

# Understanding the Foundations

## Chapter 12 - God's Calendar – The Fall Feasts

### That We May Be Ready

In chapters 10 and 11, we discussed the three Spring Feasts and saw that they had two purposes. First, they reminded God's people of His great faithfulness in the past. Secondly, they each had specific prophetic meanings. These prophetic meanings are easy to recognize since they have already been fulfilled.

	Remembrance	Prophetic Fulfillment
<b>Passover</b>	<i>Deliverance from Egypt</i>	<i>The Sacrificial Death of Christ</i>
<b>First Fruits</b>	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>	<i>The Resurrection of Christ</i>
<b>Pentecost</b>	<i>The Giving of the Law</i>	<i>The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit</i>

We also saw that these prophecies were fulfilled exactly – to the very day – according to God's calendar. Therefore, we may be certain that the three Fall Feasts also have specific prophetic meanings which will also be fulfilled exactly according to God's calendar. Therefore, the task before us is to discern what the prophetic meaning of these Fall Feasts are.

- **The Day of Trumpets** (*Yom Teruah*)
- **The Day of Atonement** (*Yom Kippur*)
- **The Feast of Tabernacles** (*Sukkot*)

Far greater scholars than I, have worked for centuries to create a prophetic timeline of the End Times. Several timelines have been proposed such as a Pre-Tribulation Rapture followed by a Seven Year Tribulation. The proponents for each of these timelines consider them to be based solely on scripture and to be totally certain... And yet they don't agree. I am certainly not going to introduce yet another system. However, if we want to understand the future, it would probably be wise to look at the calendar that God has provided for us.

Like the Spring Feasts, the Fall Feasts are also outlined in Leviticus 23. These three feasts all occur in the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar called "Tishri" which is in late September and early October on our calendar. Like the three Spring Feasts, they are linked together so let's review the full outline and then examine each feast in detail.

### The Day of Trumpets

<sup>23</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup> “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.** <sup>25</sup> **You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD.”**

### The Day of Atonement

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>27</sup> “Now **on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement.** It shall be for you **a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD.** <sup>28</sup> **And you shall not do any work** on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> **For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people.** <sup>30</sup> **And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people.** <sup>31</sup> **You shall not do any work.** It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. <sup>32</sup> **It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath.”**

### The Feast of Tabernacles

<sup>33</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>34</sup> “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, **On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD.** <sup>35</sup> **On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.** <sup>36</sup> **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...**

<sup>39</sup> “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. **On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.** <sup>40</sup> **And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.** <sup>41</sup> You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup> **You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths,** <sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 23:33-43 (ESV)

The first thing that we observe is that all these feasts fall *on specific calendar days*. Secondly, these appointed times are very serious events called *holy convocations*. They are also *Sabbaths of solemn rest* when absolutely no work can be done. Each has a *specific action* to perform and *sacrifices are offered*.

Rather than doing a “scholarly dissection” of these feasts, let’s go back in time, perhaps to the days of King Hezekiah, and relive them as an ordinary farmer.

### *The Day of Trumpets*

It seems like a long time since you and your family celebrated the Spring Feasts. The LORD has blessed your fields this year. You’ve had a great harvest and have set aside the Lord’s portion. It is the sixth month and the moon has been steadily waning so you know the Fall Feasts will begin soon.

Suddenly, you are awakened by the sound of a distant trumpet. You run to get your own shofar and begin blowing it also. Soon, all your neighbors are blowing trumpets and a mighty wave of trumpet blasts sweeps across the entire nation reaching every village. The Fall Feasts are here! There will be no work done today for this day is like the weekly Sabbath. It is a day of solemn rest to prepare your heart for the Day of Atonement and for the journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles.



Unlike the calendar that we live by, the Hebrew calendar is lunar based. The first day of each month is indicated by a new moon. In our land of cell phones and computers we cannot imagine watching the phase of the moon to know what the date is. Yet, living as an Israelite in a small village, you knew that, as the moon waned, the time was close. Thus, when you heard that trumpet blast you knew exactly what it meant. In a way... it is still like that! Consider Paul’s words,

<sup>1</sup> *Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.* <sup>2</sup> *For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.* <sup>3</sup> *While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.* <sup>4</sup> *But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.* <sup>5</sup> *For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 (ESV)

The Day of Trumpets is the only feast which occurs on a new moon. In our world of constant, excessive illumination, it is hard to imagine how dark the night would have been on a new moon. Our world is totally clueless that judgment is at hand and it will catch them “as a thief in the night.” But we who follow Jesus, and His ways, can know the times. Just like the farmer, we know that as the night grows darker and darker the time is near. As we will soon see, we should look forward to the Fall Feasts with a sense of holy fear mixed with joyous expectation.

