



10-12-17

Shemini Atzeret-Eight Day of Assembly

Leviticus 23:36-37

Numbers 29:35-39

1Kings 8:51-61

Acts 7:8

The seven days of Sukkot, which end with Hoshana Rabbah, are followed by another festival, Shemini Atzeret, the Eighth Day of Assembly. The Torah says, "The eighth day shall be an assembly for you; you may not do any mundane work" (Numbers 29:35). It is a festival, in its own right, independent of Sukkot, and is observed one day in the land of Israel; outside the Land of Israel it is observed two days.

Leviticus 23:36-38

36 For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. **On the eighth day, you shall hold a holy convocation** and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work. ³⁷ "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, ³⁸ besides the LORD's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD. (ESV)

Many people do not understand that the eighth day of Sukkot, known as Shemini Atzeret, is a separate festival that stands on its own apart from Sukkot yet connected to it as it is the completion to Sukkot. When Sukkot ends, the Lord wants His people to stay with Him one more day. He does not want them to leave, so He asks them to stay with Him. This one day is the completion of all things as we will stay with God forever to live with Him on a new earth that comes out of the destruction God brings to defeat Satan once and for all. Satan has spent one thousand years bound in the bottomless pit most likely struggling to get free but is unable to do it. At the close of the Messianic Age, he is released to go about, one final time, deceiving mankind to rebel against God. Some will, and this will bring on the battle of God and Magog that will bring about the defeat of Satan and those who chose to follow him. It is a sad commentary that many believers do not understand the place of God's Biblical Festivals in His plan.

They are an outline of what has already come and what is to come. The spring festivals of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Shavuot were all about the Messiah's first coming, and they have been brought to fulfillment with His death and resurrection

and the giving of the *Ruach HaKodesh* to mankind. This is only the beginning of the story. We need the fall festivals to understand the rest of the story. There will be a war called Armageddon that has to take place before the Messianic Age comes in, but even before the war, there will be a time of troubles that will lead to the anti-messiah coming on the scene. Will it take place in our time? Who knows except God. There should be a false prophet as well, and peace will come to the world, a false peace, and it will fall apart when the third Temple is built and the anti-messiah goes in and takes it over making himself a god. Hell on earth begins, but it will probably begin sooner to lay the pieces out and get them ready to fit where they belong.

The world will come against Israel, much as they have done throughout its existence. However, in this case, they will come to the gates of Jerusalem, and when it looks like the city is going to fall He comes – the Messiah Yeshua returns with His army. Somewhere in this mix, a group of people are taken to a place where they will be protected for a time.

Revelation 3:7 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Philadelphia, write: 'Here is the message of *HaKadosh*, the True One, the one who has the key of David, who, if he opens something, no one else can shut it, and if he closes something, no one else can open it. ⁸ "I know what you are doing. Look, I have put in front of you an open door, and no one can shut it. I know that you have but little power, yet you have obeyed my message and have not disowned me. ⁹ Here, I will give you some from the synagogue of the Adversary, those who call themselves Jews but aren't- on the contrary, they are lying- see, I will cause them to come and prostrate themselves at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ **Because you did obey my message about persevering, I will keep you from the time of trial coming upon the whole world to put the people living on earth to the test.** ¹¹ I am coming soon; hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. ¹² I will make him who wins the victory a pillar in the Temple of my God, and he will never leave it. Also, I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God's city, the new Yerushalayim coming down out of heaven from my God, and my own new name. (CJB)

He will keep from the time of testing a group that resembles the congregation in Philadelphia. This is not saying there will be what is known as the rapture. Daniel talks about a "catching away," but we do not know exactly what is going to happen. The word rapture comes from a Latin word from the Latin translation of the Bible by the Church father Jerome. It's his understanding of what he believes will happen, but so much of this is speculation. The Apostle Paul was anticipating the return of Yeshua in his lifetime, and his writings reflect this. As time went by, he mellowed out, encouraging others to persevere until Messiah returned. In every age, people were looking for Yeshua and were disappointed. We are told to keep ourselves occupied until all things happen.

