Ezek. 20:20 ... and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God.

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Church of God - Rocky Mount 27 Brookledge Lane, Rocky Mount, VA 24151 Phone:1-888-898-7698 www.cogrm.com

Spreading the Knowledge of Christian Holidays





Has God placed His "mark" on you?

For years one's life can be without purpose, without meaning. Yet the signs were always there. You knew something beyond yourself existed. A greater purpose, a greater meaning, a reason for our existence.

The truth is you are not just another face in the crowd. God desires to do great things through you. The plan that God has for you, in fact, the purpose for your existence has already been revealed through the Christian Holy Days found in your Bible.

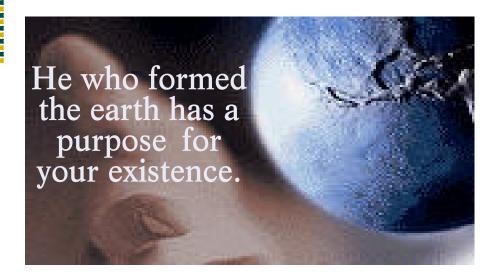
The Mark of God

Satan's greatest deception is to keep one from experiencing the Mark of God

What is the mark of God? "... and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God." {Ezek. 20:20 GW} The word sign or mark is synonymous in the Bible. It means a distinguishing mark, a miraculous sign. So what is the mark or sign of God? Let's consider the rest of the passage in Ezek 20:19-20. "I am the LORD your God. Live by my laws. Obey my rules and follow them. Set apart certain holy days to worship me. This will be a sign between me and you so that you will know that I am the LORD your God." It's really very simple; there are 7 Holy Days that if mankind would observe and keep would totally rid

Right now you may be thinking, I'm very familiar with the Christian Holy Days. Remember, for every truth there is a counterfeit. These 7 marks, most have never heard of, yet they are ordained by God. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts." {Lev. 23:2 KJV} Did you notice that? Look at it again. These are the feasts / Holy Days of God, not of the Jews or just for the Jews but God says, "These Are My Feasts / Holy Days."

You might be thinking, how could



himself from that empty frustrated life. Not only that, but these 7 Holy Days are the very mark or sign that God himself places upon His children as an identifying mark. the knowledge of God's Holy Days liberate me from an empty frustrated life? It's the knowledge of what these days reveal. For they reveal the very purpose and plan for why we exist. Think about it, if you don't know who and what is God, if you don't know who and what is man, if you don't know what God is doing through mankind, if you don't know what happens when we die, if you don't know the answers to these questions can you really consider yourself to be an educated person? Millions think they know the meaning to life, but the 7 marks reveal something quite different. Let's consider each mark.

The 1st Mark

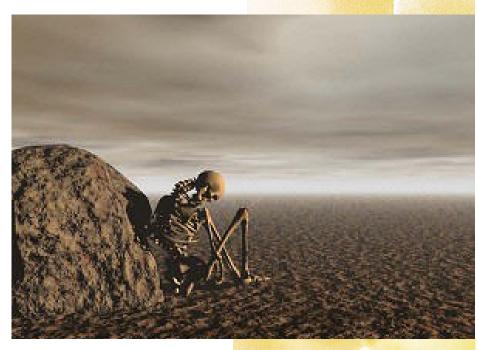
Passover The beginning of God's master plan

The origin of the Passover is given in Ex. 12. God's children had to paint blood over the doorways of their homes. "But the blood on your houses will be a Sign for your protection. When I see the blood, I will pass over you..." {Ex. 12:13}

Did you notice it? The blood was a sign, a mark that separated His children from all others. Notice the rest of this passage, "Nothing will touch or destroy you when I strike Egypt. This day will be one for you to remember. This is a permanent law for generations to come: You will celebrate this day as a pilgrimage festival in the LORD'S honor." Notice, you will celebrate this Holy Day in the LORD'S honor, after all, it's the 1st and most important mark!

God's children observe the Passover as a yearly reminder of His delivering them from the penalty of eternal death through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, "Our Passover" {1 Cor. 5:7}, who became the New Testament Passover "Lamb" {John 1:29}.

In the Passover service, we have a complete picture of Christ's sacrifice for us. By observing this day, the Christian witnesses to the world that Jesus Christ died for Life ends without ever finding the purpose for our existence.



their sins. Jesus became our Passover Lamb. In ancient Egypt the death angel {which is a type of Satan the devil} came through the village to kill and destroy. It was the mark of the blood, the blood of the Lamb that covers one's sins that makes all the difference in the world. Do you have the MARK?