### **The Day of Atonement** *[Leviticus 16]*

Ten days have passed since you heard the trumpet – you have counted them carefully. Today, the two scape goats will be presented at the temple. Lots will be drawn for them and one will be sacrificed. The High Priest will lay his hands on the head of the other goat and confess the sins of the people. It will be led far away into the wilderness bearing away the sins of the nation... bearing away **your** sins. The promise of the Torah has been echoing in your mind for days,

*For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. **You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins.*** Leviticus 16:30 (ESV)

You're a good guy. You work hard and take care of your family. You help your neighbors and you are generous to the poor. You live by the Torah and train your children to know God. Yet, even though you want to live a life that is pleasing to God, sin is constantly trying to create a wedge between you and Him. More than anything you want that wedge removed.

Torah calls this a day for “afflicting yourself.” Today you will thrust aside everything that distracts you from Him. You don't want food, you don't want entertainment, you don't want work, you don't want pleasure. All you want is His presence! Today, on the Day of Atonement, all your sin will be totally swept away! Today, you can stand before Him with a clean heart as a true Israelite! Tomorrow, you will begin the long journey to Jerusalem with your family to rejoice before Him.

### **The Feast of Tabernacles**

It is a long walk to Jerusalem so it will take you and your family several days to get there. The roads are filled with others making the same journey and, as you go, songs of joyful worship break out. Sure, you can worship anytime when you are out working in the fields or in your home – but this is different. Today, the entire nation is coming together to worship and we have just been cleansed of our sin! As you stop to rest, you spend time with friends and family you have not seen in a long time. It is a time to remember, a time to reflect and a time to pray. In the evening, everyone sets up little huts for shelter. It is like that first night that

Israel walked out of slavery in Egypt. You want to make it to Jerusalem for the holy convocation at the temple on the first day of the feast. And then... *the biggest party of the whole year!*

**Whoa...** Did you just say **“Party?”** Well, what would you call a million people camping together, waving palm branches and ***rejoicing before the LORD your God seven days?*** What is really a hoot is that this is a **“Tithe Party.”**



<sup>22</sup> *You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year.* <sup>23</sup> *And before the LORD your God, in the place that He will choose, to make His name dwell there, **you shall eat the tithe** of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, **that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.*** <sup>24</sup> *And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set His name there, <sup>25</sup> **then you shall turn it into money** and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses <sup>26</sup> **and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.** And you shall eat there before the LORD your God **and rejoice**, you and your household.*

<sup>27</sup> *And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.* <sup>28</sup> *“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. <sup>29</sup> And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, **that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.**” Deuteronomy 14:22-29 (ESV)*

Have you ever heard a sermon on “tithing” that exegeted that scripture? Probably not. That’s why we must read the scriptures for ourselves! If we want the LORD to **“bless us in all the work of our hands,”** we need to obey His commands His way... not how greedy men twist them. Strong words? Not really, consider these words.

<sup>14</sup> *Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.* <sup>15</sup> *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. **There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other***

**Scriptures.** <sup>17</sup> *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.*

<sup>18</sup> *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:14-18 (ESV)

Peter says that “ignorant” and “unstable” men twist scriptures “to their own destruction.” He warns us that we must not go along with the “error of lawless people.” Lawless? Lawless means “without the Law” and Peter is not talking about traffic laws... he is talking about those who ignore and twist God’s Laws.

These unfaithful shepherds have taught us to not question what they teach. They say we must “not touch God’s anointed” and that questioning their abuse of scripture is “rebellion.” In saying these things, they place themselves between you and God... a position that belongs only to Jesus Himself! The scriptures are filled with denunciations of such men and it isn’t pleasant reading. I will list a few of them at the end of this chapter but, for now, let’s return to the Fall Feasts.

