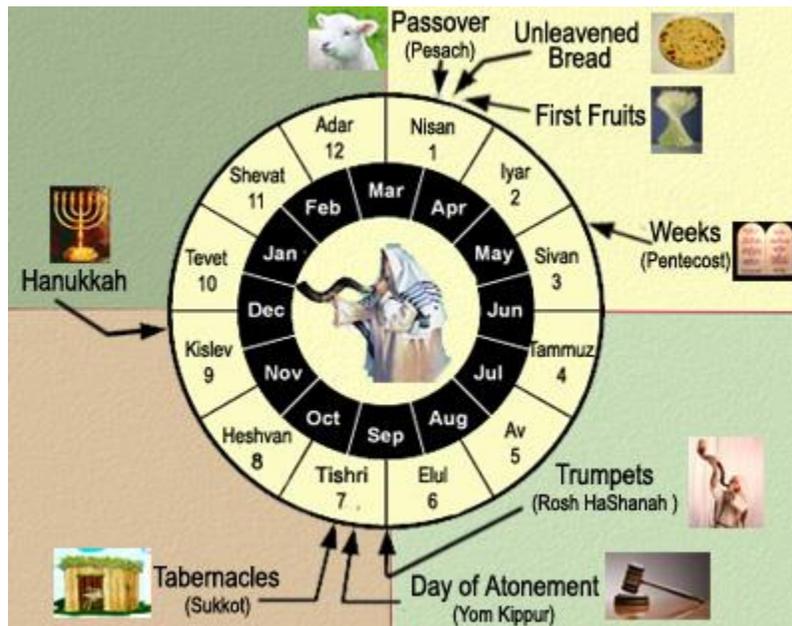


God's Prophetic Calendar

The Appointed Times and Feasts of the Lord

by
Jim Sayles



Feasts of the Lord Calendar by Carol Brooks

When men speculate on unfulfilled biblical prophecy without revelatory insight concerning God's plan from before the foundations of the world to redeem an elect remnant of fallen mankind in a single covenant written in the blood of Jesus Christ and without revelatory insight concerning God's detailed calendar of redemption as that calendar is found in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord, they will err in their foolish, intellectually arrogant speculations.

If it was not important for this elect remnant of mankind, which He has called "the Israel of God," to have revelatory insight into "things to come" He would not have given us the prophecies to begin with. Nor would Satan have set up so many elaborate deceptions concerning them.

That Satan was successful in blinding the spiritual eyes of the Pharisees, the intellectual giants of Israel who were intimately acquainted with every written word concerning the Messiah, and with the details of God's prophetic calendar for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ, is historic fact. That he has been successful in blinding the spiritual eyes of most of the intellectual giants of spiritual Israel, the church, is also self-evident.

Yet, God took great care in providing us with a specific, detailed calendar for His plan of redemption in Jesus Christ. But the interpretation of this calendar, like all biblical scripture, must be done with the revelatory guidance of the Spirit of truth who wrote it.

***When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.* John 16:13 ESV**
(emphasis is the author's)

Many Christians today believe that the Jewish calendar and the detailed instructions God gave Israel through Moses of appointed times (annual Sabbaths) and feasts which they were to religiously observe has no application for us today.

Therefore, the majority of the church today ignore this calendar that was observed by national, ethnic Israel and written down for our instruction, while others make a religious ordinance out of it.

But of all the means we have for confirming truth as it relates to the future of the church of Jesus Christ, the appointed times and feasts of the Lord and our covenant relationship with the Father in Jesus Christ are the most important.

Therefore, regardless of the cleverness of erroneously applied proof texting or the authority of the one expounding on his/her theories about biblical prophecy, if they do not and cannot conform with the truth about God's only redemptive covenant in Jesus Christ or with the detailed prophetic calendar He has provided for us in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord, those theories are in error and are potentially heretical.

From the Exodus story, we can see that the *pesach* lambs were slain on 14 Nisan, the day of Passover. On 15 Nisan, the first day of Unleavened Bread (*Hag HaMatzah*), the people left Egypt; on 16 Nisan, Firstfruits, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea; and 50 days later on the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*), or Pentecost, God gave the Torah (instruction or "Law") on Mount Sinai.

This is the historic prototype, of which Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is now and will be the spiritual fulfillment.

In Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 15 and 16 the Israelites were given the specific instructions for the appointed times, feasts and Sabbaths (annual Sabbaths) in which they memorialized the historic fulfillment of the first three feasts (national Israel's deliverance from Egypt) with a forward view to the Messianic fulfillment of all seven feasts.