God Has a Story to Tell

The greatest story ever told is found hidden within God's Holy Days. It's the story of what God is doing through mankind. Like a mystery that goes deeper and deeper, so each Holy Day reveals a deeper understanding about the mysteries of God and what God is doing through mankind. With the Holy Days, God has laid out for us His systematic plan of salvation. Beginning with the most important first step, the most important mark, the most important the sign, and protection that comes from the willingness to forgive and pass over our sins. The 1st mark of a Christian is the blood of Jesus Christ.

The 2nd Mark

The Days of Unleavened Bread Our part in God's master plan

What is the 2nd mark of a Christian? Most of modern Christianity teaches that there is nothing more for us to do, but believe in Christ's sacrifice for our sins. Our acceptance of Christ's sacrifice in payment for the penalty of our sins is only the first step toward salvation. Once we have repented of our sins, and have been forgiven by God, He wants us to forsake sin!

What is sin? Millions of professing Christians do not know! Sin is the transgression of the law. [1 John 3:4] Sin is the breaking of the Ten Commandments, not only in the letter of the law but also in the spirit of the law. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Never commit adultery.' But I

can guarantee that whoever looks with lust at a woman already has committed adultery in his heart!" With the spirit of the law, pornography becomes a sin. Being angry without a cause is equal to murder. As God's children were in bondage to Egypt, so man is in bondage to sin. The Christian must

[with God's help] put all sin out In the Bible of his life. leavening is symbolic of sin. Paul will say, "...A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Meaning, a little sin that we willfully tolerate will only lead us to tolerating more sin in our lives. Unleavened bread in the Bible symbolizes Jesus Christ, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever..." [John The point is this, in 6:511. deal with the order to leavening {sin} in our lives we must eat and partake of the unleavened bread of truth {Jesus Christ}.

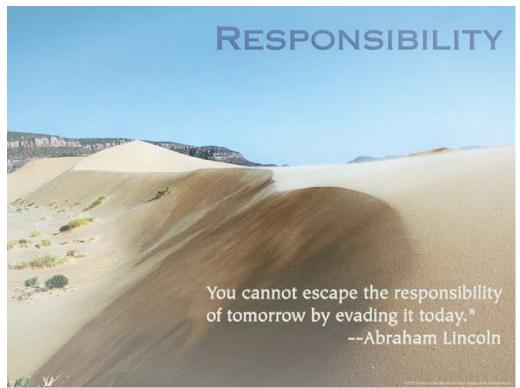
One definition of sin is to miss the mark. Like an archer who is blindfolded, it is impossible to hit a mark that you can't even see. Like a Christian who is blindfolded, it is impossible to repent of a sin that you're unaware that you have.

GOD 1: Do not worship any other gods 2: Do not make any idols 3: Do not misuse the name of God 4: Keep the Sabbath holy MAN 5: Honour your father & mother 6: Do not murder 7: Do not commit adultery 8: Do not steal 9: Do not lie 10: Do not covet

Just what is sin? The Bible defines sin as the breaking of God's law. Sin is the transgression of the law. [1 John 3:4]

The law of God is a gift from God to mankind. The law is a light to our path that corrects us when we're wrong.

The second step in God's systematic plan of salvation reveals to us that we must acknowledge and deal with our personal sin problem. Most people in the world of Christianity stop with the Passover. They stop with the 1st mark. They think forgiveness and God's willingness to pass over their sin is enough. The truth is God wants us to overcome our sin, to get the victory over our sin. By observing the Days of Unleavened Bread, the Christian is witnessing to the fact that he is the only person who can be responsible for his sin. The



next step in God's master plan of salvation reveals that He has given us everything we need to get the victory over our sin. Specifically, the power! <u>The 2nd mark of a real Christian is</u> simply this, he is willing to deal with and accept responsibility for his personal sins.

The 3rd Mark



The 3rd mark of a real Christian is God's Power. Notice what Christ had told his disciples before this day came, "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you." {Acts 1:8} The day of Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit became available to all of mankind. To all who would repent of their sin {sin is the breaking of God's law- 1 John 3:4} and would accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Then Peter said unto them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." {Acts 2:38}

Notice what the Bible says about the natural way we are, which is - void of the Holy Spirit, because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. {Rom. 8:7} Have you ever noticed how many religious people believe and talk against the law of God as if it were a bad thing? This scripture seems to imply that the natural man, void of the Holy Spirit of God, cannot bring himself to appreciate the law of God. It is only by receiving the Spirit of God that we can come to appreciate and understand the law of God. The law is the very standard by which your life can be transformed for the better and obedience is the key that allows God to work through your life. The Holy Spirit is the very power of God, without it- it is impossible to please Him. Notice, "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." {Rom. 8:9} This is the distinguished mark of a real Christian. There is nothing more critical than receiving the Spirit of God. It is the very enabling power of God that can transform your life. It is God's helping hand in times of need.