### *Between the Spring and Fall Feasts*

As I was pondering the prophetic meaning of these feasts, I began to wonder why the Day of Trumpets was on that specific date?” What was significant about the first day of the seventh month? Just like Pentecost, God doesn’t really explain it. I began re-reading the parallel accounts of Israel’s first year in the wilderness found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Gradually I was able to assemble a timeline and discovered that, as with everything that God does, there was nothing random about it.

A few days after Pentecost, when God made covenant by speaking directly with the people at Mount Sinai, [Exodus 20:1-21] He called Moses and Joshua to come to the mountain and wait seven days. On the seventh day, He told Moses to ascend the mountain. Moses stayed on the mountain for 40 days, without eating or drinking, as God taught him about the Law and the tabernacle that he was to build. Sadly, when Moses returned to the camp with the stone tablets of the covenant, the very words that God had spoken to the people, he found them worshipping a Golden Calf that his own brother, Aaron, had made. Moses was furious that the people had dishonored the LORD and had so quickly broken the covenant. He cast down the stone tablets breaking them into pieces. Three thousand men who led that “worship service” died by the sword. Even after Moses interceded for the people, the LORD sent a plague among them killing those who had participated in it.

[Exodus 32:25-35]

Ironically, they said that they were “holding a feast to the LORD.” [Exodus 32:5] Over the centuries, the Church has adopted many symbols and forms of worship from other religions. Anyone who studies holidays such as Christmas and Easter know that 99% of the symbols are totally pagan but our leaders laugh it off saying that it is OK because we have “Christianized” them and that we are really worshiping the Lord. But what does God say about doing this?

<sup>29</sup> “When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, <sup>30</sup> *take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? – that I also may do the same.’* <sup>31</sup> **You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.** <sup>32</sup> “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it. Deuteronomy 12:29-32 (ESV)

These things are clearly offensive to God but... *Do we care?*

After the people had buried the dead, Moses returned to the mountain to plead with God for them. Remember... the covenant didn’t just have a smudge on it... it was shattered. Without God, Israel was nothing and if He turned His back on them, as they deserved, they would perish. So, Moses spent another 40 days on Mount Sinai before the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.* <sup>6</sup> *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”* <sup>8</sup> *And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.* <sup>9</sup> *And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”* Exodus 34:5-9 (ESV)

God did forgive them. And, *on the Day of Trumpets*, Moses returned to the camp with a new set of stone tablets and the news that God had renewed the covenant. It is no wonder we blow trumpets on that day!

### *The Prophetic Meaning of The Fall Feasts*

So, that is the history or remembrance portion of the Fall Feast. But what are their prophetic meanings that are yet to be fulfilled? Of course, it is much easier to see how a prophecy has been fulfilled in the past than it is to see how one will be fulfilled in the future. Nevertheless, God does expect us to understand His Word and has provided the tools for those who are willing to dig for the treasures.

### *The Return of Jesus*

As a young believer, I was taught that the Lord could return at any moment and that there was no way that we could know the time of His coming. While this is certainly true in the sense that I don't know what year, I don't believe that His second coming will be at a random date. Just as Jesus had to be crucified on Passover and raised on First Fruits, I believe that His return will be according to the calendar that He established – on the Day of Trumpets.



*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.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV)

The Hebrew word “Teruah,” that is translated “blowing trumpets” also means “shouting.” Therefore, when I see the moon waning in the sixth month, I am listening all the more keenly for the first sound of that trumpet! I don't know if it will be Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib or Post-Trib (men that I deeply respect hold to all three of these understandings) but whenever it is, when I hear that trumpet I will join in the shout because my Lord and Savior is finally returning to set things in order!

Some will quote Matthew 24 in objection to my belief that the Lord's return will be on Yom Teruah – the Day of Trumpets.

<sup>36</sup> ***“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”*** <sup>37</sup> *For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.* <sup>38</sup> *For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,* <sup>39</sup> ***and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man...*** Matthew 24:36-39 (ESV)

The people who were “caught unaware” by the flood had no excuse. Noah had been building the ark and warning them of the coming judgment for many years. [2 Peter 2:5] They were “unaware” because they closed their ears and scoffed at his warnings. But we must not be like that. As we read earlier, ***“But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”*** [1 Thessalonians 5:4]

The main message Jesus was delivering was not about the timing of His return. It was how His servants should behave. He says that we must be “ready” and faithful in the tasks that He assigns to us. Then, He describes the fate of unfaithful servants... those who abuse His other servants!