The calendar of appointed times given to the Israelites after the historic events of the exodus perfectly matched the dates of their historic fulfillment, and, as we note, perfectly match the dates of their spiritual fulfillment.

For this reason the appointed times and feasts of the Lord are seen as God’s calendar for the fulfillment of His plan of redemption in Christ.

Any doctrinal or prophetic view that cannot be clearly demonstrated as complying with the revelatory, Spirit guided truth contained in this divine calendar is, therefore, in error.

I write this with the understanding that there are numerous intellectual interpretations of this calendar without revelatory insight which are in disagreement with the revelatory truth contained in the same calendar. But for those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, God’s calendar of appointed times and feasts is an amazing confirmation of truth.

That part of the “appointed times” calendar that has been completed:

	14 Nisan “Passover”	15 Nisan “Unleavened Bread”	16 Nisan “Firstfruits”	Sivan “Pentecost”
Natural Fulfillment	<u>pesach</u> lamb slain	left Egypt	crossed Red Sea	Law given on Mt. Sinai
Spiritual Fulfillment	Jesus crucified	sinless life	Jesus resurrected	Law written on our hearts

What we see here is that the miraculous events through which God delivered natural Israel from their bondage in Egypt were a foreshadow for the spiritual fulfillment of those events to spiritual Israel, the church, with natural deliverance from bondage becoming spiritual deliverance from sin, and with the external Law becoming the internal Law, the perfect will of God, written on our hearts through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

The spiritual fulfillment of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits are also the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to the “seed” of Abraham, Jesus of Nazareth, and to all those who are included in this covenant, both Jew and Gentile, by grace through faith, from Adam forward.

Thus the old covenant, that could not redeem mankind, was fulfilled unto regeneration (salvation), and a new covenant in Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and the last Adam, was established which will redeem the elect remnant of mankind from Adam forward just as it was planned by God from before the foundations of the world (i.e. before the creation).

A clear understanding of God’s covenant relationship with an elect remnant of mankind (“the Israel of God”) in Christ, therefore, goes hand in hand with this calendar.

And, as it relates to the covenant, the most important event for us to consider is the ratification of the written Law (the old covenant) by all Israel, saying, “***All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.***” (Exodus 24)

This covenant ratification spoken by all Israel committed the entire seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to perfect compliance with the Law, and, at that exact point in time the title-deed to, and final fulfillment of the promise, could only be received through perfect compliance with the Law by an Israelite.

After this ratification, which was fulfilled by the **only** “seed” of Abraham who was able to comply with the ratification of the covenant requirements, and for whom the promises of God were always intended, every national, ethnic Jew who has been or will be included in this one and only redemptive covenant, has, and will, only be included on the basis of their faith in Jesus Christ.

From the resurrection of Jesus Christ forward, national, ethnic Israel plays no part in the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan apart from their inclusion in Christ by grace through faith, and the future of national, ethnic Israel is totally unrelated to God’s calendar of appointed times and feasts, though biblical prophecy does reveal future events related to national, ethnic Israel, events demonstrated in “[Understanding Biblical Prophecy in Terms of COVENANT](#),” that relate to unfulfilled promises and unfulfilled judgments from that time in which national, ethnic Israel still held the title-deed to the promises of God.

It is interesting to note that the Lord was crucified on 14 Nisan (Passover) at the same time that the *pesach* lambs were being slaughtered all over Jerusalem, and on 16 Nisan (Firstfruits) the Lord was resurrected at the same time that the high priest, Caiphas, was waving the barley sheaf (without leaven) at the altar in in spite of the curtain between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies being torn from top to bottom as if by a giant sword.

Thus “Firstfruits” is the appointed time that the covenant first given to Abraham and his “seed” (not “seeds”) was fulfilled to Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, Son of Man, the last Adam, who fulfilled all the Law and the prophets, making it possible for an elect remnant of mankind, identified as spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God,” to be included as joint heirs in the eternal covenant of God through their faith and spiritual incorporation in Him.

And there is no other redemptive covenant demonstrated anywhere in God’s calendar of appointed times.

Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, is directly connected to Passover and Firstfruits in that this is the date upon which spiritual Israel, including both Jews and Gentiles as “one new man” in Christ, received the sealing of the Holy Spirit as

a promise or pledge of complete redemption in Christ (inclusion as joint heirs in the covenant).

Most view the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as the complete and total fulfillment of this particular appointed time, but the coming of the Holy Spirit was only the initiatory event, just as our sealing unto regeneration by the Holy Spirit at the moment of saving faith was the initiation of our redemption, but not the completion of it.

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the fulfillment of the Law being given on Sinai as the perfect Law was written on our hearts by the presence of the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and our spiritual conscience. But it was not the complete fulfillment of our redemption.

