

Date: 10/06/2024

To: Pastor X, Board Leadership and the Protestant/Evangelical Church in General. (Many other Christians in different churches and ministers that I know had similar questions—hopefully the comments/responses will be beneficial to all Christians.)

Ref. A few comments on the topic if the Annual Festivals (such as the *Day of Trumpets* (Oct. 3, 2024), *Day of Atonement* (Oct. 12, 2024), etc. given to Israel under the Mosaic Covenant still binding on Christians? (see article on the festivals given <https://carm.org/questions/what-are-the-different-feasts-and-celebrations-of-the-jews/> .)

The Jews are only referred to Israelites who are from the **tribe of Judah** (this is not promoting the Identity movement such as Herbert Armstrong, a false apostle, and his off-shoots such as the *Philadelphia Church of God*, that has reproduced Armstrong's heretical books such as *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* https://www.thetrumpet.com/literature/books_and_booklets?view=Showcase). **Jim Staley** (<https://www.njiat.com/cults.html#18>) **teaches the identity movement, but is not affiliated with Armstrong & his other false teachings.** Are they still binding on Christians under the New Covenant?

A book entitled *“How the Old & New Testaments Relate to Each other* by Robert Morey has helped many Christians, especially ministers I know. (<https://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB ISBN=9781619042889&HC ISBN=>)

There is a lot of confusion in the Evangelical Churches when determining what is binding for Christians and what is not binding. Much of the confusion is over misunderstanding the difference between **Testaments (literature)** and **Covenants** (which are **space/time** events and entered in with a specific person).

Note: If Christians do not care what Biblical commentaries have to say on the topics addressed or Bible believing theologians, then it is a rejection of the gifts in the Body of Christ—see **Offices** in the Body of Christ: <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#47> & <https://njiat.com/PDF/Spiritual-Gifts.pdf> (The Bible is still the ultimate authority.)

Topics Addressed First

Before the topic above is addressed on the **annual festivals** given to ancient Israel, let me briefly address the following topics—**1. Matthew 5:17, 2. Roman Catholicism, 3. Book of Maccabees, 4. Jonathan Cahn, 5. Peter the 1st Pope?, 6. Daniel's 70th Week, 7. Herbert W. Armstrong (a false apostle) and founder of the Worldwide Church of God taught that the feast days given to ancient Israel must be kept (he had many heretical teachings and denied the true Gospel—see**

<https://www.njiat.com/cults.html#17>) **7. Are the Annual Festivals required under the New Covenant?**

1. **Matthew 5:17**, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (KJV, Cambridge Edition).

Response: Matthew 5:17 (the Bible is Jewish literature that was inspired by God--it is not Western literature; this verse is not talking about case law)—see link for further details at <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#31> & Dr. Robert A. Morey refutes **Theonomy** and shows how many Christians do not understand the proper interpretation of the Bible (Hermeneutics); video (<https://www.brighteon.com/22ad2ae3-c832-45f5-ab19-91f19cf948e3>)

If a *true Christian* who was justified by **faith** is trying to be sanctified by the law before Christ instead of living by faith, then the Christian is basically living under the law--in other words, a Christian was saved by grace, **but is** trying to be sanctified by the law.

This does not imply living without the law, which is sin (see **FAQ#31** at <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#31> for further details). **Matthew 5:17**, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (KJV, Cambridge Edition). This verse is not referring to individual laws, but the Scriptures. A misunderstanding by many in the Evangelical community.

*--the Western philosophic tradition that divided life into a secular versus sacred **dichotomy** viewed the word "law" in the Bible in terms of legal case law in the context of the courtroom.*

---The Western Gentiles world knew nothing of the biblical concept of "Torah" that embraced all of life. ----The biblical authors did not believe in a secular dimension in life. To them YHWH was King over all of life. Every square inch of the earth is YHWH's and the fulness therein.

---We have translated various Hebrew words such as "law" as "Torah" to indicate that all of life is to be lived for the glory of God. Psa. 119 takes on a deeper meaning when you understand that David loved the all-embracing Torah.