There is a definite "way" to receive the Spirit of God. Confession is not enough, going down to the altar is not enough, belief is not enough. There must be willingness to unconditionally surrender your will to Him. Notice, {Acts 5:32} "...And so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."



Pentecost also represents the first fruits of God's harvest.

<u>The third mark of a Christian is to have the Spirit of God.</u> It is to receive a very part of the mind of God, the power of God. To receive God's Holy Spirit, the power that can transform your life.



Up unto this point we have dealt with the first three annual Holy Days of God that occurs in the spring season. Remember God said that these days were His feast days, His Holy Day, which we would honor in their season or at the appointed time. {Lev. 23:4} The first three marks of God deal with the present. The three marks we must have in order to have a relationship with God.

1- The mark of the blood

2- The mark of personal responsibility for sins

3- The mark of God's Holy Spirit dwelling in our lives

The next four Holy Days deal with the future and what is to come. All of these days occur in the fall season, but they are just as distinguished as the first three. By the time the last 7th mark is complete you will have a picture of perfection. You will be given a small glimpse of what God is doing through mankind; it's a mystery that's been hidden from the eyes of millions. Let's go into the future and see the last four marks of understanding God has given to his children.

The 4th Mark

The Feast of Trumpets Why the world won't end

[Matt. 24:22] "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." World conditions look pretty grim, millions are fearful that one day the world will just end. The Feast of Trumpets



pictures the singularly most important event in world history--the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! Why are the churches of this world confused over the most important knowledge available to this generation?

Your Bible reveals in graphic detail the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in supreme power to set up the kingdom of God on earth. Yet the world seems to understand almost nothing about this prophetic event and the annual festival that pictures it! Many events were announced by the blowing of trumpets. It is at the last trump that Christ returns. The seventh Angel sounds the last of the seven trumpets. Seven is the number used for perfection! There is the Seventh Day Sabbath, Seven Feasts, including Seven Days of Unleavened Bread and Seven Days of the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Trumpets looks forward to the return of Christ. God has a plan to bring all of mankind peace, joy, and happiness. A world where there is no more war, where all of mankind live in harmony, but this kind of utopia will not take place until Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom on this earth. The way of peace they know not







The 4th mark of a Christian is that his hope is not in a worldly solution. While living in the world he has the responsibility to pray, vote, and hope for the best from carnal man's leadership, but he knows that the real solution for this world's problems lies in the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom on this earth.

The blowing of the seventh and last trump signifies a new world age. {Rev. 11:15} In God's master plan of salvation there is yet another major event that must take place before the kingdom of God can be established, which brings us to the next critical Mark of God.

The 5th Mark

The Day of Atonement When the world will be At-One-With-God

After Jesus Christ returns, what will be the most important step in establishing peace on earth? No major denomination knows the answer. Why? This significant step is pictured by the annual Day of Atonement. Atonement is a day of fasting. We are told to "afflict our souls". In Lev. 16:1-34 we read of an elaborate ceremony that took place on this day. The High Priest came into the Holy of Holies only once a year. Read Heb. 9:1-7. It was necessary for the Priest to make atonement for



himself. The High Priest entering the Holy of Holies pictures Christ going before God as our intercessor.

At the heart of this ceremony, two goats were brought in----one for the Lord and the other the



Scapegoat. The Lord's goat was sacrificed for the sins of the people. All the sins were confessed

and placed on the head of the Scapegoat and this goat was led away into the wilderness. This Scapegoat represents Satan, the author of all sin. When Christ returns, He will bind Satan for 1,000 years and put him in the abyss or bottomless pit. {Rev. 20:1-3} Even though Jesus has made an atonement for us, we have a constant need for reconciliation to God. Atonement means to cover.