Pentecost is the middle event between the first three events, now completely fulfilled, and the last three events, yet to be fulfilled. Pentecost is, in reality, a feast to celebrate the redemptive plan of God in Christ as that plan is manifested in and through spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God” in Christ, which is the church. And, although our redemption was initiated on that first Pentecost, it will not be completed for the majority of the elect until the resurrection of living and dead saints on some future Feast of Trumpets, 1 Tishrei.

But there is another event that will take place on some future Pentecost prior to the last day resurrection.

The wave offering of two wheat loaves containing leaven, representing both Jews and Gentiles as a **firstfruits** offering of the wheat harvest has NOT been fulfilled, because to date, none from Adam forward have been fully redeemed (harvested), even though the dead in Christ are now in the heavenly presence and cannot, therefore, reject their faith in Christ.

Even these, though, will not receive their full redemption until the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal on “the last day” resurrection. Yet, there will be a glorious **firstfruits** of the wheat harvest unto God and the Lamb.

Could this be the pre-tribulation or mid-tribulation “rapture” so many western protestant believers are expecting?

Barley is the first crop to be harvested in Israel, and the wheat harvest begins approximately fifty days later.

Jesus Christ was the Firstfruits of the entire harvest of mankind, represented by the wave offering of the barley sheaf (without leaven). But according to the revelation of the Lord, (Revelation 7 and 14:1-5), the metaphorical 144,000 “virgins” from the twelve tribes of Israel (spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God”) are sealed for protection immediately before the opening of the 7th seal, which is the

beginning of “*great tribulation.*” And they are fully redeemed or “harvested” at that time.

These...(the metaphorical 144,000) ...*have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits* ... (of the wheat harvest)...*for God and the Lamb.* Revelation 14:4b ESV (emphasis is the author’s)

Jesus was resurrected as the “firstfruits” of the entire harvest, represented by a barley sheaf without leaven (sin), and scripture reveals that there will be a “firstfruits” of the wheat harvest, represented by two wheat loaves (i.e. Jew and Gentile) with leaven (sin), followed by the wheat harvest at the resurrection.

The scene of Revelation 14 is on spiritual Mount Zion before the last day resurrection, but these have not been removed from the earth. In Revelation 7 we see that the metaphorical 144,000 have been sealed for protection during the 7th seal events, the final 3.5 years of “great tribulation,” rather than being removed from the earth.

This sealing is on the foreheads (Rev. 7:3), and it is with the name of the Lord and the name of the Father (Rev. 14:1), which is the sealing of the completion of redemption, the sealing that the rest of the saints of all time will receive at the resurrection.

Thus the sealing of the 144,000 does not, in any way, represent a resurrection of the living and dead who meet the Lord in the air. These are all living saints who are sealed for protection and for the completion of their redemption IN the world. (For a complete exegete of this amazing prophecy see “[The 144,000.](#)”)

This is also the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to the Philadelphian type of church, (Revelation 3:10), and it is metaphorically illustrated by the woman clothed with the sun (initially national, ethnic Israel; now spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God” in Christ) who is carried by the “great eagle” (the Holy Spirit) to a place of protection in the “wilderness.”

“Wilderness” in this instance is not a physical place, but a place of spiritual protection in the world. The event of Nebuchadnezzar (as a type of the Antichrist) throwing the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship him as “god” is a foreshadowing of the greater event of the 144,000 being protected in the wilderness during “*great tribulation.*”

In the former event the Lord was present with the Hebrew children in the fire. In the latter event the Lord will be present with the 144,000 who will be the fully redeemed fullness of Him juxtaposed against the presence of the fullness of Satan in fulfillment of Ephesians 4:13 and Isaiah 59:19.

...until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] ... (personal relationship)... knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. Ephesians 4:13 Amplified (emphasis is the author's)

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy... (Satan through the Antichrist)... shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard ... (the 144,000)... against him. Isaiah 59:19 KJV (inserts are the author's)

The key to understanding this event requires the understanding that we are initiated into the redemptive process by the internal sealing of the Holy Spirit as a “deposit” or “guarantee” of our complete redemption, but any who reject their faith in Christ, for whatever reason, will lose this internal sealing of the Holy Spirit. And they cannot gain it back.

