There shall be signs in the heavens

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We are currently in the midst of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when we commemorate the deliverance of a Covenant people out of slavery.

During this week long Feast we are supposed to be remembering the exodus from Egypt in the past, and focused on leaving Babylon in the future.

It took seven days for the Yisraelites to complete their journey and finally exit the territory of Egypt when they crossed the Red Sea. That deliverance event also culminated with the drowning of Pharaoh and his army.

So, while we remembered the plagues during Passover we now focus on the journey out of bondage and the annihilation of the enemies of YHWH. There is no time for our bread to sit and rise. We are on the move, so we eat unleavened bread.

We understand the spiritual lesson here that leaven can represent sin, and we need to get sin out of our lives. We need to get cleaned up. After all, we are headed to the Mountain of Elohim and a wedding. This is also a significant time for Christians, who are generally oblivious to the lessons that YHWH has built into the Appointed Times.

Instead of cleaning up, I see many Christians fully immersing in pagan traditions surrounding the worship of Ishtar, otherwise known as Easter.

Earlier this week I had to drop my son off at school and I immediately had to join in a virtual court appearance on my laptop. I had to find a quiet spot to get online, so I pulled over into the Baptist Church parking lot that is shaded with live oak trees and logged onto court.

Everything went well, but as I was finishing with court I noticed a bunch of parents show up with toddlers holding baskets. All of a sudden I found myself in the midst of what was nothing short of a pagan festival. There were little children scampering about filling their baskets with colored eggs and then competing in races. They then gathered together to meet with a giant white rabbit dressed like a human.

I was raised a Baptist and the emphasis was always on the Bible. It was sad to witness these Baptists participating in such a bizarre scene that had nothing to do with the Scriptures. They were doing this as part of their celebration of the Christian holiday known as Maundy Thursday, which is supposed to commemorate the Last Supper.

Of course, we know that the "Last Supper" was a Passover meal where the Messiah renewed the Covenant with Yisrael. They were clearly not commemorating the event at the right time, since Passover was four days earlier. Not only did they get the timing wrong, but their focus was off as well. Instead of focusing on the unblemished lamb and unleavened bread, they were focused on bunnies and eggs.

I found it disturbing to see these Christians indoctrinating their children in pagan fertility rites that have horrific origins. I did a quick video in Jerusalem many years back that encapsulated the origins of the Easter celebration called <u>Should Christians Celebrate Easter?</u>

Well, after Maundy Thursday, Christian's then celebrated Good Friday that commemorates the death of Jesus, followed by Easter Sunday, that some refer to as "Resurrection Sunday."

They believe that Jesus was crucified on a Friday afternoon and resurrected on a Sunday morning after only about 1 and 1/2 days of being in the tomb.

This is a good example of how Christians are really not interested in the words, teachings and warnings of the Messiah. While they like the "idea" of a savior, they are not so much interested in obeying the Messiah.

The Messiah Yahushua was very clear about the fact that there would be one sign given to that generation, and it did not involve 1 1/2 days in the tomb, but rather 3 days and 3 nights.

Here is what Yahushua had to say about signs. "¹¹ Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. ¹² But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation." Mark 8:11-12

Did you notice how He sighed "deeply in His spirit." How it must have grieved Him to see people come against Him in such fashion. Here He

came as a servant to save them and they were fighting with Him all the time.

He was very clear in His position. That generation would not receive a sign from heaven. Their sign would be in the heart of the earth.

"³⁹... An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:39-40

Yahushua actually was in the belly of the earth for three days and three nights prior to His resurrection. He was killed on Wednesday afternoon before sunset and He rose on the Sabbath before sunrise – possibly at the time known as "the Dawning of the Day."

Sadly, Christians ignore the one sign that was given to that generation because of their traditions. In fact, through their traditions they actually make Him out to be a liar.

As we consider our Passover observance it is important to consider the signs involved with this Appointed Time.

What started as a sign of blood on doorposts that protected the firstborn of the household was later fulfilled by the literal sign of Yahushua, the firstborn of Elohim, shedding His blood and dying on a physical taw, often referred to as a cross (stauros).

In Greek we read the word "stauros" which literally means "stake." The execution stake of Yahushua that He carried was affixed to a "tree" literally forming a cross that represented the Paleo-Hebrew taw. (1 Peter 2:24)

The ancient Hebrew taw actually looked like a cross, and it means "sign" or "mark" as in a "covenant."

As the first of YHWH, Yahushua was the Aleph, and as the Aleph He died on a Taw. He was the first and the last, the Aleph Taw ($\times \forall$). This was an incredible sign that was provided at His death.