In order to have a peaceful society, a kingdom where we are at-one with God, Satan must be dealt with. Up unto this point, God has covered {atoned for} our sins. Now, on this most critical day, Satan, the author of sin, is finally dealt

with. <u>The Day of Atonement reveals how the</u> <u>abolition of evil will take place</u>. <u>The 5th mark of</u> <u>a Christian is that he understands how!</u>

The 6th Mark The Feast of Tabernacles

[Lev. 23:41] And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. With Satan's sinful influence gone, mankind can then be reconciled--made at-one-with-God. Then 1,000 years of peace and prosperity will follow. The whole world will enter 1,000 years of rest from Satan's rule. During the Millennium, the whole world will be similarly organized under God's government.

When the whole world will celebrate before God

But what is the spiritual implication of the Feast of Tabernacles? The early church saw the Christians as sojourners, strangers, and pilgrims in a foreign land. [Heb.11:8-16 and 2 Cor. 5:1-6] The soon coming Kingdom of God on this earth is what we look forward to. A time when there is no more pain and suffering, a time of plentifulness, and a time of rejoicing. In a way, the feast is a small forerunner of that time. Jesus Christ himself was diligent in keeping the feast and used it to lift and encourage others. [John 7:37] "On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water."



This was for the entire family to enjoy and they were instructed to travel to the place God chose. They were to save a tithe to finance this trip. They were also told to dwell in booths [temporary dwellings] for seven days symbolic of our temporary lives here. Our human bodies are temporary and we dwell in tabernacles as we await the return of Jesus Christ. The 1,000 year millennium corresponds to the Feast of Tabernacles. We know from Zech. 14:16 that the Feast of Tabernacles will be observed when Christ returns. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." [Zech. 14:16 -19] The setting here is millennial, after the return of Christ, notice what you have, all nations, all people will wear the 6th mark of God! The 6th mark of a Christian is that he understands that this physical existence is only temporary.

After Christ returns and sets up His Kingdom, there is yet to come a "Harvest of Souls" into God's Kingdom which brings us to the last and final mark that makes God's plan of salvation for mankind complete.

And it shall come to pass, every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Biblical observance	Commanded in Old Testament New Testame						
Passover	Leviticus 23:5	Matt. 26:2, 17-19 Mark 14:12-16 Luke 2:41-42 22:1, 7-20 John 2:13,23; 6:4; 13:1-30 1 Cor. 11:23-29					
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Leviticus 23:6-8	Matt. 26:17 Mark 14:12 Luke 2:41-42,22:1,7 Acts 20:6 1 Cor. 5:6-8					
Feast of Pentecost	Leviticus 23:15-22	Acts 2:1-21; 20:16 1 Cor. 16:8					
Feast of Trumpets*	Leviticus 23:23-25	Matt. 24:30-31 1 Thess. 4:16-17 Revelation 11:15					
Day of Atonement	Leviticus 23:26-32	Acts 27:9					
Feast of Tabernacles	Leviticus 23:33-43	John 7:1-2, 8, 10, 14 Acts 18:21					
Last Great Day or eighth day	Leviticus 23:36	John 7:37-38					
* Although the Feast of Trumpets is not mentioned by name							

in the New Testament, the theme of the day-the sounding of trumpets announcing Jesus Christ's return-is mentioned by several New Testament authors as noted in the references.

God's Holy Days in the

New Testament

The 7th Mark

The Last Great Day God's master plan completed

Untold millions have died without ever having had an opportunity for salvation. God's 7th and final Holy Day reveals when and how they will have their day of salvation. This is the 8th day following the seven day Feast of Tabernacles. [Lev. 23:34-36] In Romans, the eleventh chapter, there is a story about a group of people that God had deliberately shut up in unbelief because of the hardness of their hearts. Notice the passage, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all." [Rom. 11:32] Maybe you have wondered about people that are just not interested in religion, maybe you have family members like that, and what about Uncle Bob who never darkened a door to a church and never cared about religion at all. Think about all the missionary efforts that have failed the massive number of people who have never heard the name of Christ, all those before the time of Christ? Are they saved or lost? The answer is neither!

Consider the massive number of people that God has deliberately shut up in unbelief. Read the entire chapter of Romans eleven, there really is no misunderstanding it. There are people that God has deliberately kept from understanding the truth of God's master plan of salvation. In other words, God has placed many people into the prison of their own disobedience so that He could be merciful to them at a later time. When will that later time be? The book of Revelation explains, " And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. . ." [Rev 20:4 -5]

The rest of the dead is the meaning behind "The Last Great Day," it depicts the second resurrection when millions will be given their "real" chance for salvation. Remember, the dead in Christ have been raised 1,000 years before. The people brought up in the second resurrection are to be given a chance to live and to have their names written in the book of life--just as the Christians were judged during their lives. There is a vision of the second resurrection found in the book of Ezekiel. "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And He said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again He said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the

LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking,

the bones and came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said He unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So prophesied as He L commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up their feet, upon an exceeding great army. Then He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is

lost: we are cut off for our parts, Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD." {Ezekiel 37:1-14} The Last Great Day is the final chapter of mankind. It is the last step in God's master plan of salvation. God will see to it that all who have ever lived and existed will receive a chance for salvation. The last mark of a Christian is the understanding of God's compassion and mercy that He has for all of mankind.