<sup>44</sup> *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* <sup>45</sup> ***“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over His household, to give them their food at the proper time?”*** <sup>46</sup> *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when He comes.* <sup>47</sup> *Truly, I say to you, He will set him over all His possessions.* <sup>48</sup> *But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’* <sup>49</sup> *and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,* <sup>50</sup> *the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect Him and at an hour he does not know* <sup>51</sup> *and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Matthew 24:36-51 (ESV)

The wolves in sheep's clothing that devour God's flock today believe they can get away with it because, like those in the days of Noah, they scoff at His Word. Of course, you really can't blame a wolf for being a wolf. ***Wolves eat sheep.*** I have heard too many sermons about how stupid sheep are. Jesus disagrees. He says,

<sup>3</sup> *... The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.* <sup>4</sup> *When He has brought out all His own,* ***He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice.*** <sup>5</sup> *A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”* John 10:3-5 (ESV)

It is time for sheep to learn the difference between the voice of the Shepherd who comes to give abundant life and the voice of the stranger who comes to steal, kill and destroy! [John 10:10] The only way that you can learn the difference is to immerse yourself in His Word asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you as Jesus did to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

### *But What Happens After The Lord Returns?*

We hear many teachings on the “Rapture” or “the Return of the Lord” but only a few talk about what happens next. Most of those teachings focus on what will happen to the unbelievers who remain on earth after the Rapture. While that may be of interest, I am more interested in what I will face. Fortunately, this is what the two remaining Fall Feasts, The Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles reveal. To understand their meaning let’s look at another of those passages of scripture that I have never heard preached. God spoke this prophecy through Ezekiel, a faithful priest, living among the exiles in Babylon. Verses 1-29 of this chapter are extremely important but they are also long so I will give you the super-condensed version here.

*<sup>6</sup> ... I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them... the most glorious of all lands. <sup>7</sup> And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on... <sup>8</sup> But they rebelled against Me... “Then I said I would pour out My wrath upon them... <sup>9</sup> But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations...*

*<sup>10</sup> So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. <sup>11</sup> I gave them My statutes and made known to them My rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. <sup>12</sup> Moreover, I gave them My Sabbaths, as a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. <sup>13</sup> But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not walk in My statutes... and My Sabbaths they greatly profaned. “Then I said I would pour out My wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them. <sup>14</sup> But I acted for the sake of My name...*

*<sup>18</sup> “And I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor defile yourselves with their idols. <sup>19</sup> I am the LORD your God; walk in My statutes, and be careful to obey My rules, <sup>20</sup> and keep My Sabbaths holy... that you may know that I am the LORD your God. <sup>21</sup> But the children rebelled against me... <sup>22</sup> But I withheld My hand and acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. Ezekiel 20:1-29 (ESV)*

Do you see a pattern? So let's see what God says next.

<sup>30</sup> *“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and go whoring after their detestable things?...”*

<sup>32</sup> *“What is in your mind shall never happen – the thought, ‘Let us be like the nations, like the tribes of the countries, and worship wood and stone.’* <sup>33</sup> *“As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out **I will be King over you.**”*

<sup>34</sup> *I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out.* <sup>35</sup> *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there **I will enter into judgment with you face to face.*** <sup>36</sup> *As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD.* <sup>37</sup> *I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.* <sup>38</sup> *I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.* Ezekiel 20:30-38 (ESV)

This prophecy has not been fulfilled yet. Though Judah was brought back from the Babylonian Captivity and Israel has been brought back as a modern nation, they did not stand before the LORD in judgement “Face to Face” as this passage describes. As you read this passage, remember that we are grafted into Israel so this passage also includes us.

<sup>39</sup> *“As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to Me; but My holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols.* <sup>40</sup> *“**For on My holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land.** There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings.* <sup>41</sup> *As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. **And I will manifest My holiness among you in the sight of the nations.*** <sup>42</sup> *And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers.* <sup>43</sup> *And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.* <sup>44</sup> *And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for My name's sake, not*

***according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.*** Ezekiel 20:39-44 (ESV)

This is the Day of Atonement. When we finally recognize our sin for what it is and truly ***loathe*** it rather than make excuses for it. And when He deals with us in grace rather than as our evil ways deserve.