The Hebrew pictograph of the Aleph Taw is the head of an ox representing strength and a "X" which represents a mark or a covenant. The Aleph Taw literally means "strength of the Covenant." Of course, the Aleph Taw $(\times \forall)$ is the word found all throughout the Hebrew Torah, which is never translated into English.

Yahushua identified Himself with this mysterious "Word" in the text of Revelation. (Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6 and 22:13) Most Christians miss this important identification because they focus on the Greek instead of the Hebrew.

Well speaking of signs and the Aleph Taw, there is currently much talk about an eclipse on April 8, 2024. What many fail to recognize is that it is the last of three eclipses that literally inscribe an Aleph Taw over the United States of America.

I produced a video titled *Signs in the Heavens* that spoke about this amazing sign. Interestingly, YouTube took it down for containing medical disinformation.

Imagine that. A video about eclipses taken down for medical disinformation. We are definitely living in strange times.

You can now view the video on Rumble at the following link – <u>Signs</u> <u>in the Heavens</u>.

Signs are meant to be seen, and this is evident because YHWH specifically provided "lights" to act as signs.

"14 Then Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and Appointed Times (moadim), and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth; and it was so. 16 Then Elohim made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 Elohim set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And Elohim saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day." Genesis 1:14-19

Well prior to making the video, I wrote a brief article nearly seven years ago titled <u>Observing The Signs and Discerning the Times</u>. At that point I was focused on the first of the three eclipses, and I mentioned how many things were happening during the 40 day period of "teshuvah" leading up to Yom Kippur. I pointed out how it compared to the 40 day period of repentance provided through the prophet Jonah, and how it all seemed to be connected to an eclipse.

The first in a series of three eclipses that would cross the United States was scheduled to occur on August 21, 2017 which was Day 29 of Month 5 on the Creator's calendar. That was one day before the new moon of Month 6, and exactly 40 days before Yom Kippur. Coincidence?

When I saw that connection with Yom Kippur I couldn't help but think of Jonah and the prophecy given to Ninevah.

You can easily see this on torahcalendar.com, which is such an important tool at our disposal. I suppose that is what I find particularly frustrating as I see people chase after false calendars

when they have been given such a gift with the Torahcalendar.com site.

Using it as a tool, you can literally go back in time because YHWH has pegged His calendar to the lights that He placed in the heavens as signs. As a result, we can track these lights both forward and backward. It is both amazing and powerful.

In any event, here is what I found in the text of Jonah that intrigued me.

"1 Now the word of YHWH came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you. ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of YHWH. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown! 5 So the people of Nineveh believed Elohim, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to Elohim; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who can tell if Elohim will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? 10 Then Elohim saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and Elohim relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." Jonah 3:1-10

From this text we understand that there was a forty day period where YHWH would hold off on His judgment. He would provide a warning

through His prophet, and allow people to repent. Incredibly, the people of Nineveh ended up repenting in sackcloth and ashes and fasting with no food or water. That sounds a lot like Yom Kippur.

I never quite understood why the people believed Jonah. He walked around the city crying out and they believed Elohim. It seemed too easy. It was a big city without any social media, telephones, local tv or radio stations. How did the people of this enormous city collectively decide to believe Elohim?

What was it that actually caused the people to heed the words of Jonah and take such drastic action - from the greatest to the least?

Could it have been an eclipse?

Well, the Scriptures record that Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II.

"23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Yisrael, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of YHWH. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of YHWH, the Elohim of Yisrael, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. ²⁶ For YHWH saw that the affliction of Yisrael was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Yisrael. ²⁷ But YHWH had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash." ² Kings 14:23-27

We know that King Jeroboam II reigned around 793 to 753 BCE. Thus, Jonah likely lived in the mid-eighth century BCE.

We also know that there was a total solar eclipse over Nineveh on June 15, 763 BCE. This clearly fits within the time frame for the life and career of Jonah.

Further, Assyriologist Donald Wiseman, a former curator at the British Museum, and editor of *Chronicles of Chaldean Kings* and *The Alalakh Tablets*, published a lecture in the *Tyndale Bulletin* in 1979 where he argued persuasively that this eclipse would help explain the dramatic reaction to Jonah's preaching.

So, it appears that YHWH used an eclipse, along with His prophet, to wake up the people of Nineveh and cause them to repent. He provided a sign in the heavens.

So, while a sign of Jonah was certainly his time in the belly of the fish, it could also refer to the sign in the sky that accompanied his preaching.

Yahushua said "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." Matthew 16:4

We are certainly living in "a wicked and adulterous generation" and due to the timing of the August 21, 2017 eclipse over the United States of America, I don't see how we can avoid the same conclusion for this series of eclipses.

As I described in the <u>Signs in the Heavens</u> video the three eclipses form an Aleph Taw over the United States. The upcoming eclipse on April 8, 2024 will actually complete the X of the taw.