The 7 marks are synonymous with God's feast days. Today, anyone who observes God's annual Holy Days are looked at as legalist [one who is trying to earn his salvation by works]. Many people falsely assume they were for the Jews only. But it's critical to understand that from the beginning God wanted to reveal through His Holy Days What He Was Doing! You live in a deeply religious world that is ignorant of the meaning behind these days. Most people discard the very wisdom and knowledge that could add purpose and meaning to their life. Don't make the mistake that



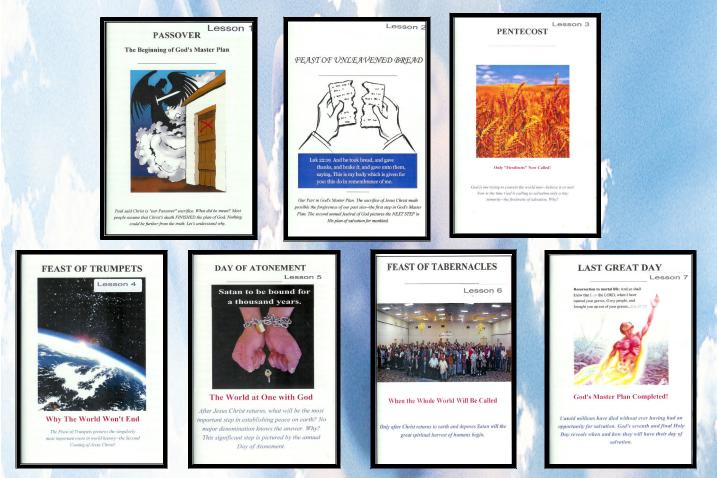
millions have made by discrediting these days. <u>The</u> <u>Mark of God is real, yet there is a counterfeit mark.</u>

After the separation of the 10 Northern Tribes into a separate kingdom, King Jeroboam substituted other days for the Holy Days God had given. The remainder of the history of the 10 Northern Tribes was one of decay, religious confusion, and growing violence. Not one King ever led the nation in returning to God. God's Holy Days are an outline of God's plan of salvation. They keep us in remembrance of the things which God has done and in hope of those things He will do. Very early in church history, the dominant Christian churches made a transition from the Sabbath to Sunday as the day of The Holy Days fell into disuse, and worship. Christmas and Easter became the two great celebrations. Did the Church have the right to make such a change?

God's Holy Day Calendar

	Year	Passover*	Days of Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feast of Tabernacles	Last Great Day
*The Christian Passover service is held just after sunset of the previous day [e.g. Wednesday means that service is held Tuesday evening.]	2006	April 12 Wednesday	April 13-19 Thur - Wed	June 4 Sunday	Sept. 23 Saturday	October 2 Monday	Oct. 7-13 Sat - Fri	Oct. 14 Saturday
	2007	April 2 Monday	April 3-9 Tue - Mon	May 27 Sunday	Sept. 13 Thursday	Sept. 22 Saturday	Sept. 27- Oct. 3 Thur-Wed	Oct. 4 Thursday
	2008	April 19 Saturday	April 20-26 Sun - Sat	June 8 Sunday	Sept. 30 Tuesday	Oct. 9 Thursday	Oct. 14-20 Tue - Mon	Oct 21 Tuesday
	2009	April 8 Wednesday	April 9-15 Thur - Wed	May 31 Sunday	Sept. 19 Saturday	Sept. 28 Monday	Oct. 3-9 Sat - Fri	Oct. 10 Saturday
	2010	March 29 Monday	March 30- April 5 Tue - Mon	May 23 Sunday	Sept. 9 Thursday	Sept. 18 Saturday	Sept. 23-29 Thur - Wed	Sept. 30 Thursday

Find out what you've been missing! Fit the puzzle of life together with a thorough understanding of each Holy Day! Find out what your Bible says about God's Holy Days with this in depth Bible study on each Holy Day.



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