That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:14 Amplified (emphasis is the author's)

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times... (when?)... some... (individuals)... will fall away from the faith... (revolt and leave their initial standing)..., paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron... 1 Timothy 4:1 NASB (inserts and emphasis are the author's)

Thus regeneration must be clearly understood as the initial start of a journey of faith, during which we are tested and tried, resulting in the completion of our ultimate redemption, which for all but the metaphorical 144,000 will take place on the last day resurrection, which is the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal. (See “[Once Saved, Always Saved?](#)”)

The fact that we have missed this future fulfillment of Pentecost in the past is consistent with Daniel 12:4 in which we are told that some parts of biblical prophecy and doctrine related to the end times have been “sealed,” meaning that the Holy Spirit who was sent to guide us into all truth will not guide us into this truth until the time of God's choosing.

Therefore, because the seals are beginning to be progressively removed at this present time, I can only conclude that many who are alive today will witness and/or be a part of this astonishing event, hidden in part because we have believed the Pharisees of our faith whose theories about eschatological truth are incompatible with God's own prophetic calendar and with the truth of our covenant relationship with the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The sealing and complete redemption of the metaphorical 144,000 on some future Pentecost as "firstfruits unto God and the Lamb" will completely fulfill that part of this appointed time, and it will take place immediately before the opening of the 7th seal and 3.5 years of "**great tribulation**" during which the metaphorical 144,000 will bring in the final harvest of an uncountable number of tribulation saints from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

This will infuriate Satan, who cannot harm the 144,000, also represented metaphorically as the "woman clothed with the sun," and he will martyr the vast majority of the tribulation saints being brought to faith by the 144,000. Thus the 144,000 are a redemptive witness to the world of the fullness of Christ in the church, while the witness of the two prophets in Jerusalem is unrelated to redemption. Their witness is, instead, a witness in sackcloth and ashes of prophetic judgment upon the Antichrist and company during the second woe of the final 3.5 years of "**great tribulation**" during which Jerusalem will be the seat of the end time Babylonian world system, also known as "Babylon, the great."

"...and their ... (the two witnesses)... bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified." Revelation 11:8 ESV (insert and emphasis is the author's)

(*Because this truth concerning the 144,000 has been fully confirmed to me I can barely restrain myself from gushing it out at every opportunity, but the reality is that most will not accept this truth without having a firm revelatory foundation in our redemptive covenant in Christ and in the appointed times and feasts of the Lord.)

The one and only resurrection of living and dead saints from Adam forward on some future 1 Tishrei, exactly 3.5 years after the sealing and redemption of the metaphorical 144,000 on Passover (6 Sivan) at the sounding of the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal, will be the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets.

On 10 Tishrei (*Yom Kippur*), after the ten days of awe, during which "those who have pierced Him" will grieve and mourn, is the Day of Atonement when the Lord physically returns to the earth at the Mount of Olives to destroy His enemies at Har-Mageddon, which will be followed by the fulfillment of the Feast

of Tabernacles on 15 Tishrei through 22 Tisrei, during which the temple is cleansed and the Holy of Holies is anointed as “King of Kings” and “Lord of Lords,” beginning the millennial kingdom reign of Jesus Christ.

This Feast of Tabernacles, like Pentecost, is also fulfilled in two parts. The first part is fulfilled by the cleansing of the temple and the initiation of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ in the earth.

All who have taken the mark of the beast, whether Jew or Gentile, will perish on the Day of Atonement, and all who have persecuted the church, whether Jew or Gentile, will be judged as “goats.” But there will be a remnant of both Jews and Gentiles who have not taken the mark of the beast and have not persecuted spiritual Israel who will enter the millennial kingdom as natural men and women.

We are not given a specific understanding (for reasons only the Holy Spirit knows) of how these natural men and women who repopulate the earth during the Kingdom age come to faith and are redeemed. We may presume that each of these will be completely redeemed upon regeneration, but that information is hidden from us.

Yet, we do know that some, toward the end of the millennial kingdom, will ultimately not come to faith and these will rebel against the iron rod rule of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, even though Satan is not initially present to deceive them.

During this millennial kingdom age the appointed times and feasts of the Lord will be celebrated as a memorial of His completion of the seven appointed times and the fulfillment of God’s plan of redemption for an elect remnant of mankind, the “Israel of God,” by grace through faith.

And it will not be until this time that the covenant promises to Abraham and his “seed” (Jesus of Nazareth) will be totally fulfilled, not to natural Israel but to spiritual Israel, the Israel of God.

