **“They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of Yahweh. For eight more days they consecrated the Temple of Yahweh itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month. (2 Chronicles 29:17)”**

Hezekiah suspended the cleansing of Abib 1 because of the failure of the priesthood to sanctify themselves (2Chron. 30:3). **“For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem.**

- Abib 1 was the day that Ezekiel received a word from Yahweh that Egypt will be given to Nebuchadnezzar for destroying Tyre. But by Abib the 7th Yahweh condemned Egypt to destruction.

“In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month on the first day, the word of Yahweh came to me: "Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon drove his army in a hard campaign against Tyre; every head was rubbed bare and every shoulder made raw. Yet he and his army got no reward from the campaign he led against Tyre. (Ezekiel 29:17, 18)”

“So I will inflict punishment on Egypt, and they will know that I am Yahweh.” “In the eleventh year, in the first month on the seventh day, the word of Yahweh came to me: "Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh King of Egypt. It has not

been bound up for healing or put in a splint so as to become strong enough to hold a sword. (Ezekiel 30:19-21)”

- Ezra the Prophet began his journey to rebuild Israel on the 1st of Abib in the year 457 BCE: **“He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his Elohim was on him. (Ezra 7:9)”**
- Abib 1 was the deadline for the sons of Israel to put off the unholy lives and wives in days of Ezra.
- On Aviv 1 YahShua enters Jerusalem from Bethphage. **“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then YahShua sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The King has need of them," and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." So the disciples went and did as YahShua commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. (Matthew 21:1-7)”**

Messiah Yahshua goes up on the Temple Mount and cleanses the Temple. He has a direct conflict with some of the Scribes but more importantly with the illegal Temple Leadership. We can now see why YahShua’s first action on entering Jerusalem was the **“Cleansing of the Temple.”** **“Then YahShua went into the Temple of Yahweh and drove out all those who bought and sold in the Temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, "My house shall be called a House of Prayer," but you have made it a "den of thieves." Then the blind and the lame came**

to Him in the Temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna ben David!" they were indignant^{and} said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And YahShua said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise'?" (Matthew 21:12-16)"

- **In the future, on the 1st of Abib we will cleanse the Messianic Temple: "This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: 'In the first month on the first day you are to take a young bull without defect and purify the sanctuary.' (Ezekiel 45:18)"**