They say that X marks the spot. Well it turns out that the area within the center of the X is known as "New Egypt" because it is littered with

ancient pyramids and mounds. Also, the upcoming eclipse passes over Jonah, Texas and cities named Nineveh in America. You really cannot make this up.

While people are currently recognizing the Jonah connection, it is important to understand that it was the emphasis from the very beginning, nearly seven years ago.

As people are looking up at the solar eclipse on April 8, they will also see an incredible planetary alignment, as Jupiter will be to the left of the sun in totality while Venus, Saturn and Mars will be to the right. People will also be able to see the comet designated 12P/Pons-Brooks, affectionately referred to as "the Devil Comet."

The eclipse is scheduled to begin at around 1:30 pm in Texas on Monday, April 8, 2024. That is Day 29 of Month 1, but in Jerusalem it will be 9:30 pm. So while America is receiving this third and concluding eclipse establishing the Aleph Taw sign, it will be Day 1 of Month 2 in Jerusalem.

It appears that the focus of all of this is to wake people up so they can repent. YHWH has gone to great lengths to get the attention of people and the question is whether people will use this time to repent and turn to Him.

Incredibly, there is an often overlooked provision in the Torah for those who missed the Passover on Day 14 of Month 1.

"9 Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ Speak to the children of Yisrael, saying: If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep YHWH's Passover. ¹¹ On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹² They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to

all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. ¹³ But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and ceases to keep the Passover, that same person shall be cut off from among his people, because he did not bring the offering of YHWH at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin. ¹⁴ And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep YHWH's Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land." Numbers 9:9-14

Did you notice the emphasis on "YHWH's Passover?" This is not a Jewish Holiday. It is YHWH's Passover, and it is not exclusive to those born into the Covenant. Outsiders were welcome as long as they followed the ordinances, including keeping it at the correct time.

There are a lot of people who have been defiled by the filth of Easter and the profaned religions of man. They have been on a long journey, far off in Babylon, and they missed the first rehearsal.

Praise YHWH, there is still time for them to turn and return. They can get cleaned up and participate in the "Second Passover" that will occur on Day 14 of Month 2 – April 22, 2024 after sunset. So spread the word to those who missed Passover this past week.

For those of us who kept the Passover at the correct time in Month 1, we just got through "remembering" the past deliverance from Egypt. We are currently rehearsing leaving Babylon the "New Egypt" of the Nations. How amazing that the attention of those who are watching the signs is being placed upon "New Egypt."

Today is Day 19 of Month 1 and Day 5 of the Feast of Unleavened bread. It is Omer Day 4, and it is also the "first of the Sabbaths" (mia ton sabbaton) in the omer count. (See Young's Literal translation of Luke 24:1 and John 20:1)

The first of what Sabbaths you might ask? The answer is obvious if you are counting days, weeks and Sabbaths toward Shavuot. It is the first of the seven weekly Sabbaths that occur within the count.

When you consider the accounts provided in the New Testament, it is clear that Yahushua was in the tomb when the count had already begun. Many try to call the resheet barley offering that starts the omer count "The Feast of Firstfruits," but that is clear error. Some also try to place the resheet offering after the weekly Sabbath, but that is also incorrect.

Clearly the count had begun <u>before</u> the weekly Sabbath when Yahushua was resurrected. This demonstrates that the method of counting used by the Sadducees and the Karaites is incorrect.

The phrase "mia ton sabbaton" is an important clue to the timing of the resurrection of Yahushua that many miss due to translation issues. I recommend the TorahCalendar article titled <u>The Sabbath Resurrection</u> for a detailed discussion of the resurrection of Yahushua.

Yahushua was not resurrected on a Sunday. He was resurrected on the first weekly Sabbath in the omer count, which concluded His work of the final week in the prophecy given to Daniel involving seventy weeks. Through His life, death and resurrection He "strengthened a covenant with many."

When considering the past fulfillment of the Appointed Times we are not supposed to fix a week day like the Christians do when they celebrate Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday every year.

Instead, we are supposed to stay with YHWH's calendar and commemorate events based on His timing. Instead of being fixated on

certain days of the week in the past, we need to be prepared to follow YHWH on His Appointed Days no matter what day of the week they fell on in the past.

Interestingly, by counting days, weeks and Sabbaths we do actually inadvertently commemorate the resurrection of Yahushua on the "first of the Sabbaths" (mia ton sabbaton) when we are counting the omer, although He was resurrected on Omer Day 2 and on Day 3 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Did you catch that? He was resurrected on "the third day" of Unleavened Bread. Again, this is easy to see using the Torah Calendar.

