

Keeping Shabbat and God's Feasts

We believe in keeping Shabbat and God's Feasts. The context surrounding 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is talking about the Jewish scriptures. We know that Timothy's mother was Jewish and the only scriptures back then was the Old Testament portion. "Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek;" Acts 16:1 CJB.

Shaul (Paul) tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:14-15 CJB, "But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it; and recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures." There was no New Testament at the time. He had to be talking about the Jewish scriptures he learned from his Jewish mother.

Since Shaul (Paul) is talking about the Old Testament portion, the following scriptures should be understood to be talking about the Old Testament portion: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living; thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 CJB.

So, the Old Testament portion is to be used to teach truth, to stop people from sinning, for correction, and for training to live right. Good works in Jewish thought are keeping the commandments of God. We learn the laws in the Old Testament so we are equipped to do what is good.

Also, when Shaul tells Timothy to preach the word in 2 Timothy 4:1, it is the verse immediately after these passages in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Shaul is still talking about the Old Testament portion. The sound teaching (doctrine) in verse 3 that they are turning away from then is the Old Testament portion. It says they will stop listening to the truths from the Old Testament portion in 4:4 and that is exactly what is happening.

We can talk ourselves out of doing things God's way by saying the Old Testament was done away with when in fact these verses say the Old Testament is not done away with. Yeshua (Jesus) said, "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets;" Matthew 5:17 CJB. Are we going to believe theology or God?

Shabbat

- * There is to be no unnecessary work done on Shabbat. It is a day of rest (Shabbat). Ex. 20:8-11
- * Evening and morning were the first day. God said the day begins in the evening.
- * God rested on the 7th day and made it holy. Shabbat begins in the evening of the 7th day, our Friday evening and Saturday during the day. Gen. 2:3; Lev:23:32
- * It is God's designated time. Lev. 23:2-3
- * The 4th commandment of the 10 Commandments says we are to observe Shabbat, Ex. 20:8-11:
Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for God. You have six days to labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Shabbat for ADONAI your God. On it, you are not to do any kind of work- not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property. For in six days, ADONAI made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why ADONAI blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself.
- * Shabbat is a sign between God and believers in the true God for all generations that we are set apart for God; it is set apart for us. Ex. 33:14
- * Shabbat is a sign to believers that God makes us holy. Ezek. 20:12

- * We are to be different than the world, set apart holy. Kefa (Peter) says we are a chosen holy people to live to the praise of God. Peter 2:9; Israel was also God's chosen people to live set apart holy lives. Ex. 19:6. God's chosen people who are set apart are to keep Shabbat.
- * The Bible says that the Gentiles will also keep Shabbat. Isa. 56:6-7
- * God delights in those who keep Shabbat. Isa. 58:12-14
- * We declare that God is our God the creator when we keep Shabbat. Ezek. 20:20
- * We are to imitate Yeshua (Jesus) and He kept Shabbat. It was his "custom" to keep Shabbat. Luke 4:16
- * Shaul (Paul) and Yeshua's disciple kept Shabbat. One website shows 85 references to this.¹
- * Shabbat is to be kept forever. Ex. 31:16
- * **Shabbat will be kept forever.** Isa 66:22-23: "For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will continue in my presence, 'says ADONAI', so will your descendants and your name continue. Every month on Rosh-Hodesh and every week on Shabbat, everyone living will come to worship in my presence, 'says ADONAI.'"
- * There is a web site that gives 70 reasons for keeping Shabbat.² We can cite scriptures all day. We need to realize the Old Testament portion has not been done away and stop talking ourselves out of following God the way we are supposed to.

God's Feasts are God's appointed times. Lev. 23

(Note the days of rest (Shabbat) associated with God's feasts. Below are some correlations to Yeshua)

- * The True first day of the Jewish month is when the moon reappears in Jerusalem.
- * The true first month of the year (Nisan) occurs when the barley is ripe in Israel.
- * The lights in the heavens were created to let us know when to observe God's feasts. In Genesis 1:14, the word season is the word used for God's feasts, "moed."³
- * They are God's designated times and are described in Lev. 23.

