

HOLIDAYS VS. HOLY DAYS: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

Shalom Family, let's dive into this topic together and see what the Word of Yah reveals.

In today's world, the word "holiday" is used freely to describe days of celebration, rest, or national remembrance. Yet when we return to Scripture, we discover a critical distinction between holidays created by man and Holy Days established by Yah. Though the word "holiday" originated from "holy day," its modern use has largely drifted from its original meaning.

For those seeking to walk in obedience, this distinction is not minor; it is foundational.

WHAT ARE HOLIDAYS?

Modern holidays are man-made observances. They are established by governments, cultures, or religious institutions and often change over time. While some may appear harmless, others carry meanings, practices, or origins that directly conflict with Scripture.

Holidays often center on cultural traditions, national identity, family customs, entertainment, and consumerism. Participation in these days is optional, yet believers are called to exercise discernment in what they choose to observe and celebrate.

WHEN HOLIDAYS BECOME HARMFUL

Not every holiday is neutral. Some celebrations have roots in pagan worship, false deities, or rituals that Yah never commanded His people to observe. When such practices are embraced, even unknowingly, they can lead to spiritual compromise and confusion.

Scripture clearly warns against adopting the customs of the nations and blending them with the worship of Yah.

Deuteronomy 12:30–31 (KJV)

"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods."

Yah does not instruct His people to modify or rename pagan practices and attach His Name to them. He calls His people to separation and obedience.

HOLIDAYS THAT MISPLACE FOCUS ON YAHSHUA

Some of the most widely celebrated religious holidays claim to honor Yahshua, yet their origins, symbols, dates, and traditions are not found in Scripture. Two of the most common examples are Easter and Christmas.

Although many observe these days with sincere intentions, sincerity does not replace obedience. Neither Easter nor Christmas is commanded in Scripture. Yah never instructed His people to observe these days, nor are they aligned with the biblical calendar or the worship instructions given in Torah.

Placing Yahshua at the center of celebrations with unbiblical roots does not make the day holy. Yahshua Himself kept the Sabbath and the Holy Days established by Yah, not man-made traditions.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24 (KJV)

Truth includes how Yah instructs His people to worship, not how culture redefines worship.

WHAT ARE HOLY DAYS?

Holy Days are appointed times, known in Scripture as “moedim,” established by Yah Himself. These days are set apart, commanded, and unchanging. They are not cultural traditions, denominational customs, or optional observances.

The Holy Days of Yah are clearly outlined in Leviticus chapter 23 and include the weekly **Sabbath**, **Passover**, the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, **Firstfruits**, **Shavuot** (Pentecost), **Yom Teruah** (Day of Trumpets), **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement), and **Sukkot** (Feast of Tabernacles).

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.” Leviticus 23:2 (KJV)

These Holy Days reveal Yah’s plan of redemption and point directly to the work and mission of Yahshua without compromise or mixture.

WHY THIS DISTINCTION MATTERS

Holy Days are covenant markers. They teach obedience, remembrance, repentance, and prophetic fulfillment. When man-made holidays replace or overshadow Yah's appointed times, the focus shifts from Yah's calendar to the world's system.

Yah never called His people to follow the nations. He called them to be set apart.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words."
Isaiah 58:13 (KJV)

What Yah has declared holy should never be treated as common, and what is common should never be elevated to holiness.

A CALL TO RETURN TO TRUTH

This message is not rooted in condemnation or judgment. It is a call to return to what Yah established from the beginning. In a world filled with tradition and religious confusion, Yah's Holy Days provide clarity, structure, and truth.

The question is not, "What has culture accepted?"

The question is, "What has Yah commanded?"

Those who love Yah will seek to honor Him His way, at His appointed times, and according to His Word.

Until we meet again, may we continue to walk in the undeniable truth of Yah's Word.

Shalom,

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