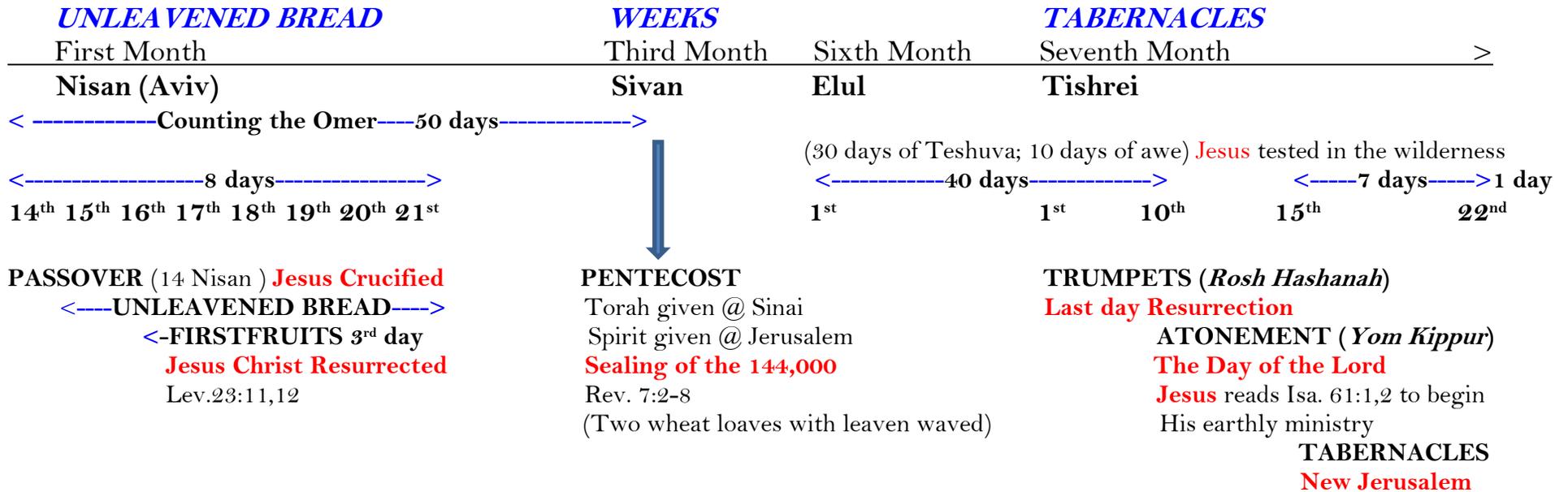
Then, at the end of this time, the Feast of Tabernacles will be ultimately fulfilled by a time known by the Jews as “rejoicing in the Torah” as the earth is renovated by fire, and we inhabit the New Jerusalem for all eternity.

For us, upon whom the fulfillment of the ages has come, the revelatory understanding of the prophetic calendar of appointed times and feasts of the Lord and of the eternal covenant written in His blood, which is the only redemptive covenant, planned by God before the foundations of the world, are meant by God to be our primary sources of truth by which we can test biblical prophecy and true doctrine.

Therefore, “wise virgins” will examine these doctrines thoroughly with a Berean attitude in order to reject error and deception and receive revelatory truth from the Spirit of truth.

APPOINTED TIMES and FEASTS of the LORD

God's Calendar of Redemption



The Father's calendar for the redemption of fallen mankind from Adam forward is demonstrated in the Appointed Times and Feasts of the Lord given to Israel. **Passover** was first celebrated by the Jews in Egypt as they anointed their door frames with the blood of innocent lambs, with the ultimate intent of **Passover** being the crucifixion of **Jesus Christ**. Likewise, **Unleavened Bread** was fulfilled by **Jesus Christ** as the sinless Lamb of God, and **Firstfruits** was fulfilled as **Jesus Christ** was resurrected ("the firstborn from among the dead") to become the High Priest and Mediator of the covenant promised to THE "seed" of Abraham, **Jesus of Nazareth**, through which we have become "joint heirs." **Pentecost** was first celebrated in memory of the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, then partially fulfilled when the promised Holy Spirit was given to the body of Christ, but the ultimate fulfillment is yet to come when the metaphorical **144,000** will be sealed in their foreheads as "firstfruits unto God and the Lamb" (Rev. 14:4) immediately before the 7th seal is opened ("*great tribulation*"). These, then, are those who will bring in the harvest of an uncountable number from every nation, tribe, and tongue at the same time that Satan's beast kingdom is manifested in fullness. **Trumpets** will be fulfilled at the resurrection of the saints on the last day. And **Atonement** will be fulfilled ten days later on the "great and terrible day of the Lord," as **Jesus Christ** returns to earth to destroy His enemies and establish His millennial throne in Jerusalem. The first part of **Tabernacles** is fulfilled beginning five days after **Atonement** with the cleansing of the temple, and ultimately fulfilled when we have our eternal **Tabernacles** with the **Lord of Lords** and **King of Kings** in the New Jerusalem.