When God says, ***“What is in your mind shall never happen – the thought, ‘Let us be like the nations...’”*** I hear the promise of Philippians 1:6, ***“I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*** God says that His plans for the redemption of mankind will not be thwarted by the rebellious, ***“I will purge out the rebels from among you...”***

But... Wait a second... Are you saying that there will be rebels among those that are taken in the rapture?! As strange as that sounds to us, the answer may be “Yes.” Look again at what God said,

***<sup>34</sup> I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. <sup>35</sup> And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. <sup>36</sup> As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD.***

He is saying that we call the “Rapture” will be a “Second Exodus.” When Israel left Egypt, no distinction was made between good and bad. Every Hebrew was ***thrust out***. If it was Jewish it was GONE! [Exodus 12:39] Every last one of them, good and bad, were brought through the Red Sea. But once they were in the Wilderness, God began to weed them out. Over and over, the rebels were consumed. As it says in this passage, ***“I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel.”*** It looks like, if you ***claim***, that you belong to God, you will have a trip to make when the trumpet sounds!

What does it mean by, ***“I will make you pass under the rod?”*** When it was time to give the tithe of the flocks, the shepherd made the sheep pass under his rod in single file. Every tenth sheep belonged to the Lord. [Leviticus 27:32] Similarly, one by one, Jesus will say which sheep are “His” and which ones are “Not His.”

But, where do we see this in the New Testament?

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> **Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** <sup>33</sup> **And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left.**

<sup>34</sup> **Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.** <sup>35</sup> *For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me,* <sup>36</sup> *I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’* <sup>37</sup> *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’* <sup>38</sup> *And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’* <sup>39</sup> *And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’* <sup>40</sup> *And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.’*

<sup>41</sup> **“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and His angels.** <sup>42</sup> *For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink,* <sup>43</sup> *I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’* <sup>44</sup> *Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’* <sup>45</sup> *Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’* <sup>46</sup> *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

We typically preach that the “sheep” are the church and the “goats” are the heathen. But just like the lost people in Matthew 7:21-23, the goats in this passage seem to be genuinely surprised that they are identified as “*Not His.*” As Paul said,

***Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*** 2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

## *The Feast of Tabernacles*

Now that you have seen the full solemnity of the Day of Atonement, you can understand the Feast of Tabernacles.

*On the first day shall be a holy convocation... It is a solemn assembly... and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.*

When I see Jesus “Face to Face” on the Day of Atonement, then I will see what true righteousness looks like. I will know beyond the slightest doubt that my salvation is by His grace alone. Throughout this book I have stressed the importance of following God’s Laws. Nevertheless, we must always remember what we said back in Chapter 1:

***Salvation is,  
has always been,  
and will always be  
entirely by the grace of God.***

We are not saved by keeping the Law. We obey God’s Laws as an expression of our Love for Him. Jesus said, *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”* John 14:15 (ESV)

So, having passed under the rod and having heard Jesus say, *“Father, this one is Mine!”*... what can we possibly do but to fall to our knees and weep in deep gratitude for His sacrifice that made those words possible. Yes, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles is indeed, a solemn assembly!

But then, we are suddenly overwhelmed by the incredible realization of what it really means to be “His!” He has claimed me as His son and I will live in His presence forever! This is the final fulfillment of the words of Paul.

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:37-39 (ESV)

It is time to rejoice with all of your heart! Dancing, singing, shouting, and feasting... there is simply no way to express such joy. And not just you, but all who have come to the presence of the LORD. Remember that God says to share your tithe with the *“the Levite... the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.”*

### ***But Tabernacles is Temporary***

From this description, you would think that the Feast of Tabernacles is a picture of our spending eternity with the Lord. But notice that during the Feast of Tabernacles ***“You shall dwell in booths for seven days.”***

The “booths” are little temporary shelters like the huts and tents that the Israelites set up as they moved from place to place *on their way to the promised land*. Once they reached the promised land, they no longer lived in booths. So what is the significance of living in booths for 7 days? Well... we have been in the presence of the Lord since the trumpet sounded. Meanwhile, the rest of the world has begun their seven-year journey through the tribulation as described in the book of Revelation. The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles is a picture of the seven years that we will spend with the LORD while He deals with the rest of the world. We get a small glimpse of this with the *“marriage supper of the Lamb.”* It is, of course, no coincidence that Hebrews traditionally celebrate weddings for 7 days!