---Too many Gentile readers automatically assume that when David said he loved the "law," he meant the Ten Commandments. This has caused confusion as, who in their right mind, would "love" dry, cold legal codes? No. by "law" David meant the all embracing Torah of life and blessing...

Out of Context in Leviticus

This can be applied to verses taken out of context to support the annual festivals in Leviticus—...*it shall be a statute forever throughout you generations*)...the New Testament interprets the Old Testament.) It does not mean that the days are eternal and that the New Covenant made it mandatory. The same is true about the animal

sacrifices referred to in passages like [Isaiah 56:6-8](#); [Zechariah 14:16](#); and [Jeremiah 33:15-18](#). The millennial kingdom is not necessarily a literal event—the New Heavens and New Earth will occur in the future; however, the animal sacrifices are finished with the sacrifice of Christ.

***Out of Context in Leviticus (see Daniel's 70th Week topic for further details below).**

Note: When the Saints are resurrected, they will be perfected, that is, it will be impossible for them to sin. **New Testament Commentary of Matthew by William Hendriksen, pages 291 – 292:**

As Jesus was speaking, some parts of the Old Testament had already fulfilled, for example, the incarnation. Other parts were being fulfilled. Still others were to be fulfilled soon, that is, in the crucifixion and the resurrection; or were to be fulfilled later, in the ascension, at and after Pentecost, and finally at Christ's return in glory.

In the new heaven and earth "the law" as written book will no longer be necessary. In fact, the written Bible—Old and New Testament—will have become superfluous. Until that time arrives, however, nothing whatsoever will remain lacking as to fulfilment. God's program with respect to Christ, the church, mankind in general, and the universe, will be carried out in full (Isa. 40:8)

2. Roman Catholicism and Protestants (both are wrong)?—see Roman Catholicism Today located at <https://www.njiat.com/x-romancatholicismtoday.html>

Response: First, Roman Catholicism did not exist in the 1st century and is an apostate church because they preach a false Gospel—it teaches a works-based salvation. Christians during the Reformation and before the Reformation lost their lives because of the Gospel. Millions were executed under the Roman Catholic leadership. (Three million Protestants killed by torture during the Inquisition run by Jesuits.)

Quote From article mentioned above:

Salvation—Not by Works but by Grace

The idea that our salvation depends on our participation in certain religious ceremonies and living a life of good works is the basis of all false religious past or present. The ancient Egyptian priests taught their people that their good deeds and their bad deeds would be weighed at death and that if the good outweighed the bad, they could go to paradise. *This works mentality is the basis of all major religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. It is the basis of all the cults, such as Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses. It is the basis of all liberal religion as found in mainline churches, such as the United Methodist churches.*

If you search the history of religion from the beginning of time, you will discover that the religion of the Bible is the only religion that has ever taught that salvation is by the unmerited free grace of God. It is the only religion that teaches that God became a man in order to die in man's place and to do all that is necessary for man's salvation. It is the only religion that points man away from his own works to the works of Christ.

It is on this basis that we cannot view the Church of Rome as a Christian Church. It has always made salvation dependent on participation in its religious ceremonies and the doing of good works. It thus has the same view of religion that all pagan religions have.

What can we say about the issue of works vs. grace?—see the article “Roman Catholicism Today” located at <https://www.njiat.com/x-romancatholicismtoday.html>

3. What about the book of Maccabees? See <https://carm.org/roman-catholicism/reasons-why-the-apocrypha-does-not-belong-in-the-bible/> & **The Text & Canon** (audio lecture by Dr. Robert Morey <https://www.njiat.com/x-CollegeandHighSchoolStudents.html>)

Response: The Canon was finished by 70 A.D. It never included the Apocrypha books as inspired. We have the same Old Testament that the Jews have except they put the 12 minor prophets (Hosea through Malachi) in one book.

Many ancient Jews rejected the Apocrypha as Scripture. The Apocrypha was officially accepted by the Roman Catholic Church at a universal council in 1546 at the Council of Trent (it was not accepted before that date)—it was to counter the Reformation. The Protestants only included the Apocrypha in a separate section as historical references—never as Canon. Plus, [2 Maccabees 12:43-45](#) teaches heresy: The offering of money for the sins of the dead.

