

7B The feasts of Israel: God's marketing plan

(by Bill)

If you wanted to get the attention of an entire nation and convince many that God was doing a brand-new thing, how could you accomplish that?

Three times a year the people of Israel made a trip to Jerusalem (compulsory pilgrimages) for a national feast that had historical and religious significance. As an observant Jew as well as Savior-Messiah Jesus made these trips on several occasions.

- (1) In the Jewish month of Tishri (our September-October) every Jewish male came to the capital city. During the Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of Booths, Sukkot, Lev. 23) the Jewish men would gather in the temple as the High Priest took water from the Pool of Siloam and poured it out in the temple. At that moment, during the Feast before His crucifixion, Jesus stood up and cried out, "if any man is thirsty let him come to me and drink freely from Me. The one who believes in Me, as the Scriptures say will have streams of living water flowing from inside him." (John 7:37-39) At the first feast Jesus announced His identity as Messiah.
- (2) During the month of (Nisan) (our March -April) everyone gathered once again for Passover (Pesach, Ex.13:6-8). During this feast Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed for the sins of the world. As the unblemished lambs were being taken to the temple for slaughter Jesus was being led to the cross, a very public execution. A second time, all men able to make the journey were in town. Most did not comprehend at the time what they were seeing.
- (3) In the Jewish month of Sivan (our May-June), fifty days after Passover and ten days after Jesus' return to heaven, the Jewish nation assembled again, this time for Pentecost (Shavuot). This crowd of Jewish people from nations all over the Roman Empire were astounded to hear a message from God in their own language. The Apostle Peter explained what Jesus had accomplished during Passover. Three thousand were baptized to show their faith, and the message of Jesus began to spread throughout the Empire as each person brought it home.