*<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* Revelation 19:6-9 (ESV)

So while God is dealing with the world, we are rejoicing with Him in the wilderness. And I’ll bet we won’t be living in small, rickety shacks during that time either! The King of all kings will have some incredible pavilions!

The second part of the command that says ***“...all native Israelites shall dwell in booths...”*** can be confusing. Does this mean that since I am a ‘grafted-in’ Israelite that I do not keep the Feast of Tabernacles? Not at all! The Torah repeatedly says,

*For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. **You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD. One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.*** Numbers 15:15-16 (ESV)

And besides that, once a branch is grafted into a tree, it is as much a part of the tree as all the other branches. We need never fear that we are “second-class citizens!”

## *The Feasts During The Millennial Kingdom*

Some people argue that we should no longer follow the Laws of God because, since now that Jesus had made the ultimate sacrifice, the feasts – with all of their sacrifices – can no longer be kept. Yet, if you read the description of life in the Millennial Kingdom, which is yet to come, you see them there also.

*It shall be the prince's duty to furnish the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the new moons, and the Sabbaths, **all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel**: he shall provide the sin offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement on behalf of the house of Israel.* Ezekiel 45:17 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> *“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, **you shall celebrate the Feast of the Passover**, and **for seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten**.* <sup>22</sup> *On that day the prince shall provide for himself and all the people of the land a young bull for a sin offering.* <sup>23</sup> *And on the seven days of the festival he shall provide as a burnt offering to the LORD seven young bulls and seven rams without blemish, on each of the seven days; and a male goat daily for a sin offering.* <sup>24</sup> *And he shall provide as a grain offering an ephah for each bull, an ephah for each ram, and a hin of oil to each ephah.* <sup>25</sup> ***In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day** of the month and for the **seven days of the feast**, he shall make the same provision for sin offerings, burnt offerings, and grain offerings, and for the oil.* Ezekiel 45:21-25 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> *The people of the land shall bow down at the entrance of that gate before the LORD **on the Sabbaths** and **on the new moons**.* <sup>4</sup> *The burnt offering that the prince offers to the LORD on the Sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish and a ram without blemish.* <sup>5</sup> *And the grain offering with the ram shall be an ephah, and the grain offering with the lambs shall be as much as he is able, together with a hin of oil to each ephah.* Ezekiel 46:3-5 (ESV)

It is a bit of a stretch to say that the feasts were done away with in our time only to be brought back again in the future. Note that the “prince” mentioned here is definitely NOT Jesus since he must offer sacrifices, worship before the LORD and has many restrictions on what he can and cannot do.

It seems that if you do not approve of keeping the Sabbath and following God's Laws the way He says to, and if you think the Feasts are obsolete and that animal sacrifice is wrong... you will probably not like living in the Millennial Kingdom!

## ***Our Role In The Millennial Kingdom***

One of the complaints that people make about “heaven” is that it will be so boring sitting around on clouds strumming on a harp. This view is, of course, utterly absurd and non-Biblical but it comes from the vague understanding that people in the church have of what heaven will be like. At least for the first thousand years, we will have a very active part in the Millennial Kingdom.

Some people say that the feasts in the Millennial Kingdom are just for Jews and only as a memorial. Yet that isn’t what scripture says.

*Then **everyone** who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.*

Zechariah 14:16-17 (ESV)

Even in the Millennial Kingdom, there will be those who resent and resist the ways of the King. You would think that God would just wipe them out but He is not like that. Those who persist in their rebellion will ultimately follow Satan when he is released at the end of the thousand years and will be destroyed along with him. Yet, until that day, God will give them the same grace that He has given us.

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*** 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

Who will teach these people God’s ways? Well, remember that our original calling was to be a **“Kingdom of Priests!”** [Exodus 19:6] God has not given up on us either. Consider these words from the Book of Revelation.

*<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also **I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their***



hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** <sup>5</sup> *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.* <sup>6</sup> *Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years.***

Revelation 20:4-6 (ESV)

Remember also these words of Jesus.