Numbers 29:35-40

35 "On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly. You shall not do any ordinary work, ³⁶ but you shall offer a burnt offering, a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish, ³⁷ and the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, in the

prescribed quantities; ³⁸ also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering. ³⁹ "These you shall offer to the LORD at your appointed feasts, in addition to your vow offerings and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your grain offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings." ⁴⁰ So Moses told the people of Israel everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses. (ESV)

What also sets the eighth day apart is it is treated as a Sabbath. It will be a solemn assembly without any ordinary work.

*In kabbalistic teachings, the number seven symbolizes perfection – perfection that is achievable via natural means – **while eight symbolizes that which is beyond nature and its (inherently limited) perfection.***

The eighth day is the day beyond the seven days. Creation was a time constrained event in the physical world while eight is the time beyond time. This teaching is tied to *kabbalistic teaching*, which is based on Jewish mysticism. What we need to keep in mind is that some things tied to kabbalah are Biblical truths. What we define as the supernatural can be God given miracles, examples of His power. What we define as the occult is also what can be seen as supernatural, but from a different perspective that originates from Satan and those who serve him, fallen angels now known as demons.

1 Kings 8:54-66

54 Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. ⁵⁵ And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, ⁵⁶ "Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. ⁵⁷ The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, ⁵⁸ that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. ⁵⁹ Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, ⁶⁰ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. ⁶¹ Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day." ⁶² Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. ⁶³ Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So, the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. ⁶⁴ The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings. ⁶⁵ So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from Lebohamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days. ⁶⁶ On the **eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their homes**

joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people. (ESV)

Solomon dedicated the first Temple, and he started off so well in his intentions for his reign, but as we are all aware, he strayed from the path of Torah and turned away from God to embrace the gods of his foreign wives. Never had a man be so blessed with so much in the beginning, and perhaps that was the problem. Is it possible that God did this deliberately so He could see what Solomon would do, or did He already know what Solomon would do because it would be Solomon who would bring about the separation of the kingdom into two kingdoms with twelve tribes leaving to form their own nation? To this day, this separation has not been healed, and it is not yet time for this healing to take place. But let us return to when Solomon blessed the first Temple that his father David helped to bring to fruition in his own way because David had been forbidden by God from building it. Seven days they dedicated it, offering up sacrifices that staggered the imagination. Then on the eighth day, he sent the people away, the people blessed the king, and went home. The eighth day is an important concept in God's overall plan. Solomon celebrated seven days to bring to completion the Temple. The number seven represents completion as in the seven days of completion. On the eighth day of the creation, Adam went about the life God had given him. We do not know exactly when Chavah was created but the fact that seven days had passed and all that God desired was finished except for the companion for Adam. It would not be until he had named all of the animals that he would realize there was no one for him and that he was not meant to be alone. Once he understood this, God created Chavah from within him so she would be flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone.

Genesis 2:23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." (ESV)

In Hebrew, she was initially called *eeshah*, or woman, while man was called Adam instead of *eesh* for man. Later the woman was known as Chavah, the mother of all that lives because it would be through the woman that children would be born into this world. In the *World to Come* or the *Olam HaBa*, perfection finally reigns supreme and life changes. Whatever the new world brings, will we be ready to embrace it? May God make it so!

Acts 7:8

8 And he gave him *b'rit-milah*. So, he became the father of Yitz'chak and did his *b'rit-milah* on **the eighth day**, and Yitz'chak became the father of Ya'akov, and Ya'akov became the father of the Twelve Patriarchs. (CJB)

Abraham received the covenant of *Brit Milah* or *the Covenant of Circumcision*, which was part of Torah. He was given this part of Torah because he had the faith to live out what God wanted him to do in his life. Because of his faith, he received the gift of the birth of Isaac, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob gave birth to twelve sons who were the fathers of Israel. The Bible is a story of this family and all those who were part of it. Woven into this story is the covenant that supports us all and brings us to the story of the Messiah Yeshua the Son of God the Father. The Bible is the story of people who

kept the covenant of Torah alive so it could pass from one generation to another with His people Israel coming back to it. It is the story of a loving God who sent His Son to redeem all of creation, steering us all down the right path to redemption, bringing us to the end of our journey as we enter the *Eighth Day, Shemini Atzeret*. It was always meant to be this way. When time ends and eternity begins, may His blessings be over each and every one of us, and may our loved ones be there with us.

I will close with this: Torah Man says, "My Lord knows the way through the wilderness. All I have to do is follow."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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