

A New Year

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”, Matthew 16:18.

The Lord had named Peter ‘Cephos’, a stone, not a rock, John 1:42. Jesus built the Church upon a rock that neither man nor a devil can destroy.

If we look at the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, and the Jewish calendar, we can obtain enough information for our Lord’s Resurrection to have been the inception of the Church.

If we take the Jewish side first, it relates very much to the Feasts ordained by God.

Feasts that set a pattern for our Lord’s Death and Resurrection.

Feasts that established the fifty days between His Crucifixion and the endowing of the Churches with the Holy Spirit.

The forty days, Acts 1:3 correlating to the forty years in the wilderness, with the light of God shielding the Israelites at night, and the cloud by day, Exodus 14:19-20.

The ten days of waiting for God’s Time to bless the new born Church with a spiritual power.

In Biblical times, they celebrated the following Jewish religious feasts,

Passover, a period covering parts of our March–April.

Pentecost, the fiftieth day counted from Passover.

God required Pentecost to be established in the following manner, “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and

ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord”, Leviticus 23:15-16.

Fifty, in the New Testament, represents a Spiritual union between God and man.

For Jesus, He was the ‘blood of the lamb’.

Then Jesus did what the ‘blood of the lamb’ could not do. He shed His Blood to remove our sins, not just cover them.

His Resurrection proved beyond any doubt that we could, by following in His Footsteps, have a life after an earthly death.

Jesus was Crucified at the Feast of Passover. The Israelites had to celebrate Passover before they could leave Egypt. Man has to seek redemption before he can pass over from a life of bondage to a life of freedom.

For the Church today, I believe that our Passover signifies the leaving of one year to enter a New Year in the Lord.

The Church today is not, and was never intended to be a building where people would congregate for prayer, sing praises to God, and possibly receive a word of instruction.

The Church is the cathedral of God, composed of many small temples. Each temple is a person called from within people resident on this planet.

The Will and Testament of Jesus enabled the Birth of the Church. His Resurrection was the undeniable fact that He could open the way for man into a New Way of living.

“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth”, Hebrews 9:15 – 17.

That fiftieth day, as it reads in the Book of Acts, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place”, Acts 2:1.

As we have just celebrated Passover, I believe it is Acts 2:1 that our Heavenly Father will be looking for in His Son’s Church.

God will build it with many stones upon a rock, and hell will never be able to prevail against it.

Satan has got man attempting to destroy that which has been in existence for two thousand years, and is yet to show a sign that he is making any visible damage.

Jesus, at His Death, went into the belly of the earth. Wherever He went, the gates automatically opened for Him.

Hell could not set a gate that would hinder sinful man from entering through the gate of Salvation.

“...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”