**“Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.”** Luke 19:17 (ESV) We usually take this passage to be figurative but maybe it is not figurative at all... someone will be the advisors to the governors, mayors and judges during the Millennial Kingdom. Who better than those who have already lived and served faithfully as His ambassadors.

### **Beyond The Millennial Kingdom**

OK... so the Millennial Kingdom is wrapped up... can we go to heaven now? I'm sure that you can but I would hate to miss out on what God is doing next! After the final rebellion of Satan and his followers, the world that we know is replaced... And the new one is **spectacular**. Forget what you think you know about heaven and just read this description!

<sup>1</sup> *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* <sup>2</sup> *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* <sup>3</sup> *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.”*** <sup>4</sup> *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

<sup>5</sup> *And He who was seated on the throne said, **“Behold, I am making all things new.”*** Also He said, *“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

<sup>6</sup> *And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”* <sup>7</sup> ***The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son.*** <sup>8</sup> ***But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”***

<sup>9</sup> Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed – <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

<sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. <sup>16</sup> The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. [1,500 miles] Its length and width and height are equal. <sup>17</sup> He also measured its wall, 144 cubits [216 feet high] by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement. <sup>18</sup> The wall was built of jasper, while **the city was pure gold, like clear glass.** <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city were **adorned with every kind of jewel.** The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

<sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and **the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.** <sup>22</sup> **And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.** <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> **By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,** <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

<sup>27</sup> **But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.**

Revelation 21:1-27 (ESV)

Yes, you read it right... Just like He wanted to do in the Garden of Eden... just like He wanted to do during the Exodus... God is going to live right among us in this spectacular new city that is 1,500 miles square with buildings soaring 1,500 miles up! If that is the capital city, can you imagine what the rest of the new Earth will be like!

We only think we know what “pure gold” is. Look at what it says... the gold of the new world will be transparent like glass. And hold on a second... it says that there will be nations and kings who will walk by the light of the new Jerusalem. Guys... we have some serious exploring to do in this new world!

*“The one who conquers will have this heritage,  
and I will be his God and he will be My son...”*

What more can be said? And yet it just gets better when you keep reading in Revelation 22! When we see Him for who He really is and when we see the magnificence of what He has planned for us, all the stuff that we worry about and that demands our attention day after day looks like utter foolishness. And... it really is... As Jesus said:

*<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.. <sup>33</sup> **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** Matthew 6:25-33 (ESV)*

Shalom!

# Understanding the Foundations

## Chapter 12 – Additional Scriptures

### Exodus 32:4-6 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> And he [Aaron] received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, **“These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”** <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, **“Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.”** <sup>6</sup> And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. **And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.**

### Isaiah 56:10-11 (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. <sup>11</sup> Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

### Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

### Matthew 15:3, 7-9 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> He [Jesus] answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ... <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: <sup>8</sup> **“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; <sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”**

### 1 Timothy 1:18-20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. **By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, <sup>20</sup> among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

### 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> and constant friction among **people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.**

**Ezekiel 34:1-24 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, **Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?** <sup>3</sup> **You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.** <sup>4</sup> **The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.** <sup>5</sup> **So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts.** <sup>6</sup> **My sheep were scattered;** they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

<sup>7</sup> **“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:** <sup>8</sup> **As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because My sheep have become a prey, and My sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because My shepherds have not searched for My sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed My sheep,** <sup>9</sup> **therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:** <sup>10</sup> **Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue My sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.** <sup>11</sup> **“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out.** <sup>12</sup> **As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.** <sup>13</sup> **And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.** <sup>14</sup> **I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.** <sup>15</sup> **I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.** <sup>16</sup> **I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.**

<sup>17</sup> **“As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.** <sup>18</sup> **Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?** <sup>19</sup> **And must My sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?** <sup>20</sup> **“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.** <sup>21</sup> **Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad,** <sup>22</sup> **I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep.**

<sup>23</sup> **And I will set up over them one Shepherd, my servant David, and He shall feed them: He shall feed them and be their Shepherd.** <sup>24</sup> **And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.**

**John 10:1-18 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But He who enters by the door is the Shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To Him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> **When He has brought out all His own, He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice.** <sup>5</sup> **A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”**

<sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** <sup>11</sup> **I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.** <sup>12</sup> **He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.** <sup>13</sup> **He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.**

<sup>14</sup> **I am the good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me,** <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one Shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”