Jesus implicitly rejected the Apocrypha as Scripture by referring to the entire accepted Jewish Canon of Scripture, “**From the blood of Abel [[Gen. 4:8](#)] to the blood of Zechariah [[2 Chron. 24:20](#)], who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation ([Lk. 11:51](#); cf. [Mt. 23:35](#)).**”

The “oracles of God” were given to the Jews ([Rom. 3:2](#)), and they rejected the Old Testament Apocrypha as part of this inspired revelation. Interestingly, Jesus had many disputes with the Jews, but He never disputed with them regarding the extent of the inspired revelation of God.

4. Jonathan Cahn

1. I would be surprised if Jonathan Cahn thinks that the annual festivals are required for eternity. Jonathan Cain is not a Hebrew or Greek scholar and not a theologian. He thinks he has the “**Secret Key**” as many cult leaders do.

Response: His book entitled “The mystery of the Shemitah” has no biblical support. The attempt to apply the **Shemittah** to America or some other Gentile nation is 100% without any biblical support. **Gentiles** are SPECIFICALLY excluded in Leviticus. See **A Review of Jonathan Cahn’s book entitled “The Mystery of the Shemitah” and “The End of America” (John Richard Price) by Dr. Robert A. Morey, who is a Hebrew, Greek and Talmudic scholar and a theologian (<https://www.njiat.com/x-cahnsbook.html>)**.

5. Was Peter the First Pope?

Response: No Peter was not the first pope. The original Apostles were never replaced when they passed away although you had offices of apostle—no succession. There was never an absolute leader such as the pope (Gregory I was the first pope of any great renown—590 A.D. century)—see the chapter entitled *The Roman Catholic Church in History: Was Peter the First Pope?* by Dr. Walter Martin, page 37 located at <https://njiat.com/JunePDFs/Journal-of-Biblical-Apologetics-Vol-4.pdf>

6. Daniel’s 70th Week and the 7 Year Tribulation--<https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#28>

Response: Because many in the Church do not have a knowledge of the Hebrew and Hebrew grammar, this is why they think the last week was not fulfilled—they base their 7-year tribulation theory on a part of one verse. Listen to Dr. Morey’s audio lecture at <https://www.njiat.com/x-Daniels70thWeek.html> Also, the summary is on the link.

The Seventy (70) weeks in Daniel 9:24 is referring to the Jews, Holy City and the **Messiah's first coming** to make atonement for our sins. It is not the church

1. Verse 24 states,...*For Your people and for your holy city...*It does not say the people. It is referring to the **Jews**--your people. It is not referring to the church--the dispensationalists are wrong on this point.

2. Verse 24, ...*To finish the transgression,*...It means to complete all that is necessary to deal with transgressions. Your sins.

3. Verse 24,...*To bring everlasting righteousness,...And To Seal up Vision and Prophecy (Is. 53:10)...And to anoint the Most Holy (Ps. 45:7)*. This is justification by faith alone thru Christ alone and the New Testament would be the last canon. The Messiah took the sacrifice (Himself) to Heaven.

4. Verse 25...*That from the going forth of the command...*The counting is from the decree--no one has ever found the decree.

5. Verse 26,...*And after sixty-two weeks...*The Messiah will be cut off and put to death.

6. Verse 27,...*Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;(Matt. 26:28)...***He (the pronoun)** is the Messiah. The antecedant of the definite article goes back to the Messiah--it is just about understanding **Hebrew grammar!**

7. Verse 27,...*But in the middle of the week, He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.* The 1 week (7 days (3 1/2 days and 3 1/2 days)). Christ’s ministry began around (27 A.D.). The sacrifices were finished (the Messiah was cut off in the middle of the week and then resurrected 3 days later--**Matt. 27:51**) and the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. The Romans desecrated the temple by unclean sacrifices (**Luke 21:20**).