So, while much of the Christian world will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday tomorrow, we know different. Since we are currently celebrating Day 5 of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, that would mean that Yahushua was resurrected two days ago on YHWH's calendar.

It is important that we make this distinction because we are involved in a count that leads to another Appointed Time known as Shavuot. We are currently on Day 4 of that 50 day count, and after sunset on Sunday we will celebrate the final day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is a High Sabbath. That is when YHWH parted the waters of the Red Sea and the Yisraelites finally exited the territory of Egypt.

It was a seven day journey and because they were on the move, they were eating unleavened bread the entire time. We are commanded to eat unleavened bread for these seven days and remember the journey.

"6 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to YHWH. ⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven

days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your territory." Exodus 13:6-7

So, remembering the journey out of Egypt is an important part of this entire seven day Feast and we especially celebrate the first day when we started the journey and the seventh day as we finally exit. But the journey doesn't end there.

After leaving Egypt, we enter the wilderness. That is when our supplies start to run out and we need to learn to completely trust YHWH for our daily bread. There are lessons to be learned in the wilderness that we will begin examining next week, and they will be important for our journey in the future.

That is why I have been encouraging people to take this rehearsal seriously, and truly prepare as if you are leaving. If YHWH is going to fulfill this Appointed Time in the future, we may need to be able to make unleavened bread for seven days while we are making our way out of Egypt.

The people didn't grab boxes of matzah at the local grocery store as they headed out of Ramses. They knew how to make their daily bread, and they had grain with them. Would you know how to grind and sift flour and then make bread on an outdoor fire every morning?

If not, maybe that should be part of your rehearsal as well. Maybe we need to make our daily bread without all of the conveniences of Babylon. I don't think there will be any plugs for your bread machines in the wilderness. And they don't really work without adding yeast. Lots to think and pray about.

So, our rehearsal for the future journey continues as we eat the unleavened bread and continue to count the days to Shavuot, where we must be ready to meet with YHWH. The count intentionally

connects Unleavened Bread with Shavuot because we don't stop rehearsing between these Feasts. We must continue our journey through the wilderness.

The fifty days that we currently find ourselves in includes the grain harvest culminating with the wheat. This is the time when Yahushua will be harvesting His crops, so we must stay awake and keep counting. This is no time to fall asleep.

Recall the words of the High Priest John: "¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Set Apart Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:11-12 and Luke 3:16-17

Of course, John was referring to the baptism of the Spirit that we read about in Acts 2 "when the Day of Shavuot had fully come." The text records that "they were all with one accord in one place" because they were all on the same calendar. (see Acts 2:1)

Remember that the Day of Shavuot is also referred to as "The Day of the Firstfruits."

"Also on the day of the firstfruits (bikkurim), when you bring a new grain offering to YHWH in your weeks, you shall have a set apart convocation (miqra qadosh). You shall do no customary work." Numbers 28:26

Shavuot is when everyone brings their "bikkurim" wheat offering to YHWH. This was a rehearsal for the future harvest of the Messiah. That is why fire was so prevalent at Sinai and Jerusalem on Shavuot. We want to be baptized by fire, not burned up in the fire.

Interestingly, do you remember that Moses went to the Mountain first, and met with the messenger of YHWH in the fire of the burning bush. (Exodus 3:1-3) Was that on a Shavuot immediately prior to the exodus from Egypt?

Recall that YHWH sent Moses to prepare the people well before the actual exodus following Passover. So he could have met with YHWH at the Mountain on Shavuot, and then gone to Egypt to prepare the people.

As a result, we should be looking for a messenger and accompanying signs before the Passover when we actually leave. That is the pattern.

Well, the people in the United States are about to see a big fiery ball in the heavens go dark. The two great lights in the heavens given to us for signs will both be dark over the United States.

Signs such as eclipses are incredibly complex and the relative sizes and positions of the earth, the sun and the moon involves amazing precision. Clearly, they are purposefully placed within creation by YHWH.

In fact, they were provided as a warning of judgment by YHWH. Consider this passage from Amos.

"⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, says Adoni YHWH, That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight; ¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, and baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day." Amos 8:9-10

That sure sounds like an eclipse to me, and it is clearly accompanied by repentance. The purpose of the sign is to attract people's attention and make them consider their ways in the eyes of YHWH. The response of a society subjected to these signs should be to repent - to turn to YHWH.

There are signs on the horizon that are clearly intended to lead people to repentance. There is also judgment looming on the horizon. Some people say we are already in World War III. Nevertheless, YHWH always provides an opportunity for people to turn. That is the definition of grace.

The United States has experienced nearly a seven year period of grace. I haven't seen any repentance, and it appears as though things are about to change.

So, stay awake and remain watchful while we keep counting on our journey to the wedding at the Mountain of Elohim!