"The designated times of ADONAI which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are my designated times." Lev. 23:2 CJB

God's Feasts

Pesach – Passover, Ex.12:14-20	Rosh Hashanah – Feast of Trumpets, Lev. 23:23-25
Feast of Unleavened Bread, Ex. 12:14-20	Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement, Lev. 23:27-28
Shavuot – Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), Ex. 34:22	Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles Lev. 23:34-3

The 3 Required Feasts, Ex. 23:14-17. We are required to come together and observe them.

Pesach
Shavuot
Sukkot

God's Sabbaths - Days of Rest

Passover (Pesach) - 1st day, no unnecessary work
 Passover - 7th day, no unnecessary work
 Shavuot, no unnecessary work
 Rosh Hashanah, no unnecessary work
 Yom Kippur, no unnecessary work; fasting commanded
 Sukkot - 1st day, no unnecessary work
 Shemini Atzeret - eighth day, no unnecessary work
 Shabbat - 7th day of week, no unnecessary work

¹ <http://www.eliyah.com/85times.html>

² <https://messianicpublications.com/robert-roy/reasons-to-keep-the-7th-day/>

³ Strong's Enhanced Dictionary.

There are many correlations to the Messiah Yeshua from God's feasts and they need to be taught and God's feasts observed. Here are some of them:

*Passover – Yeshua the Messiah died and rose from the dead at the time of Passover. He was our symbolic Passover Lamb. God set Israel free so they could worship and serve Him. The Messiah Yeshua set us free from sin so that we would worship and serve God.

* Shavuot (Pentecost) – The law was given on Shavuot to help us live right. The Holy Spirit was also given on Shavuot about 1477 years later to help us live right.⁴

* Rosh Hashanah – Some believe Yeshua came the first time on Rosh Hashanah and He is probably going to return on Rosh Hashanah. The shofar is sounded 100 times on Rosh Hashanah and is probably announcing the King Messiah. It is the Jewish new year and will probably announce a new era and the time of the new heaven and earth.

* Yom Kippur – Yom Kippur is the day of atonement for the forgiveness of sins. Yochanan (John) says we are to confess our sins and probably is referring to this day (1 John 1:9). Yeshua came to be our final sacrifice for sin forever (Isa. 53; Hebrews 10:1-18). Yom Kippur is also probably a picture of the future time of judgement.

* Sukkot – During the feast of Sukkot, the Jews live in the booths to commemorate their time in the desert when God took care of them. Sukkot is the final harvest feast for Israel and is probably where our Thanksgiving Day came from in the United States. It is probably a shadow picture of the future feast for those who will be with the Messiah Yeshua for eternity and we will be with God. The feast of Sukkot also refers to the time when God has His tabernacle among His people in the desert. Yeshua tabernacled among us and so He was the presence of God among the Jews when He came to earth. God became man.

The Bible says the Messiah would be born from the line of David and be God:

"The days are coming, 'says ADONAI,' when I will raise a righteous Branch for David. He will reign as king and succeed, he will do what is just and right in the land. In his days Y'hudah will be saved, Isra'el will live in safety, and the name given to him will be ADONAI Tzidkenu [ADONAI our righteousness];" Jeremiah 23:5-6 CJB.

* We will continue to keep God's Shabbat for all eternity. Isa 66:22-23

* Hanukkah – Commemorates when the Temple was rededicated after Judea defeated the Syrian Greeks who defiled the Temple. It is also known as the Feast of Lights commemorating the miracle of the pure oil that lasted for 8 days (the time for dedicating the Temple) when there was only enough for one day.

Yeshua in the form of a man came and tabernacled among the Jews. He was the presence of God just as God's presence was in the form of the shekinah light at the Temple. It says light stood over the young boy in Matthew 2:9 which was probably the shekinah of God's presence. Light can stand over someone not stars. Yeshua is that light that came to the Jews for the whole world. John 1:9, 14-15

Yeshua the Messiah healed a man that was born blind in John 9 just before the Feast of Lights and says He is the light of the world. On Hanukkah in Jerusalem, the people ask Him if He is the Messiah (John 10) and Yeshua tells them He already told them.

⁴ Recent scholarship has determined the Israelites left Egypt in 1447 BC, not 1305 BC.