Note: The 70 weeks is subdivided into three periods of 7 weeks (**Daniel 9:25**): 62 weeks (verse 25), 1 week (verse 27). $7+62+1=70$. 70 weeks = 490 days and the 70th week began after the Babylonia captivity during the reign of Medo-Persia and ended at the sacrifice of Yeshua (middle of the 7 years, (verse 27) and the resurrection. And the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. by the Romans (Titus).

Journalist David Van Biema referred to John Nelson Darby who lived in England during the 1800s, "*the man with the plan*" who introduced into the 19th century British and American Christianity "a radical new eschatology" which included belief in "a seven-year, hell-like Tribulation." (**SCPJournal**, vol. 37:3-37:4, 2014, page 50). **Matthew Henry** says this about **Daniel 9:27**: "By offering Himself a sacrifice once and for all He [Jesus] shall put an end to all the Levitical sacrifices". It was never applied to a future 7-year tribulation at a later time.

This is a good link with understanding the **Jewish Apocalypticism** (literary genre)--
<https://www.njiat.com/x-JewishApocalypticism.html> & <https://www.njiat.com/x-bibleprophecy.html> and **Gog and Magog**: <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#50> & **Russia & Ukraine**: <https://vimeo.com/684655744>

Example: Joel predicted that "in the last days" the Holy Spirit would be poured out in a dramatic manner not heretofore seen (chap 2). He used **apocalyptic imagery** to underscore the importance of this event in the history of redemption.

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth. The sun will be turned into darkness; and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD comes." (**Joel 2:30-31**)

When Peter stated that this prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:14-21**), he was not saying that the above apocalyptic imagery was literally fulfilled on that day. The sun did not literally turn to darkness and the moon into blood on that day. Pentecost was not literally the "Day of the LORD." The apocalyptic imagery was used to underscore the significance of that day.

This can be applied to verses taken out of context to support the annual festivals in Leviticus—...*it shall be a statute forever throughout you generations*)...the New Testament interprets the Old Testament.) It does not mean that the days are eternal and that the New Covenant made it mandatory. The same is true about the animal sacrifices referred to in passages like [Isaiah 56:6-8](#); [Zechariah 14:16](#); and [Jeremiah 33:15-18](#). The millennial kingdom is not necessarily a literal event—the New Heavens and New Earth will occur in the future; however, the animal sacrifices are finished with the sacrifice of Christ.

[Hebrews 10:1-4](#) says, "For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (NASB).

See article on Hermeneutics: <https://www.njiat.com/x-Hermeutics-HowtoInterpret.html> A Christian has to understand Progressive Revelation—we see more clearly now.

7. Are the Annual Festivals required under the New Covenant?

Response: 4 Covenants in the Bible

There were 4 Covenants given by Yahweh: 1. *The Noahic Covenant*, 2. *The Abrahamic Covenant* (the land or so-called Palestinian Covenant is part of the Abrahamic Covenant, not a separate Covenant), 3. *The Mosaic Covenant* (the so-called Davidic Covenant and Solomon are personal applications of the Mosaic Covenant, therefore, they are not separate Covenants), 4. *The New Covenant (everlasting)*.

According to Dr. Robert A. Morey in his book entitled How the Old and New Testament Relates to Each Other, page 70, "*Most dispensationalists simply assert that there are eight (8) covenants but they never tell us how they relate one to another. Neither do they supply any exegetical proof for the existence of the Edenic and Adamic covenants. I have yet to receive an answer to the question, 'Since the Bible nowhere mentions an Edenic or Adamic covenant, where is the exegetical justification for listing them?' "* Many **dispensationalists** use the Scofield Reference Bible to prove such nonsense. **Covenant theology** also makes the mistake of denying the diversity of the biblical covenants. There is nothing in Scripture which speaks of an "everlasting covenant of grace" made in heaven between the Father and the Son. A covenant is a **space/time** event and entered in with a specific person. Only the **New Covenant** is called "*everlasting*" because it will never become obsolete like the **Old Covenant or Mosaic Covenant (Jer. 32:40 & Heb. 13:20)**. Charles Hodges listed 4 covenants in the Bible. It depends on how you divide things.

"However, in the past, when you did not know God, you were slaves to things that are not really gods at all. But now you turn back again to those powerless and bankrupt basic principles? Why do you want to become their slaves all over again? You are observing days, months, seasons, and years. I am afraid for you, lest somehow my work for you has been wasted!" ([Galatians 4:8-11 ISV.](#)) The Old Covenant (a legal contract made in time/space) was defective, *not the Old Testament* (a literary document). The Israelites were under a **tutor/law**--they were told how to dress, what to eat, how to cut their hair, how to worship by a highly structured liturgy, etc. This is not in the New Testament. The New Testament gives believers *moral directives* to apply to all of life, but does not give us *minute directions* as in the Old Testament. **Galatians** states:

"Tell me, those of you who want to live under the law: Are you really listening to what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. Now the son of the slave woman was

conceived according to the flesh, but the son of the free woman was conceived through a promise. This is being said as an allegory, for these women represent two covenants. The one woman, Hagar, is from Mount Sinai, and her children are born into slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery along with her children. But the heavenly Jerusalem is the free woman, and she is our mother". (Galatians 4:21-26 ISV.)

Typical examples of legalism (under the law—see [Rom. 3:20, 28; 7:1-6; Gal. 3:1-5; 4:4-5](#)). For further information, see FAQ Tab#31 at <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#31>

It is Retrogressive to turn back to the Mosaic Covenant

It is retrogressive to turn back to the *Old Testament laws* and be under the "beggary elements". The ceremonial law is not a reflection of God's character. It is **didactic** in the prophetic sense of prefiguring the work of the **Anointed One**--the ceremonies are said to be "*only a shadow of good things to come and not the very form itself*" (**Heb. 10:1**) and "*imposed until a time of reformation*" (**Heb. 9:10**). Included in the *Old Covenant* was the **Sabbath (it is not a creation ordinance and was never commanded in Genesis)** that was given only to ancient Israel--the universal/moral laws (it reflects some aspect of the moral character of God and is universally binding on all men in all ages) were given by "Yahwah" for all mankind, not just ancient Israel and these existed before the Old Covenant. See [Commentary on Galatians by Martin Luther \[hardcover, ISBN 0-8007-1702-3](#) (Introduction by D. Stuart Briscoe--you want this specific copy) that covers what these false divinity teachers taught (Luther rightfully called them "senseless asses"). **Martin Luther (11/10/1483 to 02/18/1546)**.

A quote from Martin Luther from his book entitled "Commentary on Galatians" (ISBN#0-8007-1702-3, 1924, 1988), pages 269-270,

10--Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

...But Paul here instructs the conscience; therefore, he speaks not of that Gentile custom of observing days, which pertains only to the body, but he speaks of the law of God, and of the observation of days and months according to the law of Moses; that is to say, concerning religious days, months, and seasons, which the Galatians taught by the false apostles observed for justification. For Moses had commanded the Jews to keep holy the Sabbath day, the new moons, the first and the seventh month, the three appointed times or feasts (namely the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and of the Tabernacles) and the year of Jubilee. These ceremonies the Galatians were constrained by the false apostles to keep as necessary to righteousness. Therefore, he says that they, losing the grace and liberty which they had in Christ, were turned back to the serving of weak and beggarly elements. For they were persuaded by the false apostles that these laws must be kept, and by keeping them they should obtain righteousness; but if they kept them not, they should be damned. Contrariwise, Paul can not allow men's consciences to be bound to the law of Moses, but always delivers them from the law. "Behold, I Paul," (says he, a little after in the fifth chapter), "say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing"; and, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days" (Colossians 2:16). So says our Savior Christ: "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation" (Luke 17:20). Much less then are men's consciences to be burdened and snared with human traditions. ..

Salvation was the same in the New Testament as it was in the Old Testament—through the merits of Christ, not works (most of the Israelites were not converted). The Old Testament Saints such as Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samson, King David, Elijah, Daniel, etc. had the Spirit of Christ in them. See <https://www.njiat.com/faq.html#42>

In Christ,

Member Z

P.S. I hope my comments will be a blessing to Christians. Study and pray to God over these doctrinal issues that are very important.